



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 4, 2008



## **House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer Introduced as Honorary Co-Chair of Melwood Prince George's County Open**

UPPER MARLBORO, MD - Melwood Prince George's County Open Tournament Director Teo Sodeman today introduced House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) as an honorary co-chair of the second annual Melwood Prince George's County Open, a Nationwide Tour event. The 2008 tournament will return to the Country Club of Woodmore in Mitchellville on May 19-25. Hoyer shares honorary co-chair duties with Fred Funk, an eight-time PGA TOUR winner.

"Congressman Hoyer's participation emphasizes the tremendous positive impact our tournament has on our entire community," said Sodeman, who operates the Washington, D.C./Baltimore region's annual Nationwide Tour event.

"I am honored to serve as co-chair of the Melwood Prince George's County Open along with Maryland golf great Fred Funk," said Rep. Hoyer. "This tournament is truly a unique event, partnering the PGA Tour with the Melwood Horticultural Training Center, and drawing some of the finest golfers in the world. I look forward to having the tournament return to Prince George's County, and am certain we can expect to repeat the success of last year's inaugural event."

Rep. Hoyer of Mechanicsville represents Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, which includes Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties and portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. His service as majority leader makes him the highest-ranking member of Congress from Maryland in history. Now serving his 14th term in Congress, he also became the longest-serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland in history on June 4, 2007. Prior to being elected majority leader, Rep. Hoyer served two terms as the Democratic Whip.

Rep. Hoyer is a respected voice on human and civil rights and is perhaps best known for serving as the lead House sponsor of historic Federal election reform (the "Help America Vote Act") and for guiding the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to passage.

"Congressman Hoyer has played a pivotal role in enabling people with disabilities to take their rightful place in the community," said Janice Frey-Angel, Melwood President/CEO. "Literally tens of thousands of people with disabilities now hold jobs, pay taxes, and contribute to our economy, thanks to Congressman Hoyer."

Last year's inaugural event, held at the highly-regarded Country Club at Woodmore, drew universal praise from Nationwide Tour officials, players and an estimated 30,000 spectators, while generating a significant amount of news and media coverage. One-

[more]

hundred and fifty-six professional golfers will be competing for their share of the \$650,000 purse this year.

More than just a professional sporting event, the Melwood Prince George's County Open is a week-long community event featuring a high school tournament and junior clinic, multiple Pro-Am events, a popular private sponsor's party at Six Flags America, and various social events.

**ABOUT MELWOOD:**

Melwood Horticultural Training Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving more than 2,100 people with disabilities with job training, employment, housing and recreation in the Washington D.C. area. Melwood employees support more than 65 contracts made possible by the AbilityOne Program, which encourages federal agencies to contract with approved, qualified organizations that provide job training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This federal effort is emphasized by the fact that 62 percent of Americans with severe disabilities are unemployed. For additional information about Melwood capabilities and services for people with disabilities, call Melwood at (301) 599-8000, or visit [www.melwood.org](http://www.melwood.org).

**ABOUT NATIONWIDE TOUR:**

Part of the PGA TOUR family, the Nationwide Tour was launched in 1990 and sends its 25 leading money winners to the PGA TOUR each year. Nationwide is currently in its fifth year as the umbrella sponsor of this tour and has an agreement with the Tour through 2012. The PGA TOUR is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and its website is [www.pgatour.com](http://www.pgatour.com).

**ABOUT NATIONWIDE**

Nationwide, based in Columbus, OH, is one of the largest diversified insurance and financial services organizations in the world, with more than \$160 billion in assets. Nationwide ranks No. 104 on the Fortune 500 list. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto, motorcycle, boat, homeowners, life, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mortgages, mutual funds, pensions and long-term savings plans. For more information, visit [www.nationwide.com](http://www.nationwide.com).

*Nationwide and the Nationwide Framework are federally registered service marks of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company. On Your Side is a service mark of Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.*

**Contacts:**

Teo Sodeman, Tournament Director  
(301) 599-2732

Jay Thomas, Melwood External Relations  
(301) 599-4550, [jthomas@melwood.org](mailto:jthomas@melwood.org)

Denise Roberts, Press Information Officer, Prince George's County  
(301) 952-5381

Jeff Adams, Director of Communications, Nationwide Tour  
(904) 273-3397, [jadams@pgatourhq.com](mailto:jadams@pgatourhq.com)

###