



American Welding Society®

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY HONORS JAY LENO WITH
NATIONAL MERITORIOUS AWARD**

MIAMI, FLA., April 1, 2010 – The American Welding Society (AWS) has presented *The Tonight Show* host Jay Leno with the prestigious AWS National Meritorious Award for his assistance in promoting the image of welding in a positive light.

The AWS National Meritorious Award is given in recognition of a person's counsel, loyalty and devotion to the affairs of the American Welding Society, assistance in promoting cordial relations with industry and other organizations, and for the contribution of time and effort on behalf of the AWS. Leno received the award for his participation and promotion of the *Hot Bikes, Fast Cars, Cool Careers* DVD.

The DVD, which highlights the importance of welding in our society and promotes the fun opportunities that can come from a career in welding, was produced by AWS and Lincoln Electric Manufacturing Company with cooperation with Leno, who is an avid car collector and keeps welders on staff at his garage restoring dozens of cars and motorcycles. Over 120,000 copies of the DVD were distributed through schools, AWS Sections, career oriented events, SkillsUSA, FFA, and other welding image and recruitment events. The video has also received a record number of downloads from the AWS site.

"The *Hot Bikes, Fast Cars, Cool Careers* DVD has been instrumental in the AWS's effort to promote welding as a fun and interesting career, and we could not be more grateful to Jay Leno for being such a great advocate for the welding industry. He truly deserves the National Meritorious Award and we're thrilled that he was eager to receive it. He told us he was having the certificate put up in *Jay Leno's Garage* where he keeps his collectibles, right away," said Sam Gentry, executive director of the AWS Foundation.

To order a copy of the *Hot Bikes, Fast Cars, Cool Careers* DVD, please visit www.aws.org or call (800) 443-9353 ext. 212

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 including brazing, soldering, and thermal spraying. Headquartered in Miami, Florida, and led by a volunteer organization of officers and directors, AWS serves more than 60,000 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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