



American Welding Society®

MEDIA CONTACT:

Cindy Weihl
American Welding Society
800-443-9353 ext 416
cweihl@aws.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AWS Presents Extraordinary Welding Award to
Times Square New Year's Eve Ball**

Miami, Fla., January 6, 2014 – The American Welding Society (AWS), the world's largest organization dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding, presented an Extraordinary Welding Award to the Times Square New Year's Eve ball during a special ceremony on Monday, January 6, 2014.

The award, which is voted on by AWS's Past-Presidents Committee, celebrates technical design or outstanding development in welded fabrication, recognizing welding excellence in construction, fabrication and manufacturing, and designating those welded structures whose purpose has importance in, or influence on, history.

The New York City icon is a welding and engineering marvel. Created by Hudson Scenic Studios, the ball is a geodesic sphere, 12 feet in diameter and weighing 11,875 pounds. The Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW) process was utilized in its aluminum frame construction.

Dean Wilson, president of the American Welding Society, presented the award during the annual ceremony to re-light and raise the ball back to its perch above One Times Square. The ball will remain there for all Times Square visitors to see until it drops back down to ring in 2015.

Previous winners of AWS's Extraordinary Welding Award include the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Mo., the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the Georgia Aquarium.

About AWS

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 worldwide, including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves nearly 70,000 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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