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Texas Paralyzed Football Player Inducted into Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame *Young “Gridiron Hero” who battled back after life-threatening spinal cord injuries receives recognition for his work with other spinal injury victims*

SAN ANTONIO, TX (November 28, 2007) – Schertz resident Chris Canales was inducted into the Spinal Cord Injury Hall of Fame in the category of Grassroots Organizer, in Washington, D.C. on November 6th 2007. The induction ceremony took place at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Formed by the National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) in 2005, the SCI Hall of Fame was created to celebrate and honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to quality of life and advancements toward a better future for all individuals with spinal cord injury. Chris became the youngest ever recipient to be inducted into the Spinal Cord Injury Hall of fame.

In November of 2001, in the 4th quarter of a playoff deciding game in San Marcos, Chris Canales lay motionless on the football field for nineteen minutes after his touchdown saving tackle. His neck broken, Chris battled for his life for three weeks and was left paralyzed with only limited use of his arms and hands. He is only one of many young men around the country who suffered catastrophic spinal cord injuries during high school football related activities. Over the past five seasons in Texas alone, more than fourteen athletes have been paralyzed suffering a spinal cord injury while playing for their high school team.

“I am very proud of Chris’ accomplishments and his will and determination to help make a difference in someone else’s life. It is not easy for Chris to travel”, says Eddie

Canales, Founder of Gridiron Heroes and Chris’ father. “Chris and I have worked very

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hard to bring hope to similarly affected athletes and their families.” Chris’ injury and the lack of any organized support system for families prompted his father, Eddie Canales, to form “Gridiron Heroes”; a Texas based spinal cord injury foundation. The foundation offers much needed support and outreach services to families affected by these types of tragedies. Through “Gridiron Heroes” Chris and his father are able to shine a light on the true financial and emotional toll, catastrophic spinal cord injuries take on these young men and their families. Visit www.gridironheroes.org for more information.

The mission of The National Spinal Cord Injury Association (NSCIA) is to enable people with spinal cord injury and disease (SCI/D) to achieve their highest level of independence, health, and personal fulfillment by providing resources, services, and peer support. For details and updated information, visit www.spinalcord.org.