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News Release

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March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

“Living with Brain Injury”

McLean, VA— March is Brain Injury Awareness Month across the United States and this year’s focus is “Living with Brain Injury.” According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year in the United States an estimated 1.4 million people sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Of them, about 50,000 die, 235,000 are hospitalized and 1.1 Million are treated and released from an emergency department. Many people recover from their injuries, but each year an estimated 80,000 to 90,000 people sustain a TBI resulting in a permanent disability. Currently, there are at least 5.3 million Americans living with a disability because of brain injury.

“Traumatic brain injury is frequently referred to as the ‘silent epidemic’ because the complications that result from a TBI, such as problems with thinking and memory, are often not visible, and because awareness about TBI among the general public is limited,” according to Susan H. Connors President and CEO of the Brain Injury Association of America. “With TBI occurring every 23 seconds, this public health concern ranks as a leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults. For those who survive and their families, brain injury is life altering. Serious physical impairments are a frequent result, as are a variety of cognitive, behavioral and emotional complications. TBI costs our nation a staggering \$56.3 billion a year.”

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Brain Injury Awareness Month

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Each year, more Americans will experience brain injury than HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and spinal cord injury combined. Despite incidence rates, brain injury remains largely unseen by the American population while awareness and prevention are key to lowering occurrence.

As a hub of advocacy for the millions of Americans individuals with TBI, the Brain Injury Association of America and the brain injury community continue to educate policy makers regarding the ongoing need for a national response to this silent epidemic.

Ms. Connors notes that, “this year the TBI Act must be reauthorized for another five years and funding for the TBI Act must be appropriated for 2006. Fortunately, the Association, its State affiliates and its powerful nationwide network of grassroots advocates are more than prepared to meet the challenges of this federal agenda in a currently challenging climate.”

To order your Brain Injury Awareness Month Kit from the Brain injury Association of America, please visit the Association’s website at: www.biausa.org. Brain Injury Awareness Month kits can also be downloaded from the website for free. Kits from previous years are available under the “Newsroom” button on the website.

Founded in 1980, the Brain Injury Association of America has more than 40 chartered State affiliates across the country with hundreds of local chapters and support groups. The mission of the Brain Injury Association of America is to create a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy. For more information about the Association and Living with Brain Injury, visit www.biausa.org

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