

NET Television Programs Win First-Place and "Best of the Best" NETA Awards

LINCOLN, Neb. (Jan. 30, 2008) -- Two NET Television productions won first place awards when the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) honored public broadcasters with awards on Friday, Jan. 25, at the annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio. NET's "Crane Song" received first place in the science and nature category for large markets and "On the Frontline: Nebraskans at War in Iraq" won the first-place award in the major market category for news and public affairs.

In addition to winning first place in the news and public affairs category, "On the Frontline: Nebraskans at War in Iraq" was the recipient of the 2007 NETA "Best of the Best" award, which recognized it as the most outstanding of all programs and projects submitted to NETA's judges this year. NET Television's "At Close Range with National Geographic" won the special award last year.

"On the Frontline: Nebraskans at War in Iraq," first broadcast in April 2007, is a one-hour public affairs documentary that tells the compelling story of Nebraska soldiers through in-depth interviews, soldier profiles and images the soldiers brought home from Iraq. The program also examines how the civilian and family lives of these men were changed by their experience, in visible and invisible ways.

"On the Frontline" was cited for its compelling and informative storytelling, as well as its use of personal photographs. The NETA judges' panel praised its powerful narrative and apolitical stance. Written comments by the judges included: "Beautiful. The stories are so compelling and the production style complemented them beautifully." "Very powerful, very personal." The overall result of the film is highly informative as well as emotionally compelling."

The award cites NET Television's Mike Tobias as producer/reporter for the program, with Ray Meints as videographer/editor. Production of "On the Frontline: Nebraskans at War in Iraq" was supported by a grant from the PBS series "America at a Crossroads." Funding for "America at a Crossroads" was provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

"On the Frontline" also received a Nebraska Broadcasters Association Award of Excellence in Aug. 2007 and a Regional Emmy Award in Oct. 2007.

NET's "Crane Song," first broadcast in March 2007, is a stunning visual essay of the Sandhill crane's migration through Nebraska, weaving together striking images and majestic sounds of the birds' journey with the stories and insights of the individuals who observe these creatures, as well as landowners endeavoring to ensure a habitat that is welcoming to the cranes.

NETA judges applauded the vibrant high-definition photography and the excellent narration as well. Their written comments included: "The program really let the viewer into the world of the sandhill cranes -- as well as the habitat in Nebraska and the people

who love to watch them." Garry Denny of Wisconsin Public Television noted that "Crane Song" is one of those rare nature documentaries that manages to look gorgeous onscreen and tell a great story."

Viewers will be able to watch the award-winning program when it airs again on NET Television on Sunday, March 9, at 6 p.m. CT. "Crane Song" also received a Regional Emmy Award in Oct. 2007.

Award recognition went to NET producer Perry Stoner and Ralph Hammack, videographer/ editor. The high-definition NET Television production was made possible by the Elizabeth Rubendall Foundation, the Theodore G. Baldwin Foundation, Sandhills Publishing, Chief Industries, Inc., and the Platte River Whooping Crane Maintenance Trust, Inc.

The NETA Awards provide annual recognition of excellence in public broadcasting. NETA is a professional association founded in 1997 to serve public television licensees and affiliated educational organizations and is headquartered in Columbia, S.C.

NET Television is a service of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET). For a program schedule and more information, go to netNebraska.org.

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NET Television:

NET1 is Nebraska's first public television broadcast service and includes PBS and award-winning, locally produced public television programming; **NET2** offers live coverage of the Nebraska Unicameral, and other news and public affairs programming; **NET3** is a 24-hour channel featuring the most popular how-to, travel and lifestyle series; and **NET-HD** presents high-definition digital broadcast programming displayed in a wide-screen format.