



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2008

Contact: Christine Cunnick, National Grocers Association
(703) 516-0700

2008 N.G.A. Best Bagger Champion was Crowned at the 2008 N.G.A. Annual Convention

ARLINGTON, VA — The National Grocers Association (N.G.A.) is pleased to announce that Erika Jensen of Macey's in Utah is the winner of the 2008 Best Bagger Competition. The contest that was held February 6, 2008 at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel, at the 2008 N.G.A. Annual Convention and Supermarket Synergy Show.

The U.S. Best Bagger Championship is a year-long, nationwide program in which the best-of-the-best grocery baggers in the country compete for great prizes and the title of America's Best Bagger. Contestants are judged on speed, bag-building technique, weight distribution between bags, and style, attitude and appearance. Each of the rounds included one heat with plastic bags, one with paper bags.

This year's winners are.

Winner -- **Erika Jensen**, Macey's, Utah

First Runner Up -- **Eli Ransdell**, Nugget Markets, California

Second Runner Up -- **Maria Werder**, Martin's Super Markets, Indiana

Third Runner Up -- **Anthony Underwood**, Woods Supermarkets, Missouri

Fourth Runner Up -- **Rebecca Courtright**, Stroudsburg ShopRite, New Jersey

Erika Jensen was also the winner of the 2nd Annual International Best Bagger Championship. She bagged off against the Canadian Federation of Independent Grocers (C.F.I.G.) bagger **Gord Groves**, Quality Foods, Qualicum Beach, British Columbia.

"Excellence in bagging represents an important element in providing outstanding customer service in an area in which independent community focused retailers excel at whether in the USA or Canada" said Thomas K. Zaucha, President & CEO of N.G.A.

###

N.G.A. is the national trade association representing the retail and wholesale grocers that comprise the independent sector of the food distribution industry. An independent retailer is a privately owned or controlled food retail company operating a variety of formats. Most independent operators are serviced by wholesale distributors, while others may be partially or fully self-distributing. Some are publicly traded but with controlling shares held by the family and others are employee owned. Independents are the true "entrepreneurs" of the grocery industry and dedicated to their customers, associates, and communities. N.G.A. members include retail and wholesale grocers, state grocers associations, as well as manufacturers and service suppliers. For more information about N.G.A. and the independent sector of the industry, see the N.G.A. website:

www.NationalGrocers.org.