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PSAC's Annual STARS & SPURS Gala Brings Total Raised for STARS to Over \$4.6 Million

CALGARY, AB – The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) is pleased to announce it has raised a total of more than \$4.6 million for the Alberta Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS). The funds have been raised over the past 17 years by one of the most highly anticipated and enduring events in Calgary's social calendar, the STARS & SPURS Gala presented by PSAC.

Over 1,100 guests attended the 17th annual STARS & SPURS Gala Presented by PSAC, held Saturday, January 22, 2011. This year's Gala brought in a net total of \$544,000, an incredible amount to be raised given the economy's sluggish emergence out of the recent economic downturn.

PSAC credits all sectors of the industry – producers, services, drilling and pipelines – for working together to make the Gala such a long-time success. "This year's turnout and the ongoing support by the oil and gas industry speaks volumes about the value our entire industry places on STARS and the critical work they do," said Mike Edmonds, Chair of the STARS & SPURS Gala organizing committee. "Our event helps ensure that STARS' emergency medical response services remain available to oilpatch workers, their families and communities across Alberta, northeastern and southeastern B.C."

The 17th annual STARS & SPURS Gala included a moving speech from STARS' Very Important Patient for 2011, Tessa Stretch and her family, speaking about all that Tessa has accomplished since being transported in the STARS helicopter in 2007 following a skiing accident. After hearing Tessa's amazing story, guests then toasted this year's Honourary Patron, Roger Soucy, former President of PSAC and one of the founding members of the STARS & SPURS Gala Committee.

Gala guests enjoyed dinner, performances by country music stars Gord Bamford and Jason Greeley, raffles, auctions, dancing and the chance to network, all with the help of guest emcee Dave Rutherford of QR77. Special guests, including the Hon. Lindsay Blackett, Alberta's Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, and Ken Hughes, Chair of the Alberta Health Services Board, showcased the strong bonds forged between the oilpatch community and STARS.

"This partnership between PSAC and STARS has been well nurtured over the past 17 years," said Mark Salkeld, PSAC President. "The STARS & SPURS Gala is a very special, one-of-a-kind industry event and the money raised by our collective efforts is more important than ever. As long as STARS increases our ability to access emergency medical services, our support will not waver. We congratulate STARS on another year of critical work in our community, and look forward to many more years working together."

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada is the national trade association representing the service, supply and manufacturing sectors within the upstream petroleum industry. PSAC represents a diverse range of over 250 member companies, employing more than 52,000 people and contracting almost exclusively to oil and gas exploration and production companies. PSAC member companies represent over 80 per cent of the business volume generated in the petroleum services industry.

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