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**MICHAEL S HYATT OF FORT WORTH TEXAS RECEIVES 2017 RUTH HASHIMOTO AWARD**

**WASHINGTON, DC (August 10, 2017)** – Honorary Board Alumnus, Michael S. Hyatt of Fort Worth, Texas, was presented with the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Ruth Hashimoto Award during the SCI Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia July 14-15, 2017. The Ruth Hashimoto Award is the organization’s most prestigious recognition of exceptional national and local leadership within the SCI network.

In his acceptance remarks, Mike Hyatt stated “I do not do this for awards but for the mission of citizen diplomats everywhere: advancing the cause of world peace at the people-to-people level. Citizen diplomacy is the most durable and shortest road to achieving the Sister Cities International mission.”

Michael Hyatt has been an active and effective leader in Fort Worth Sister Cities International for over three decades. He has received multiple awards for his work with SCI both locally and nationally. His local work initiatives include leading the search to select and establish new sister cities for Fort Worth while supporting existing relationships; and securing funding and city government support for Fort Worth Sister Cities International, which supports one of the strongest youth programs in the United States. On the national level, he has simultaneously served in numerous leadership roles including Chairman for Sister Cities International and has helped establish programs and funding which have directly benefited SCI community members and their international counterparts. Currently, he chairs the SCI Long-Term Sustainability Planning Task Force which aims to create the financial infrastructure that will support the organization into the future.

The Ruth Hashimoto Award was inspired by the former Honorary Board Member of the same name. Ruth Hashimoto was born in Seattle to Japanese Immigrants and was one of the thousands of Japanese-Americans confined to internment camps in the 1940s. Though this experience impacted her greatly, she focused her life with an attitude of gratefulness and dedicated her life to sister cities and its mission.

“I can think of no more worthy leader to receive the prestigious Ruth Hashimoto Award than Mike Hyatt.” stated Chair Tim Quigley, “His generosity in his resources and time has had and will continue to have an indelible mark on the success of this worldwide movement of citizen diplomacy in the decades to come.”

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**About Sister Cities International**

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in over 2,000 communities in 145 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations’ mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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