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## Senior Connections to Honor Liane Levetan with "Community Connections" Award at Third Annual 'Senior Prom' on May 21

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### **Monica Pearson, WSB-TV Anchor, Will MC Event**

ATLANTA -- **Senior Connections**, the home and community-based service organization that provides programs and services designed to help seniors "age in place" in the comfort of their homes, today announced that **Liane Levetan**, former CEO for DeKalb County (1993 - 2000) - among many other formidable accomplishments - has been selected as the recipient of its 2011 "Community Connections" Award. This award, established in 2009, recognizes older adults who have been and continue to be outstanding business and community leaders and have given back significantly to the communities in which they live and work.

The award ceremony will take place during Senior Connections' third annual 'Senior Prom' on Saturday, May 21. Atlanta's beloved Monica Pearson, WSB-TV Anchor, will serve as the prom's Master of Ceremony. The 'black-tie optional' fundraiser with its theme: "Celebrating Aging!" will be held at the Letitia Pate Evans Building on the Agnes Scott College Campus in Decatur and will include a reception, silent auction and dinner program. Dancing to the sounds of a big band orchestra, will top off the evening.

"Liane Levetan is a true cornerstone of our community, and we are delighted to honor her this year," notes **Debra Furtado**, CEO of Senior Connections. "In addition to her outstanding leadership skills, she is a magnificent bridge-builder. Through her ability to link just the right people and bring various public and private entities together, she has been a great champion for our community and for Senior Connections.

"Liane chaired Senior Connections' capital campaign years ago and galvanized the community to help build a facility that now serves over 3,000 nutritional meals a day for our metro region and middle Georgia. She had the vision and the leadership to know that the need for senior services was great and would continue to grow. She is a true community champion in many ways and has improved the lives of so many individuals."

As the first woman CEO of DeKalb County, Liane Levetan was responsible for the operation of a government that served over 600,000 citizens and managed a multi-million dollar budget. Prior to serving as CEO she was the first woman to serve on the DeKalb County commission, where she served for ten years. Ms. Levetan also served in the Georgia State Senate, District 40. Since leaving office, Mrs. Levetan continues to be involved in numerous community projects, as well as civic and cultural affairs. Her public service career has been characterized by a dedication to neighborhoods, issues of children and elderly citizens, and initiating savings for taxpayers.

Proceeds raised from the 2011 'Senior Prom' will go to funding home delivered meals, in-home care, home repair programs and operational expenses of the 38-year old organization, a leading agency of senior services in metro-Atlanta.

Tickets to the event are \$150 per person and \$300 per couple and may be purchased at the Senior Connections web site [www.seniorconnectionsatl.org](http://www.seniorconnectionsatl.org) or by calling 770-455-7602. Corporate sponsorships are still available.

### **About Senior Connections:**

Since 1973 Senior Connections has served the counties of the metropolitan Atlanta area with programs and services designed to help seniors "age in place" in the comfort of their own homes. Over 2,500 nutritious meals are prepared daily out of Senior Connections' main kitchen, and meals are distributed throughout metro Atlanta as well as Macon, Georgia. In addition to providing

this large number of meals, the nonprofit agency provides home repair, in-home care and neighborhood centers to area seniors, and recently launched the "Fixit Connection," a home repair and handyman service for senior homeowners that provides guaranteed professional services plus peace of mind.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, services are available to anyone over the age of 60, regardless of income level. Adventures in Learning courses and workshops are open to all adults 50 and older. Senior Connections also offers services and information to help families cope with the many dilemmas that can arise as parents, grandparents, friends, and loved ones "come of age."

**About Liane Levetan:**

As the highest elected official of Georgia's second largest county, Liane Levetan was responsible for the operation of a government that served over 600,000 citizens and managed a multi-million dollar budget. She was the 1st Woman "Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County," receiving more than 67 percent of the vote for her first term of office (1993-1996) and 70 percent her second term (1997-2000). Prior to serving as CEO she was the first woman to serve on the DeKalb County commission, where she served for ten years. Ms. Levetan also served in the Georgia Senate.

