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## **AICPA NAMES DAVID M. WALKER 2002 OUTSTANDING CPA IN GOVERNMENT**

**Washington, D.C., August 26, 2002** – David M. Walker, Comptroller General of the United States, is the 2002 recipient of the Outstanding CPA in Government Award from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The award recognizes CPAs in government who have made significant contributions to increased efficiency and effectiveness of government organizations and to the growth and enhancement of the profession.

The award was presented today by Ernest Almonte, Chair of the AICPA Members in Government Committee, at the AICPA's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual National Governmental Accounting and Auditing Update Conference being held in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Walker began his 15-year term as the nation's seventh Comptroller General in 1998. As the U.S. Comptroller General he is the U.S. government's chief accountability officer and head of the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), which was founded as a part of the legislative branch of government in 1921. The GAO's mission is to help improve the performance and assure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people.

Mr. Walker has a distinguished record of public service and brings an intense personal commitment to accelerating improvements to federal financial management. As the official in charge of the GAO's annual audit of the U.S. government's consolidated financial statement, which covers trillions of dollars in revenue and costs, Mr. Walker is ideally situated to identify problems and advocate reforms. During his tenure at GAO, Mr. Walker has concentrated on improving the government's financial management systems, identifying control weaknesses and addressing high-risk financial management operations. He is an active and forceful proponent of timely, accurate and useful financial information for the day-to-day management of government programs.

In addition, Mr. Walker was among the first to call attention to human capital management as a pervasive management challenge across the federal government. His vivid depiction of how human

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capital shortfalls erode the ability of some federal agencies to perform their core missions has helped drive members of Congress and administration officials to recognize and proclaim human capital as one of the most pressing federal management concerns. Under Mr. Walker's leadership, the GAO is moving to make itself a model of effective workforce planning. Mr. Walker co-authored a book on human capital management in 1998 entitled *Delivering on the Promise: How to Attract, Manage and Retain Human Capital*.

Before his appointment as Comptroller General, Mr. Walker gained extensive executive level experience in both government and private industry. Between 1989 and 1998, he was with Arthur Andersen LLP, where he was a partner and global managing director of the human capital services practice based in Atlanta, GA. He also served on the board of Arthur Andersen Financial Advisors, a registered investment advisor. While a partner at Arthur Andersen, Mr. Walker served as a Public Trustee for Social Security and Medicare from 1990 to 1995. Before joining Arthur Andersen, Mr. Walker was Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs from 1987 to 1989 and in 1985 was Acting Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. He gained his earlier technical, professional, and business experience from positions at Price Waterhouse, Coopers & Lybrand and Source Services Corporation.

Mr. Walker serves as Chair of the U.S. Intergovernmental Audit Forum, the U.S. Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, and the Center for Continuous Auditing. He also is on the Board of the International Organization Supreme Audit Institutions and various educational and not-for-profit entities, as well as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. Mr. Walker is a member of the AICPA and has served on several AICPA committees. Member - Group of 100 - 2000-2002, Chair - Employee Benefit Plans Committee - 1993-1995 and Member - Employee Benefit Plans Committee - 1990-1992

He holds a B.S. in accounting from Jacksonville University and a Senior Management in Government Certificate in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Walker also received an honorary doctorate degree from Bryant College.

Mr. Walker was chosen for the Outstanding CPA in Government Award from four finalists by a distinguished panel of judges that included; Woody Jackson, CPA, Washington, DC, Sheila Conley, CPA, Washington, DC and Dennis Duquette, CPA, Washington, DC.

The AICPA ([www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org)) is the national professional association of CPAs with more than 330,000 members in business and industry, public practice, government, and education. It sets U.S. auditing and professional ethical standards and, with the Financial Accounting Standards Board, U.S. accounting standards. The AICPA is the first national professional association to be ISO 9001 certified, in recognition of its quality management and assurance practices.

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