

Louisiana Municipal Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 19, 2010

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LMA presents “President’s Award” to Lt. Col. Clifford A. Palmer

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana Municipal Association has presented the prestigious “LMA President’s Award” to U.S. Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel Clifford A. Palmer for his “indispensable service to the Association and the state’s municipalities.”

In a special presentation at LMA’s convention luncheon for delegates at The Hilton New Orleans Riverside here on Saturday, August 7, outgoing LMA President Susan Menard, mayor of Cankton, praised Palmer for developing and overseeing a program that since 2000 has recovered and returned more than \$100 million in insurance premium taxes to some 160 municipalities and other local entities.

The insurance premium tax collection program is a service developed by a LMA subsidiary, Louisiana Municipal Advisory and Technical Services (LaMATS). Palmer, as principal and owner of The Palmer Group, a government relations firm based in Tallahassee, FL, helped develop LaMATS in 1999. He now serves as a consultant to Revenue Discovery Systems (RDS) in Birmingham, AL.

The LaMATS service collects insurance premium taxes which are statutorily levied on policies written by insurance companies doing business in political jurisdictions in Louisiana. More recently, Palmer and LaMATS, through RDS, have developed a similar program for the collection of occupational license taxes levied on businesses operating within municipal boundaries.

Twice within the last three years, Lt. Col. Palmer has served the country abroad. An officer for 16 years with the Air Force Reserve and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom (in Afghanistan), Lt. Col. Palmer is currently assigned as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) in the Secretary of the Air Force’s Office of Legislative Liaison in the U.S. House of Representatives. His responsibilities include working with members of Congress and their staffs on Air Force and military issues of interest and concern, testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, congressional inquiries, delegation travel, and key legislative initiatives.

While serving in Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Palmer was director of the Adraskan National Training Center in Herat Province, located in southwest Afghanistan. The training center produced Afghan National Civil Order Police officers through a 16-week intensive training program of basic and advanced police tactics, techniques, and procedures.

During his tour of Baghdad, Iraq, Lt. Col. Palmer served as the senior liaison officer to the personal security detail for Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

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LMA PRESIDENT’S AWARD, Page 2

Upon his return from both Iraq and Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Palmer presented the LMA with American flags that were flown in both countries.

More recently, Lt. Col. Palmer served as a special assistant to the Commander of U.S. Southern Command in support of the massive humanitarian relief effort in Haiti known as Operation

Unified Response, and served as an augmentee to the Office of Congressional Affairs.

He has received numerous military decorations and honors for his meritorious service and achievements.

A graduate of the Air Force's Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College, Palmer is also a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park.

In 1989 to 1994, he served as a senior aide to U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston, for whom he served as director of special projects and liaison to local elected officials.

A native of Jacksonville, FL, Palmer is a Life Member of the Air Force Association and the Reserve Officers Association, and serves as president of the Tallahassee area Chapter 419 of the Air Force Association.

He is a trustee in the Tallahassee Lodge of Woodmen of the World and an adult leader for Boy Scout Troop 23 in Tallahassee.

"Lt. Col. Palmer has rendered truly distinguished and effective service to Louisiana's municipalities, accepting little or no remuneration for his generous work," Mayor Menard noted.

"We commend Cliff Palmer for his inspiring support and untiring assistance to help municipalities and other local entities recover and make use of the maximum level of taxes authorized by state law," Mayor Menard said.