



RODERICK AWARD
of Courage

CONTACT:

Matt Levinson/Jeremy Katzman
O'Connell & Goldberg, Inc.
(954) 964-9098
mlevinson@oandgpr.com
jkatzman@oandgpr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FRANKLIN GRADE-SCHOOLER TO BE HONORED MARCH 5 WITH
INAUGURAL RODERICK AWARD OF COURAGE**

**Local Hero Madeline Adams to Receive Recognition from Community Leaders;
146th Anniversary of the Battle of Thompson's Station Commemorated**

THOMPSON'S STATION, Tenn. – (Feb. 26, 2009) – Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. On March 5, 1863, the courageous Civil War steed, Roderick, was buried at what is now Roderick Place, a short distance from where he fell in battle, while bravely galloping to his owner's side despite three gunshot wounds.

In commemoration of the valiant Roderick and the 146th Anniversary of the Battle of Thompson's Station, 10-year-old Madeline "Maddie" Grayson Adams will be presented **March 5, 2009, at 11 a.m.** with the inaugural Roderick Award of Courage at the historic site (Columbia Pike/Highway 31, seven miles south of Franklin).

Last September, Maddie, then 9, miraculously saved her choking grandmother's life by performing the Heimlich Maneuver. She had seen the technique earlier that day on an episode of the Disney Channel television show, "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody."

Creation of the Roderick award, which recognizes a local hero who displayed courage, loyalty and bravery in the face of adversity, was announced last March 5 by Thompson's Station Mayor Leon Heron at the unveiling of the Roderick Monument. This past year, Heron, along with several Williamson County community leaders, formed the Roderick Award of Courage Founder's Committee and nominated several heroic individuals before selecting the Johnson Elementary School fourth-grader as the winner. At the March 5 ceremony, Maddie will be presented with a crystal trophy and \$1,000.

“We all were amazed with Maddie’s fearlessness and her ability to remain calm during what must have been a terrifying situation,” said Heron. “I’ve been fortunate to get to know the Adams’ family and couldn’t envision a more deserving inaugural recipient.”

On September 4, 2008, Maddie and her younger brother Hayden were being babysat by their grandmother Jan Adams, who was preparing dinner and talking on the phone to Maddie’s mother, Deanna. Jan took a bite of chicken that became lodged in her windpipe, making it impossible for her to breathe or speak. Deanna immediately realized something was wrong and called a neighbor for help before dialing 911.

Meanwhile, Jan began to black out. Realizing she had to act quickly, Maddie came up behind Jan, put her arms around her grandmother’s midsection, and with her back against the kitchen counter for leverage, delivered a few quick thrusts to Jan’s diaphragm. The chicken became dislodged and Jan was able to breathe again.

“There were so many Williamson County individuals who deserved the award, but Maddie’s story was truly incredible,” said Roderick Founder’s Committee Co-Chair Beverly Burger, 1st Ward Alderman, Former Vice Mayor, Franklin. Other committee members include: Heron, Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson, Attorney/Historian Julian Bibb, Williamson County-Franklin Chamber of Commerce CEO/President Nancy Conway and Williamson County Commissioner Judy Hayes.

Roderick Place is an 80-acre development set amid the rolling hills of Middle Tennessee less than 30 miles south of Nashville. Roderick Place is being developed by C&L Development, LLC, owned by Leon and Cynthia Heron whose land holdings encompass KMK Acres LLC, which includes Roderick Place. For more information about Roderick Place, please call (615) 595-5877 or email cldevelopment@comcast.net.

###

Editors: Guests will begin assembling at Roderick Place at 11:00 a.m., March 5, 2009 for the award presentation.

Lunch will follow at the nearby Thompson’s Station Community Center.