A founder of the Georgia Forum - International Women's Forum, she serves as a member and past treasurer of the IWF Leadership Foundation. Other current leadership roles include: Co-Founder of the DeKalb County Police Alliance, Co-Chair Senior Connections Capital Campaign and Founder of the organization's Legacy Campaign. Ms. Levetan is a licensed real estate broker and is a consultant for several corporations.

Her administration was distinguished by innovative approaches to employee training and performance measures to improve the county's service orientation toward its residents and an emphasis on improving technology.

Through her leadership, an extraordinarily successful culture of collaboration between the public and private sectors has won national acclaim for DeKalb, including the prestigious All-American City Award in 1998. The award is given annually by the National Civic League to 10 outstanding local governments across the United States that demonstrates a high degree of collaborative community building.

Her leadership was instrumental in the landmark passage in March 1997 of DeKalb County's innovation Homestead Option Sales Tax, which created a permanent source of revenue for infrastructure improvement and the reduction of property taxes.

In 1975, Mrs. Levetan became the 1st Woman elect to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, where she represented District 2 for 10 years and spearheaded the drive for tax breaks for DeKalb property owners who added onto and enhanced existing residential and commercial property. A pioneer teacher in the field of special education, Mrs. Levetan also initiated a successful bond referendum to fund the DeKalb County Mental Retardation Services Center. In addition, Mrs. Levetan also served as the Georgia Senator for District 40.

Since leaving office, Mrs. Levetan has been involved in numerous community projects. She has also been active in civic and cultural affairs and her public service career has been characterized by a dedication to neighborhoods, issues of children and elderly citizens, and initiating savings for taxpayers. Mrs. Levetan has also utilized her more than three decades of business experience as a licensed real estate broker and public affairs consultant to various corporations.

The Senior Citizens' Program Office was created in 1998 in response to an assessment of services and facilities for DeKalb seniors commissioned by the chief executive officer. The assessment serves as a focal point for planning future services and facilities to benefit the elderly population. In addition, a senior citizens program director was hired to work with Senior Citizens Advisory Committee to ensure improved coordination of elder care and the development of a local plan to meet the increasing demand for elderly services, housing and health care.

Mrs. Levetan is a past director of the National Civic League and currently serves on its National Council of Advisors. She was active in the National Association of Counties (NACo), where she played a leadership role on the Unfunded Mandate Task Force and served as vice president of NACo's Taxation and Finance Committee.

Mrs. Levetan has served on many boards that include BB&T local board and is currently a member of the International Women's Forum Foundation Board; Georgia Perimeter College Foundation Board; and DeKalb Police Alliance. Georgia Trend magazine has recognized her many times as one of Georgia's 100 Most Influential People and in 1993 she was the recipient of the International Forum's "Women That Make A Difference" Award.

Mrs. Levetan chaired the Elected Officials Policy Council for the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), appointed by Governor Roy Barnes. Mrs. Levetan was appointed by the governor and served on the Workforce Investment Board, which assisted in the development of the state workforce investment plan and carried out other functions of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Mrs. Levetan and her husband, Phil, have two daughters, noted endocrinologist-Dr. Claesa Levetan and Penny D. Reiff, and four grandchildren.

**POLITICAL SERVICE includes:**

- Atlanta Regional Commission, Board Member;
- NACo Unfunded Mandate Task Force, Vice Chair
- Taxation and Finance Infrastructure Committee, Vice Chair
- Globalization Advisory Committee
- Urban County Caucus Steering Committee, Vice Chair;

- Association County Commissioners of Georgia Economic Development
- and Transportation Committee;
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs Community Indicators Advisory
- Committee;
- Georgia Regional Transportation Authority-Chair, Elected Officials Policy Council;
- Georgia Workforce Investment Board; and
- WON - Women Officials of the National Association of County Organizations, Chair

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS include:**

- Young Singers of Callanwolde, Founder and Trustee;
- Junior League Advisory Board;
- Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission, Trustee, 1986-1991;
- Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission, former Vice Chair;
- International Women's Forum, Founding Member;
- Georgia Forum; and
- Women's Forum Foundation, Director

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