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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deadline for Unsung Heroes Nominations Nearing *Nominees Will Be Highlighted in 2009 Calendar*

JEFFERSON CITY –Senate Leader Mike Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, reminds Missouri residents that the deadline is nearing to submit names of Missourians from the private sector who have achieved, accomplished or overcome something remarkable in their lives. Senators are accepting nominees of remarkable Missourians from their districts to recommend to be featured in the Missouri Senate's 2009 Calendar.

Gibbons said Missouri is one of the best places to live, work and raise a family because Missourians work tirelessly to improve the lives of the people in their communities.

"There are so many telling stories about our people and communities coming together to help families rebuild after natural disasters here," he said. "But we also hear of those remarkable individuals who mean so much to so many people because they always put others before themselves."

Gibbons said nominees could range from volunteers to leaders to neighbors, noting the criteria is any Missourian who is nominated for having accomplished or overcome something remarkable.

A nomination form can be found online at <u>www.senate.mo.gov</u> by clicking on the "Know a Hero?" link. Submissions must be received by April 30, 2008.

The Missouri Senate produces a themed calendar each year highlighting an aspect of Missouri's history or culture. This year will be the first to include submitted entries from the public. Each senator will select two nominees from their respective district, and these two individuals, families, or groups will be submitted to a panel of volunteer judges who will select 12 finalists for the calendar.

Gibbons said past calendars have highlighted Missouri's natural beauty and historic buildings.

"These aspects help make us the state we are today, but the people are what truly make us a great state," he said. "I look forward to learning about the great, unsung heroes who are making a difference throughout Missouri."