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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**John L. Mendoza Elected 2011 President and Chairman  
of the Board of the American Welding Society**

MIAMI, FL – December 13, 2010 – John L. Mendoza, a 36-year veteran of the welding industry, has been named as the 2011 President and Chairman of the Board of the American Welding Society (AWS).

“It’s an honor to serve as the 2011 President of AWS and my goal is to challenge our Sections and members to raise the issues that are important today by focusing on the image of welding in the future and this can only be done through education and certifications,” said Mendoza. “The most career-enhancing decisions I ever made were to keep advancing my education through achieving various certifications and it is certifications that serve to keep an individual employed even during tough economic climates.”

During his term, Mendoza will manage the affairs of the Society and will preside at all Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the Society’s annual meeting and any special meetings of its members. Mendoza will also represent the American Welding Society at many of its local Section meetings, and other technical, national and international meetings.

Upon graduating from the San Antonio Trade School with a certificate in welding technology in 1973, Mendoza began his career as a welder’s helper with CPS Energy, San Antonio’s gas and electric utility company. After completing a three-year apprenticeship, he attained journeyman welder status in 1979. In 1992, he earned his AWS Certified Welding Inspector (CWI) credentials and served as a weld inspector during construction of a 550-megawatt coal-fired plant.

In 1994, Mendoza was promoted to Technical Trainer, responsible for the training and performance of power plant workers. His proficiency in plant design was instrumental in the creation of the Skills Training Evaluation Program (STEP) used by CPS Energy for employee development.

Mendoza pursued his interest in welder education and earned his AWS Certified Welding Educator credentials in 1996. That same year, he received Craft Instructor certification

from the National Center for Construction Education and Research and was hired as an adjunct welding instructor for the Texas A&M University system. In 2001, he attained credentials as a Certified Training Manager by Langevin Learning Services.

In 2005, Mendoza was elected to the Texas SkillsUSA Board of Directors, College/Postsecondary division. For several years he chaired the state-wide SkillsUSA welding competition. In addition, Mendoza is a past chair of the St. Philip's College welding advisory committee and a 35-year member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 500. He is also a member of the International Institute of Welding (IIW), serving as a delegate to Commission XIV on Education & Training.

Mendoza has been an active member of AWS for over 15 years. Throughout that time he has generated the newsletter for the San Antonio section, organized AWS district conferences, served as a test proctor for CWI exams, maintained the section website and obtained welding proclamations from city and state officials. Prior to being elected AWS national vice president in 2008, he served over six years as Director for District 18.

After retiring in February 2010 after nearly 36 years of service from CPS Energy, Mendoza currently works as a consultant for Lone Star Welding. He and his wife Nora have been married for 36 years and reside in San Antonio, Tx. They have three children and three grandchildren.

#### **About the American Welding Society**

*The American Welding Society (AWS) was founded in 1919 as a multifaceted, nonprofit organization with a mission to advance the science, technology and application of welding and allied joining and cutting processes, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 63,000 members worldwide and is composed of 22 Districts with 250 Sections and student chapters. For more information, visit the society's website at <http://www.aws.org> and click on "Pressroom."*

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