



## **NASUA PRESENTS 2010 ARTHUR S. FLEMMING AWARD TO ROBERT BLANCATO**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WASHINGTON, DC - On June 29, 2010, NASUA President and Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Senior Services, Irene Collins, presented Mr. Robert B. Blancato with the 2010 Arthur S. Flemming award, telling him, "NASUA is pleased to have the opportunity to celebrate your ongoing efforts to champion the rights of older Americans. Your dedication to the Elder Justice Act, and your perseverance in successfully advocating for its inclusion in health reform, are true testaments to the impact that you have on the lives of older Americans." Established by the NASUA Board in 1978 to honor its namesake, since its inception, the Arthur S. Flemming Award has recognized notable leaders whose work has positively impacted the lives of older Americans and people with disabilities. As a devoted public servant, staunch advocate, and national expert on aging-related public policy, Mr. Blancato continues this tradition.

With more than 30 years in the public sector, Mr. Blancato has served as both Staff Director and Senior Advisor of the House Select Committee on Aging's Subcommittee on Human Services. He was appointed by then-President Bill Clinton to serve as Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, and was appointed again ten years later to serve on the Policy and Executive Committees of the 2005 Conference. Most recently, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine asked Mr. Blancato to serve as Chairman of the Commonwealth Council on Aging in Virginia. Linda Nablo, Commissioner of the Virginia Department for the Aging, praises Mr. Blancato's appointment to the Council, "Through his boundless energy, commitment, and contacts, he is strengthening and expanding the work of the Council, including securing, for the first time, funding to support the Council's Best Practice awards for innovative services to seniors."

Mr. Blancato's commitment to improving the lives of older Americans transcends his time in public service. His numerous advocacy efforts and coalition involvements underscore his pivotal role in the aging community and beyond. In addition to his efficacy in securing the inclusion of The Elder Justice Act in The Affordable Care Act, he has worked for many years to promote the importance of, and elevate awareness for, elder justice in America, both as a past President and current Executive Committee member of the National Committee for the Prevention on Elder Abuse, and as the National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition. He has been on numerous boards, including the American Society on Aging, Generations United, and the Leadership Council of the National Council on Aging. Mr. Blancato currently serves as the Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, and he is also President of Matz, Blancato & Associates, a full-service firm integrating strategic consulting, government affairs, advocacy services, and association and coalition management.

NASUA congratulates Mr. Blancato on receiving the 2010 Arthur S. Flemming award, and applauds his continuing enthusiasm for, and contributions to, public service, advocacy, and the field of aging.

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*National Association of State Units on Aging, founded in 1964, represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. The Association's principal mission is to support visionary state leadership, advance state systems innovation and articulate a national policy on home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities. <http://www.nasua.org>*