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UAC to Present 2009 Kinship Award to Craig F. Maier

At National Underground Railroad Freedom Center on May 18th

The Urban Appalachian Council's 2009 Kinship honoree is Craig F. Maier, President and CEO of Frisch's Restaurants, Inc. Through his leadership, Frisch's Restaurants across Greater Cincinnati reflect a care and concern for Family, Personal Relatedness, and Social Equality, all values that Appalachians hold dear. Further, his steady service to the community has insured continuity in efforts to improve education and economic systems in the area.

Craig joined Frisch's in 1975 as a manager trainee in restaurant operations. After owning and operating the New Richmond Big Boy franchise in southern Clermont County, he achieved corporate positions of Area Supervisor, Divisional Vice President for both Frisch's and Kip's Big Boys and in October 1988, became Executive Vice President of the Company. Craig was elected to the Board of Directors in 1984.

"UAC's Kinship Award recognizes a person whose life reflects those values that Appalachian people hold dear," explains Maureen Sullivan, UAC Executive Director. "Among those values is self reliance, independence, love of family and social equality. Over the years, the Frisch's company has provided employment to thousands of urban Appalachians." She indicated that many urban Appalachian youth have gotten a start or worked their way through school by

waiting tables at Frisch's. Many parents supported their families with their wages from the company.

Leadership for this year's event is being provided by Chad Wick, CEO of Knowledge Works, Pete Strange, President of Messer Construction, and Dr. John Bryant, UAC Board Member. In speaking about this year's recipient, Dr. Bryant noted his extensive service to the community on boards as varied as the Cincinnati Museum Association (Art Museum), Cincinnati Arts Association, Cincinnati Zoo (Vice-Chairman), Dan Beard Council – Boy Scouts of America (President and Chairman of the Dan Beard Council 1998-2002), Cincinnati Bell and many others.

Craig Maier, a member of the Cincinnati Business Committee and the Ohio Business Roundtable, has demonstrated his commitment to the community and its people in a variety of ways. A graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., Craig served in the U.S. Army before earning an MBA from Columbia University. Craig and his wife, Anne have a daughter and twin sons. They reside in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Urban Appalachian Council will honor Craig Maier's dedication and leadership in the Cincinnati community on Monday, May 18th at the Kinship Dinner to be held at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Channel 9:WCPO-TV Community Affairs Director, Mona Morrow, will be MC for the event. For more information please call UAC at (513) 251-0202.