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For Immediate Release

Open Space Leader Leaves Generous Legacy: 104 Acres Now Permanently Preserved in the Heart of Montgomery County.

June 17, 2008 – Worcester Township, PA

Frank D’Lauro of Worcester Township “walked the walk” when it came to preserving open space. Because of Mr. D’Lauro’s generosity and the commitment of cousin John D’Lauro, 104 expansive acres of classic Pennsylvania farmland, achieved permanent preservation on May 16.

Having no children of his own, Mr. D’Lauro who passed away in February, 2006 had designated cousin John D’Lauro as the executor of his will. Working with Ross Pilling, a private conservation consultant and Montgomery County Lands Trust board member, and with staff from Montgomery County Lands Trust and Natural Lands Trust, John D’Lauro patiently worked out the details so Long Lane Farm would gain permanent protection and fulfill the wishes of his uncle.

With stunning views from Valley Forge Road, Stump Hall Road, Waterstreet Road, and traversed by the headwaters of the Zacharias Creek, the property and its

conservation mean a great deal to Worcester Township. It serves as a green keystone in this community known for its open space ethos.

Its conservation is a fitting legacy for Frank D’Lauro. As a long-time member of Worcester’s planning commission, Mr. D’Lauro strongly advocated for the best possible planning for his community and for the preservation of its valuable open space. John Harris, Chairman of the Worcester Township Supervisors says, “Frank and I discussed endlessly the critical need to preserve Worcester’s rich heritage of farms, woodlands and vistas and the many techniques for accomplishing that goal. But he was the one who convinced me that what was missing was having someone go directly to landowners to tell them about the wealth of possibilities available to them. That is the piece that makes it happen.”

Sixty acres of the property will be owned and managed as a preserve by Natural Lands Trust. Similar to their nearby Gwynedd Preserve, it will be open to the public and feature walking trails and warm season grasses. An additional 30 acres will be permanently preserved and remain with the D’Lauro family as the private residence of John D’Lauro who spent his boyhood summers on the farm. The remaining 13 acres with an existing house will eventually be sold as a separate protected lot. **Montgomery County Lands Trust will hold and enforce the terms of the conservation agreement on all three properties.**

Jake Lea, Director of Land Preservation for Montgomery County Lands Trust, says, “Not only did Frank ensure the preservation of his farm, he provided for the long-term management of the property and for the future monitoring and enforcement of the easement. Mr. D’Lauro’s vision, along with John D’Lauro’s efforts, have resulted in the preservation of a remarkable landscape.”

Molly Morrison, President of Natural Lands Trust, notes, “The residents of Montgomery County and the entire region are indebted to the D’Lauro family. Thanks to their foresight and generosity, a quintessential part of the County’s agricultural heritage has been preserved forever and most of it will be managed as a nature preserve for people to enjoy.”

As a non-profit conservancy, Montgomery County Lands Trust works to preserve and connect the natural areas, farmland, and neighborhood green spaces which contribute

to our quality of life, to a clean and abundant water supply and to the health of our region's economy.

Natural Lands Trust is the region's largest land conservation organization, preserving open space throughout eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. The organization owns and manages 44 nature preserves totaling more than 20,000 acres and holds conservation easements and other restrictions on over 17,000 acres. More information is available online at www.natlands.org or by calling 610-353-5587.

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--- Montgomery County Lands Trust