APSP ANNOUNCES 2017 AWARD WINNERS

(ALEXANDRIA, VA) – The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) announces the winners of its 2017 APSP Awards Program. The program recognizes prominent achievements and outstanding performers in the pool, spa and hot tub industry. Being recognized this year are 85 pool, hot tub and water features in the design competition and 13 individuals recognized for their contribution to the aquatic industry. One APSP Chapter earned top honors.

All APSP recipients will be officially recognized in the October issue of AQUA Magazine and honored during the APSP Awards Reception, October 31, 2017 in Orlando. Individual photos of the award winners can be viewed at APSP.org/AwardsGallery.

In its 47th year, the APSP International Awards of Excellence recognizes 85 outstanding pools, spas, hot tubs and water feature installations. Hundreds of entries are submitted each year, representing member firms across the United States and around the world. The award – winning companies and their installations can be viewed at APSP.org/FanFavorite. Viewers can vote and share their favorite installation via social media. Voting began on October 3 and runs through 5 p.m. EDT on Oct. 27, 2017. The winner of the fan voting will be announced on Oct. 31.

Individual APSP professional honors recognize Guy Larsen, CBP, CSP, Mid America Pool & Spa Show, as Certified Building Professional of the Year; Rebecca Smith, CSP, CMS, Splash Pool Management Company as Certified Service Professional of the Year and Jennifer Clements, Pla-More Pools as Retailer of the Year.

The rank of APSP Fellow is an honor bestowed on prominent individuals who have made
distinguished contributions that raise the professionalism in the aquatic community through teaching, research and/or exemplary service to others. The 2017 Fellow Award recipients are: Nathan Coelho, Master Spas; Dick Dal Pino, CBP, Dal Pino Quality Pools and Michael McCague, Watkins Wellness.

The 2017 recipients of The Young Professionals of the Year Award represent forward-thinking leaders under the age of 40 who are positioned to be the voice and next generation of pool and hot tub professionals. They are: Jeffrey Campbell, United Aqua Group/Aquatech; Ben Cook, Superior Pools of Southwest Florida; Alexa Dal Pino, CBP, Dal Pino Quality Pools; Michael Gesmond of Heritage Pools; Joshua Henderson, Memphis Pool Supply Co.; Mitch Katz, CBP, CSP of Elite Landscaping Inc. and Joshua Sharitz, HHHunt.

The APSP Chapter of the Year Award went to the Central Arizona Chapter in recognition for its work in promoting water safety and workforce development. They created and implemented the “Buy a Heart. It’s a Start. Swimming Lessons Saves Lives” campaign and for the past three years have been raising money to provide swimming lessons for deserving children. Also, the chapter is in the process of creating an adult education curriculum to train current and future pool professionals.

For more information and to view the award recipients, visit APSP.org/Awards Gallery.

“We are excited that we are able to continue to expand our awards program to recognize and reward the industry’s top professionals,” said APSP President and CEO Rich Gottwald. “We saw a record number of impressive entries this year and look forward to celebrating our winner’s achievements at our APSP Awards reception this October.”

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About APSP
The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world’s oldest and largest association representing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers’ agents, designers, builders, installers, suppliers, retailers, and service professionals. Dedicated to the growth and development of its members’ businesses and to promoting the enjoyment and safety of pools and spas, APSP offers a range of services including professional development, advocacy at the federal and local levels, consumer outreach, and public safety awareness. APSP is the only industry organization recognized by the American National Standards Institute to develop and promote national standards for pools, hot tubs, and spas. For more information, visit APSP.org.

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