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HOUSTON CELEBRATES GIS DAY 2002
WITH ELECTED OFFCIALS, BUSINESS LEADERS, EDUCATORS AND AREA STUDENTS

"Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is an important technology that impact the lives of all people"

(Houston, Texas) ---- Staring Thursday, November 21 through Friday, November 22, 2002, the City of Houston and the surrounding metropolitan area will be celebrating GIS Day 2002 at the University of Houston-Downtown Campus from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

An international event, GIS Day 2002 celebrates and recognizes the contributions Geographic Information Systems (GIS) has and is making all over the world and will run in conjunction with Geography Awareness Week, which is principally sponsored by the National Geographic Society, the Association of American Geographers, the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Library of Congress and ESRI.

GIS Day 2002 will focus on how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology is being employed by government agencies, law enforcement officials, private corporations and the education community to positively impact the lives of people in the greater Houston metropolitan area.

GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing objects and events. It was most recently in the national news as "geographic profiling" during the recent sniper attacks in Maryland and Virginia.

In Houston, it is being used to track the West Nile Virus and also for every day events such as getting maps from the Internet, creating bus routes, or tracking street cuts in the City of Houston. Demonstrations at GIS Day 2002 will range from How to Locate Water and Sewer Pipes on the Internet, How to Ride the Bus and Rail and This is GIS.

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Area government agencies and private corporations participating in GIS Day 2002 included the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO, the Houston Independent School District, the Houston Galveston Area Council, Tri-Global Technologies, Landworks, Inc. and other area engineering and consulting firms.

According to Max Samfield, Data Services Manager for the Houston Galveston Area Council, "Events like GIS Day help bring technology into perspective so that it can positively impact and be applied to our everyday lives. With GIS we can continue to build the same kind of broad based knowledge, professional fellowship and camaraderie that so capably fuels new accomplishments for the many government agencies and private corporations that employ this technology in the greater Houston region".

Participants in GIS Day 2002 include University of Houston President Dr. Max Castillo, Houston City Council Member Carroll G. Robinson, City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department Director Jon C. Vanden Bosch and many other elected officials, students, educators and business leaders.

GIS Day 2002 is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. GIS Day 2002 is being sponsored by the Geographic Data Committee of the Houston Galveston Area Council and by University of Houston-Downtown.

For more information on GIS Day 2002 log onto the web site at http://www.eng.hctx.net/gisexpo/Schedule.htm or to schedule an interview or appearance request, please contact Nancy Fischer, Chair of the GDC at 713-525-9863 or email: nancy.fischer@cityofhouston.net.

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