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NEWS RELEASE

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Dubuque Named ‘Most Livable’ Small City in U.S.

DUBUQUE, Iowa – Dubuque will be awarded first-place honors in the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) 2008 Livability Awards Program today during the USCM Annual Meeting currently underway in Miami.

The award will be presented to Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol at a special luncheon today. “I am absolutely honored to accept this recognition on behalf of our City Council, staff, 60,000 remarkable citizens, and our *America's River* Project partners at the local, state and national levels,” said Buol.

“Today, Dubuque is known for its collaboration and partnerships, including its vision for the riverfront that provides significant economic benefit, environmental awareness, and cultural enrichment to citizens and tourists, alike. Dubuque is proud to join with earlier winners in sharing its success story.”

The USCM City Livability Program, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc., honors mayors and their city governments for developing programs that enhance the quality of life in urban areas. Established in 1979, the City Livability Awards are given annually to 10 mayors and their cities -- a first-place award and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities under 100,000 population, and a first-place and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants. Dubuque is this year’s winner in the small city category and Louisville, Ky., won the large city category.

Dubuque’s application featured the *America’s River* project and the public/private partnerships and community involvement that transformed the Port of Dubuque into a destination that captures the historical, environmental, educational and recreational majesty of the Mississippi River. Phase I of *America’s River* totaled nearly \$188 million invested in projects including the Grand River Center, Mississippi Riverwalk, the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, the Grand Harbor Resort and WaterPark, renovation of the Dubuque Star Brewery, Ice Harbor Transient Boat Docks, and Shot Tower renovation. Phase II is currently underway and features an additional investment of nearly \$200 million, including the McGraw-Hill Higher Education Building, the Diamond Jo Casino expansion, Port of Dubuque Public Parking Facility, the Durrant Group headquarters, the Portside Development mixed-use project, Main Channel Transient Boat Docks, and the expansion of the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium.

For more information on the USCM City Livability Program, visit <http://www.usmayors.org/citylivabilityawards/>. Winning program profiles and photos of the award presentation will be posted to the site later today.

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