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**NATOA Names Lafayette, LA Mayor Joey Durel
Community Broadband Hero of the Year**

Atlanta, GA – September 18, 2008 – The NATOA Board of Directors is honored to announce that the recipient of the 2008 Community Broadband Hero of the Year award is **Mayor Joey Durel of Lafayette, Louisiana** for supporting Lafayette's effort to build a robust, competitive communications network –even in the face of repeated anti-competitive assaults.

Mayor Durel is a long-standing champion of meeting local economic and community development needs through fiber-to-the-premises networking. His resolute stance on local decision-making in communications and work with his community to counter outside efforts to thwart local communications initiatives and stifle competition is what makes Mayor Durel a true hero of community broadband.

"NATOA applauds Mayor Durel for leading his community in taking on those who oppose competition and have resisted community broadband," said NATOA's Executive Director, Libby Beaty, "He is an inspiration to the many localities who also seek to secure the benefits of high-speed communications for their community's economic future."

The 2008 NATOA Community Broadband Awards were awarded to six exceptional leaders and organizations in government, business, and the community who champion community interests in broadband deployment and work to ensure that more Americans can experience the benefits of this important technology.

For more information on the award recipients, the NATOA Community Broadband Awards, and NATOA's efforts to bring about a national broadband strategy that recognizes the vital and integral role of local governments, visit www.natoa.org or contact NATOA's Executive Director, Libby Beaty, at the number above.

NATOA promotes community interests in communications. A national trade association based in Alexandria, VA, NATOA represents local government jurisdictions and consortiums, including elected and appointed officials and staff, who oversee communications and cable television franchising.