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**Contact: Pat Taylor  
301.404.8477**

**ACADEMY AWARD WINNER LOUIS GOSSETT JR. JOINS TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS RALLYING IN 80 COMMUNITIES, CELEBRATING RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION**

*Recovery Bill of Rights to be released, calling nation to action to end the cycle of addiction*

**(St. Louis, Missouri, Sept. 20, 2008)** – Academy-Award Winning actor Louis Gossett, Jr. will join tens of thousands of people taking part Saturday in the national Rally for Recovery, which will be recognized with events in more than 80 communities across the United States.

This year, participants will also hail the release of the Recovery Bill of Rights, a statement of the principle that all Americans have a right to recover from addiction to alcohol and other drugs, during a ceremony at The Chain of Rocks Bridge Park in St. Louis. The Hands Across the Bridge event will serve as the national hub for activities happening nationwide.

“The Recovery Bill of Rights is a call to action for our elected officials and community leaders to break the cycle of addiction by empowering people who still need treatment and ending discriminatory policies that keep people in recovery from securing jobs and housing in order to create a healthy and just society,” said Congressmen Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Jim Ramstad (R-MN), who are both in long-term recovery from addiction.

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The goal of Saturday's events is to speak out for improved local, state and federal policies and to demonstrate the reality of recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. Participants are members of the recovery community, their friends, families and allies, who put a face and a voice on recovery from addiction and call for improved local, state and federal policies so that others in their communities may get the help they need. At the rallies, they will have an opportunity to personally endorse The Recovery Bill of Rights.

Gossett, who is in long-term recovery from addiction, is the keynote speaker at the St. Louis event and will join hands in unity with more than 1,000 people in forming a human chain across the bridge linking Missouri and Illinois.

Faces & Voices of Recovery, the leading national organization mobilizing those in long-term recovery from addiction, is the sponsor and organizer for Saturday's event, which coincides with National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month.

"We are rallying for recovery to help make change happen at all levels," said Carol McDaid, chair of Faces & Voices of Recovery. "Our focus today and every day is on the rights of people struggling with addiction to get well and the rights of people who are no longer using alcohol or other drugs to get their lives back together. We will be distributing The Recovery Bill of Rights to doctors, schools, treatment and community centers across the country."

Further information about The Recovery Bill of Rights, endorsing organizations and nationwide Rally for Recovery! activities is available at [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).

**ABOUT FACES & VOICES OF RECOVERY**

Faces & Voices of Recovery is the national organization of individuals and organizations joining together with a united voice to advocate for public action to deliver the power, possibility and proof of recovery from addiction. [www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org).