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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2009

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Donald J. Eberly Receives William James National Service Lifetime Achievement Award

St. Paul, MN – Donald J. Eberly, founder and honorary president of the International Association for National Youth Service, is the recipient of the 2010 William James National Service Lifetime Achievement Award. Given by the National Youth Leadership Council in conjunction with numerous national and international partners, the award recognizes significant lifetime contributions to national service and service-learning. Eberly will receive the award at a ceremony on March 26, 2010, at the National Service-Learning Conference in San Jose, CA.

“Eberly has worked tirelessly, over more than six decades, to realize his goal of a nonmilitary service option for all,” says NYLC founder and CEO Jim Kielsmeier. “As an equally strong supporter of K-12 service-learning, Eberly is proof that one man can make a difference. We could not have found a more deserving recipient.”

Originally from New York, Eberly has degrees from M.I.T. and Harvard, was drafted and served in the U.S. army, and taught in Nigeria. In addition to founding and directing IANYS, he also founded and directed the Coalition for National Service as well as the National Service Secretariat — where he was both “a visionary and practical pioneer,” says journalist and early Peace Corps staffer and National Peace Corps Association trustee Robert Terry. “Don made the National Service Secretariat a treasury of experience serving legislators and entrepreneurs.”

Over the years, Eberly’s national youth service interests have led him to convene conferences, testify before the U.S. Congress and Canadian parliament, develop a plan at the request of a Presidential Commission, conduct a number of research studies, and evaluate projects on almost every continent. He has also headed a special division of federal selective service on nonmilitary conscription. Widely published, he most recently co-authored the book *Service without Guns* (2006) with Reuven Gal.

“For many years, Don Eberly almost single-handedly kept the idea of civic service alive in federal policy discussions,” says colleague Michael Sherraden of the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. “This very large idea is gradually taking hold in the United States and around the world.”

Eberly lives in New Zealand with his children and grandchildren, where he continues to write and advise on national service issues.

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Award Partners

The William James National Service Lifetime Achievement Award is presented by NYLC in partnership with the following leaders in national service: Be the Change, Inc.; City Year; Peter Edelman, Innovations in Civic Participation; Israel’s National Civic Service Administration, National Peace Corps Association; National Service-Learning Partnership; Points of Light Institute; Service Nation; Michael Sherraden; State Farm Companies Foundation; Shinnyo-en Foundation and Robert Terry.

About NYLC

NYLC has been at the helm of advancing service-learning and supporting its practitioners — young people and adults — for more than 25 years. In addition to convening the field in The Annual National Service-Learning Conference, NYLC also develops and runs model programs, conducts and publishes action research, helps advance legislation, develops curricula, and provides customized trainings.