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**BRIAN DIVELEY NAMED 2007 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR BY
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY FOUNDATION**

*Bellevue, Wash., resident recognized for his work to preserve artifacts
from the historic USS Monitor*

Washington, D.C. — Brian Diveley, a resident of Bellevue, Wash., and graduate student at East Carolina University, has been named the 2007 Volunteer of the Year by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for his work as lead member of an archaeological team excavating fragile artifacts from the wreck of the historic Civil War ironclad USS *Monitor* during summer 2006.

“Brian’s dedication and commitment to preserving our nation’s maritime heritage resources exemplifies the very best in the National Marine Sanctuary Program, making him an ideal candidate for this year’s award,” said Lori Arguelles, president and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Diveley spent countless hours last summer working with the staff of *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Cape Hatteras, N.C., using his technical skills to create a photo-mosaic of the interior and exterior walls of the USS *Monitor* by piecing together thousands of high-resolution digital images that are used to monitor the condition of the 144-year-old sunken ironclad ship. These high-quality mosaics provided sanctuary staff with a valuable education tool that is being used to support ongoing efforts to preserve this national underwater treasure.

In addition, Diveley worked to extricate fragile artifacts from the *Monitor* wreck and participated in the screening of sediment retrieved during a previous expedition in order to identify and document historically significant artifact fragments.

“Although the sanctuary program conducts important research that helps preserve and protect our ocean resources both natural and cultural, it is the invaluable work done by our volunteers that enhances our overall efforts,” said Daniel J. Basta, director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. “Brian’s work in particular directly supports our long-term preservation goals, not only for the *Monitor* but for maritime heritage resources across the sanctuary system.”

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation at its annual Leadership Awards Dinner on June 5 during Capitol Hill Ocean Week in Washington, D.C. Other events during the week include a three-day forum from June 5-7 that brings together a wide range of ocean experts and stakeholders to discuss the latest ocean and coastal issues. Panel speakers include members of Congress as well as representatives from federal and state government, industry, academia and nonprofit organizations.

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is the private, non-profit partner to the federally managed National Marine Sanctuary Program. It was created to inspire all people to preserve, protect and promote our nationwide network of marine sanctuaries. The 14 sites within the National Marine Sanctuary System protect special places in the oceans and Great Lakes from the Florida Keys to the Hawaiian Islands and from Lake Huron to the Gulf of Mexico.

For more information about Capitol Hill Ocean Week, please visit the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Web site at www.nmsfocean.org. For information about the National Marine Sanctuary System visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>.

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Note to editors: Photos are available upon request.