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**MMS Honors Best of the Best At Annual Energy Industry Awards Ceremony**

Deputy Secretary of the Interior Steven J. Griles and Director of the Minerals Management Service Johnnie Burton honored outstanding performers in the oil and natural gas industry today (Tues., April 27, 2004) at the Minerals Management Service's Industry Awards Program in Houston, Texas.

"When the Minerals Management Service was established 22 years ago, a barrel of oil cost \$10 and energy sector job losses exceeded that of any other sector of the 1980s economy," said Deputy Secretary Griles. "Today, the offshore oil and gas industry employs 45,000 people and encompasses over 4,000 production facilities and more than 32,000 miles of pipeline. And it's safer than ever, with statistics indicating that the industry's injury and illness rate on a daily basis is about 70 percent lower than all of private industry," Griles continued. "I am honored to recognize today's winners."

"Once again, MMS is delighted to honor champions of the energy industry," said Director Burton. "To be reminded anew every year of the dedication and integrity of both individuals and corporations in this business is a great thing. The already high standard of excellence is raised and the proof is right here."

The Corporate Leadership Award (CORLA) is presented to individuals that have worked closely with MMS to improve processes for offshore development and revenue collection. The Safety Award for Excellence (SAFE) recognizes outstanding safety and pollution prevention achievement by offshore oil and gas operators and contractors. The Safe Operations and Accurate Reporting (SOAR) Award is presented to the best of the best in industry that have demonstrated the highest commitment to safety, stewardship, and resource management.

Exxon Mobil Corporation is the winner of the 2003 **Safe Operations and Accurate Reporting (SOAR) Award**.

The 2003 **SAFE Award** winners are:

- Stone Energy Corporation
- ConocoPhillips Company
- Helmerich & Payne
- Danos & Curole Marine Contractors, Inc.

The 2003 **Mineral Revenues Stewardship Award** winners are:

- ExxonMobil Corporation
- Noble Energy, Inc.

The 2003 winners of the **Corporate Leadership Award** are:

- John Borne, Eagle Consulting, LLC
- George W. Butler III (In Memoriam), ChevronTexaco
- Clifton A. Butler, ChevronTexaco
- Robert Cagle, Rowan Companies, Inc.
- Jim E. Cook, J.M. Huber Corporation
- Rickey J. Giroir, Wood Group Production Division
- George Edwards, Jr. , Exxon Mobil Corporation
- William Gist, Lee McMillian, Maurice Mitchell, and Pat Clynes, BP Energy Company
- Bill Grady, Ashworth Leininger Group
- C. Blake Hebert, ExxonMobil Production Company
- Jeff Harris, Lockheed Martin (Affiliated Computer Services, Inc.)
- Debbie Jones, Bois D'Arc Offshore LTD
- Charlotte Krecow, Howell Petroleum Corporation
- Paul McKim and David Medeiros, Deep Marine Technology
- Chuck Morelli, Shell Trading (US) Company
- Millie Myers, Exxon Mobil Corporation
- Kevin Piper, Baker Engineering & Energy
- Annette Prewitt, Diamond Offshore
- Philip A. Reed, Pacific SEATEC
- Donald R. Sands, Devon Energy Corporation
- Ron Sweatman, Halliburton
- Malcolm Taylor, ChevronTexaco Global Trading
- James Thomas, Rita Randall, Bette Smart, and Morris Miller, IBM Business Consulting Services (Contractor for BP America Production Company)

MMS manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in federal offshore waters. MMS also collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from federal and American Indian lands. Between 1982 and 2003, MMS distributed more than \$135 billion in revenues from onshore and offshore lands, an average of more than \$6 billion per year, to the Nation, States and American Indians. Nearly \$1 billion from those revenues go into the Land and Water Conservation Fund annually for the development of State and federal park and recreation lands.

\* \* \* *MMS*: Securing Ocean Energy & Economic Value for America \* \* \*

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