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92 YEAR-OLD TEXAN OFFERS TO ADOPT UNWANTED ALLIGATORS

For Immediate Release

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The heart wrenching video footage of a Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden torturing a beautiful alligator by dragging it behind his pick-up truck was too much for Dr. Kenneth Russell and his wife Marjorie to accept without protest.

“How can Texas Parks and Wildlife officials state that they don’t know what to do with unwanted alligators and thus justify horrible abuse of our wildlife?” questioned the 92 year-old philanthropist, who along with his 87 year-old wife donated a conservation easement appraised at over \$2,000,000.00 to Natural Area Preservation Association, specifically for the protection of alligators in 2001.

“We have literally begged Texas Parks and Wildlife to bring any and all unwanted alligators to the refuge so that they can live out their lives in peace in the swamps and coves that border our family lands on the shores of Lake Livingston,” he continued.

Instead, according to the Russells, Texas Parks and Wildlife has apparently done nothing to stop the poaching of an estimated 200 or more alligators, some of which were over 12 feet long, that peacefully inhabited the waterways bordering the various Russell sanctuaries.

The Russells have for five years attempted to get the Trinity River Authority and Texas Parks and Wildlife to outlaw airboats on Lake Livingston to no avail. In addition, when dead alligators, headless bodies of alligators, or butchered alligators have been reported to the department’s “Operation Game Thief” nothing has been done to stop the carnage.

“It’s as if the only thing that concerns Parks and Wildlife in Texas is protecting the overpopulation of Whitetail Deer”, continued Dr. Russell. “Last year, when a huge alligator turned up on the nearby Waterwood Golf Course, we asked that he be moved to our sanctuary for his safety.” Instead, Game Wardens shot the alligator.

The Russell family wants Texas Parks and Wildlife to develop a kinder and gentler attitude toward all species of Texas wildlife. The Russell family is committed to aid in the preservation and protection of other persecuted species such as Red-wolves, Cougars, Black Bears, and threatened snakes, in addition to alligators.

Their greatest hope is that Texas Parks and Wildlife officials will humanely capture and transport all unwanted alligators to their preserves and that the agency begins to protect the animals from poachers. The Russell family has offered a \$1,000.00 reward for information leading to the arrest, conviction, and incarceration of alligator poachers and alligator abusers.

George H. Russell, an outspoken opponent of the death penalty, is a resident of Huntsville, Texas, known worldwide as "The City of Death."

He is founder of The Patriot Network, and author of its 35+ web sites located at www.patriotnetwork.org, as well as founder of The Universal Ethician Church, an interfaith ministry with a worldwide following via the church's 275+ web sites located at www.salvationnetwork.org.

Russell, 57, is an educational video producer, environmental activist, historic preservation specialist, photographer, art and antique collector, philanthropist, American patriot and ethician.

Additional biographical information may be found in *Who's Who in America*, through Internet searches, and in other publications. Images of Mr. Russell suitable for downloading for publication may be found at www.salvationnetwork.org.