



## American Recreation Coalition

*Dedicated to the protection and enhancement of everyone's right to health and happiness through recreation.*

# NEWS

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### **U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS PETRI TO RECEIVE 2006 SHELDON COLEMAN GREAT OUTDOORS AWARD**



Washington, D.C. - The American Recreation Coalition's (ARC) Chairman and the President and CEO of The Coleman Company will present the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award – the recreation community's most prestigious award – to Thomas E. Petri, Member of Congress and Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Highways, Transit and Pipelines. The award will be presented on June 13 as a featured event of Great Outdoors Week 2006. Every year since 1989, ARC has presented this award to an individual whose personal efforts have contributed substantially to enhancing outdoor experiences in America. The award was established in memory of Sheldon Coleman (1901-1988), longtime Chairman of The Coleman Company and a visionary champion of outdoor recreation and conservation. Winners are selected by a national panel of recreation and conservation leaders from both the private and public sectors.

The award recognizes Representative Petri's extraordinary leadership on numerous national transportation policy matters of special significance to the recreation community. The Recreational Trails Program is perhaps the clearest example of his dramatic impact on recreation in America. In addition to greatly boosting the return of non-highway recreation fuel taxes to trail projects - \$70 million this year and rising to \$85 million in 2009 – he also worked to overcome division within motorized and non-motorized portions of the trail community. Mr. Petri has also given active support for park roads and roads on other public lands, championed the Transportation Enhancement program, supported the National Scenic Byways Program and assisted in

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returning fuel taxes paid by America's anglers and boaters to enhance access to the nation's waterways through the Wallop-Breaux program.

Past recipients of the Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award include former President George Bush, National Geographic Society Chairman Gil Grosvenor, U.S. Senators John Breaux, Frank Murkowski and the late John Chafee, U.S. Representatives Jim Oberstar and Ralph Regula, and Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta.

"Recreationists across America have a friend and champion in Congressman Petri," according to Derrick Crandall, President of the American Recreation Coalition. "He has worked year after year to forge bipartisan support for trails, scenic byways and other recreation benefits through the nation's surface transportation program. His remarkable accomplishments have been recognized by a number of key recreation groups recently, and it is a special delight for ARC to add the Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award to this list of honors. We know that the Congressman's work will continue, and we can't wait to join him in adding to the string of accomplishments his efforts have already achieved."

The American Recreation Coalition, the national voice for America's recreation community, is a nonprofit federation of more than 100 organizations representing enthusiasts, private-sector providers of recreation opportunities, and producers of recreation equipment.