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## **U.S. Geological Survey to Receive William B. Heroy, Jr. Award**

Alexandria, VA – The American Geological Institute (AGI) is pleased to announce the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as the 2009 recipient of the William B. Heroy Jr. Award for Distinguished Service to AGI.

The Distinguished Service Award is presented in honor of William B. Heroy, Jr., who advanced the use of geophysics in petroleum exploration and in geologic research worldwide. Recipients of this award are measured against his exemplary career and in recognition of outstanding service to the Institute and to the geoscience profession.

The USGS is being recognized for the many vital services it has provided and continues to provide AGI. Among many things, the USGS has supported AGI's Earth Science Week outreach project since its beginning in 1998. It provided funding and partnership for the 2007 AGI television series Faces of Earth and served as publishing partner for all ten AGI Environmental Awareness Series booklets. The Survey played an instrumental role in launching the Bibliography and Index of Geology at AGI in the late sixties and continues to provide library access to its successor, GeoRef.

The USGS traces its history back to March 3, 1879, when President Rutherford B. Hayes signed a bill appropriating money for a number of civil services—including geology. Since this time, the USGS has worked tirelessly. Among other accomplishments, USGS scientists pioneered methods to measure discharge in rivers and groundwater flow, instructed astronauts who landed on the moon in 1969 to use geology, and developed fundamental methods for locating mineral and energy resources.

Today, as one of United States' premier scientific institutions, the USGS, according to its mission statement, "serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life."

AGI feels that the USGS, as a long-time supporter and partner of AGI and the broader geoscience community, well deserves this award. It will be presented on October 18, 2009 at the AGI Past President's Dinner as part of the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.

The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 46 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.