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Coach Osborne's Leadership Recognized with Congressional Appointment

Washington, D.C. – Dr. Tom Osborne, former 3rd Congressional District Representative for Nebraska and legendary Husker Football Coach was among five nominees confirmed by the U.S. Senate Friday, November 16, to serve on the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Tom Osborne is no stranger to the Corporation, its programs or national service. During his tenure in Congress, Osborne helped launch the bipartisan National Service Congressional Caucus as a Co-Chair alongside Representative Harold Ford (D-TN), on September 14, 2004. Osborne and his wife Nancy also founded TeamMates, a school-based mentoring program for youth needing an additional caring adult in their life. Osborne's term on the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service lasts through October 6, 2012.

The bipartisan 15-member board sets overall policy and direction for the Corporation and its programs. The Corporation is the nation's largest grant maker for volunteering and service, engaging more than two million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, VISTA, NCCC, and Learn and Serve America programs. The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, a state agency located in Lincoln, supports and administers much of Nebraska's national service programming, particularly AmeriCorps.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Osborne's experience and support of volunteerism and national service has been recognized by the U.S. Senate in placing him in this important leadership position," said Barbara Wilson Thomas, Executive Director of the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. "We are fortunate to have a strong, enthusiastic voice for community service in Nebraska. His experience, demonstrated by previous service on the National Service Caucus, and the founding of the TeamMates program with Nancy, can only help expand Nebraska's leadership in volunteerism and service."

Osborne's appointment comes at a time of strong positive momentum for the agency and the larger volunteer sector. The two million participants in the Corporation's programs are providing results-driven service through tens of thousands of nonprofit and community organizations, addressing America's toughest problems of poverty, illiteracy, gangs, and disasters and acting as a powerful catalyst and force-multiplier for community volunteering. Volunteering is at historically high levels, with more than 61 million Americans giving an estimated 8.1 billion hours of service in 2006. Based on reports released in 2006 and 2007, Nebraska ranks 2nd nationally in the percentage of citizens who volunteer.

The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission mobilizes Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programming. The Commission is responsible for support and oversight of (1) Nebraska's AmeriCorps national service programming; (2) Citizen Corps State national disaster preparedness service program; (3) Disability Inclusion & Preparedness efforts for individuals and organizations throughout the state; (4) statewide volunteer recognition through the Governor's Points of Light Awards and First Lady's Awards for Outstanding Community Service; and (5) the annual Governor's Conference on Community Service.

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