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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

**Seven Young Political Leaders From Across the U.S. to Depart On Exchange to Japan;
Study Program to Focus on Japanese Government and Politics**

Washington, D.C. – A delegation of seven young political leaders from across the United States will depart on Friday, April 13 for a two week political study tour of Japan. This follows a day of meetings and briefings in Washington, D.C. with officials from the Japanese Embassy, the U.S. Department of State and other country experts.

The program, organized by the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), will expose the delegates to the Japanese political system at the national and local level, give them a new perspective on Japanese culture and allow them to engage in dialogue on international issues and forge professional relationships with their Japanese peers.

The visit is the 23rd by a U.S. ACYPL delegation since ACYPL and its counterpart, the Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE), began exchanging delegations in 1971. Distinguished U.S. Alumni of the exchange include U.S. Senator Elizabeth H. Dole (R-N.C.), U.S. Representatives Greg Walden (R-Ore.) and Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.), and South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer (R-S.C.), as well as the Secretaries of State of Colorado and Kansas, the President Pro Tempore of the Connecticut State Senate and the President of the Kentucky State Senate.

While in Japan, delegates will meet with members of the Japanese Diet, the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, the Aichi Prefectural Assembly and the Tsukuba City Council, and other national and local political leaders, as well as representatives of the major Japanese political parties. They will also participate in a home-stay with a Japanese family and tour business, media, and educational institutions, including the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), the Toyota Motor Corporation, the Sankei Shimbun newspaper and the Nakano-Higashi Elementary School in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture.

WHO:

Delegation Members:

- **The Honorable David A. Adams** (D) - Treasurer, Richland County, South Carolina
- **Ms. Jennifer Alvarez** (D) - Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, National Association of Letter Carriers, Washington, DC
- **The Honorable Joseph Bartlett** (R) - Member, Maryland House of Delegates
- **Mr. Josh Brown** (R) - Senior Director of Business Development, Corrections Corporation of America, Nashville, Tennessee
- **The Honorable Melinda Katz** (D) (Escort) - Member, New York City Council
- **Mr. Justin Rhee** (R) - Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, USDA, Washington, DC
- **The Honorable Jennifer M. Seelig** (D) - Member, Utah House of Representatives

WHAT:

Two Week Political Study Tour / Meetings with influential government, business and civic leaders

WHEN:

April 12, 2007 (Washington, D.C.) / April 13-27, 2007 (Japan)

About The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL)

Since 1966 the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), a bi-partisan, not-for-profit organization based in Washington, DC, has become recognized worldwide as the pre-eminent catalyst for introducing rising political leaders and policy makers to international affairs and to each other. The ACYPL has conducted programs and exchanges with more than 90 nations, producing a global network of several thousand alumni, a large number of whom have risen to positions of great influence in the United States and in nations around the globe. For more information on ACYPL, please visit <http://www.acypl.org>.

PLEASE NOTE – TO SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW WITH DELEGATES OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACYPL OR THIS DELGATION, MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT MIKE GARRETSON AT 202-857-0999 or mgarretson@acypl.org.