



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Celebrating 40 Years of Restoring Silence

Portland, Ore. – The American Tinnitus Association (ATA) is celebrating its 40th anniversary during National Tinnitus Awareness Week, May 15-21, 2011. This week is set aside every year in May, but ATA has activities planned for the entire month, which is also “Better Hearing and Speech Month.”

Tinnitus, commonly referred to as “ringing in the ears” is the perception of sound where no external source is present. Most commonly caused by noise exposure, tinnitus impacts up to 50 million Americans and of those, 16 million suffer from chronic tinnitus and have sought medical attention for their condition. Tinnitus is the top service-connected disability for veterans from all periods of service and is impacting returning personnel from Iraq and Afghanistan in historic numbers.

“The progress of clinical research over the past five years has hastened,” said Michael Malusevic, ATA Executive Director. “At this time, there are now more viable treatment options being tested for tinnitus patients than at any other time in this history of tinnitus research, a real reason for the entire tinnitus community to celebrate ATA’s 40th anniversary,” said Malusevic.

The American Tinnitus Association is the largest member-based research funding organization in the United States. Beginning in 1980, they have awarded nearly \$5 million in “seed” money to tinnitus investigators. Many of these researchers have gone on to attract larger funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health and more recently, the U.S. Department of Defense to enhance their findings and develop treatments for tinnitus.

For more information about Tinnitus Awareness Week including awareness raising materials and fun activities to share with your family and friends, please visit ATA.org/taw2011.

About the American Tinnitus Association

The American Tinnitus Association (ATA), headquartered in Portland, Ore., is the nation’s foremost organization committed to curing tinnitus. For 40 years, ATA has helped tinnitus patients understand and manage the “ringing in their ears.” ATA exists to cure tinnitus through the development of resources that advance tinnitus research. Founded in 1971, ATA has contributed millions of dollars to medical research projects focused on curing tinnitus. The association also provides information on tinnitus to the public and advocates for effective public policies that support its mission of curing tinnitus. ATA.org.