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Note: Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer are available for interviews

The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer Celebrates 30th Anniversary

Program Remains Among the Most Respected Television News Programs

NewsHour to Air Special Five-Part Series on Major Changes in America Over the Last Three Decades, October 24-28

The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Thursday, October 20. After three decades on the air, the program remains one of the most respected news programs on television. In fact, the 2004 - 05 Erdos & Morgan Opinion Leader Survey (the most recent of a bi-annual study of a universe of 450,848 influential business, government and public policy leaders) ranks *The NewsHour* first among all television news programs as the most credible, most objective and most influential news program on television.

Over the course of thirty years, the television landscape has changed significantly. Robert MacNeil and Jim Lehrer created the original half-hour *MacNeil Lehrer Report* as a supplement to the three nightly commercial network news broadcasts available at the time. Then in 1983, *The MacNeil Lehrer NewsHour* broke new ground, becoming the nation's first hour-long nightly news broadcast. Today, in addition to its daily television reporting and analysis of national and international events, *The NewsHour* offers extensive online news and pod-casts. Yet one thing has never changed. *The NewsHour* remains committed to providing its viewers with intelligent, in-depth and objective reporting and analysis, presenting multiple points of view in a balanced and civilized atmosphere.

To mark *The NewsHour's* anniversary, Robert MacNeil, who co-founded the program, will join Jim Lehrer on *The NewsHour* broadcast on Thursday evening, October 20, for a special conversation. (Check local listings for times.)

As part of *The NewsHour's* 30th anniversary celebration, the program will broadcast a special five-part series, updating important stories that the program has covered over the past three decades. This special series will be broadcast

nightly on *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer* beginning Monday, October 24, on PBS (check local listings). The series will include the following stories:

- **Immigration:** Twelve years ago, *The NewsHour* put a human face on the immigration story, profiling Francisco Correa, a native of Mexico, who came illegally to the U.S. to find work. Correspondent Jeffrey Kaye revisited the Correa family recently to find out what's happened to them since then.
- **Silicon Valley:** During the mid 80s, *The NewsHour* produced several reports on the emergence of Silicon Valley and the transformation of the computer industry. In this special updated report, Correspondent Spencer Michels looks at the past, present and future of Silicon Valley.
- **Dwight, Nebraska:** Twenty-two years ago, nearly all the residents of rural Dwight, Nebraska turned out for the funeral of a young man who, along with 240 other American servicemen, was killed in the terrorist attack on the Marine barracks at the Beirut Airport in Lebanon. In the original report, we talked with residents about the many sons of Dwight who have served their country in the military. Correspondent Kwame Holman returned recently to talk to the residents of Dwight about the impact of Iraq war on their community.
- **Weirton, West Virginia Steel:** *The NewsHour* profiled this steel company three times over the years. Correspondent Tom Bearden returned to report on the changes in the company since it was purchased two years ago by a Dutch company – amid a continuing decline of the company due to foreign steel imports.
- **NAFTA:** A dozen years ago, as a vote in Congress neared on NAFTA, *The NewsHour* visited Autaugaville, Alabama, where local families had earned a living for Decades at Crystal Lake Manufacturing making corn brooms. Correspondent Paul Solman went back to see what impact NAFTA has had on this town of a thousand people.

The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer is seen five nights a week on more than 315 PBS stations across the country. The program is produced by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, in association with WETA, Washington, DC and Thirteen/WNET in New York. Funding for *The NewsHour* is provided by the Archer Daniels Midland Co.; CIT; Pacific Life and Smith Barney, with additional funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers.