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**Testimony of Keith Macdowall, Vice President, Prime Technology
Patrick Andrews, Battalion Chief, New Haven Fire Department
on behalf of the
Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau before the Committee on Appropriations
February 17, 2009**

We have been organizing non profit events for over 26 years. Some but not all include Leukemia Society, Special Olympics, Tommy Fund and multiple Golf tournaments. Not often have we been given reason or felt we needed to take the time to recognize extra effort, this time it is warranted. Ginny Kozlowski 's efforts saved the 45th Annual US *Canadian Firefighters Golf Tournament.

It's not just the action she took, but her method that was remarkable. Her patience, relentless dedication to detail and most of all her warm humorous personality forced not just us but everyone involved to take notice.

She should be commended for satisfying a particularly difficult group of long time hardened firefighters / golfers.

This is our first experience with the Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau; we will not run another function without their involvement. As a result of the extraordinary level of satisfaction of the attendees of this event from across the U.S. and Canada, New Haven's local organizing committee has been asked to host the 48th Annual US*Canadian Firefighters Golf Tournament in 2011. This tournament is expected to generate another \$2 million in economic activity for the Greater New Haven region. This event, and the resulting economic impact, is made possible in large part because of the assistance and professionalism of the Greater New Haven Convention & Visitors Bureau.

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