



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 8, 2007

CONTACT:
Jackie Clark
301-987.7113

**LOCAL BUSINESS LEADER
VIC PEMBERTON HONORED
BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**
*Receives Award as the Nation's
Golden Coin Vending Operator of the Year*

Chicago, IL— November 8, 2007 – Victor E. Pemberton, president and general manager of Pepi Food Service in Bainbridge, GA, has been named the 2007 Golden Coin Vending Operator of the Year by the National Automatic Merchandising Association (NAMA). The announcement came at NAMA's Annual Expo Banquet Oct. 11 in Chicago by NAMA President and CEO Richard M. Geerdes, NCE.

“This coveted award goes to someone who has consistently exemplified the highest standards of professional excellence, leadership, customer service, innovation, technology, integrity and social responsibility. Vic was selected as this award winner by his peers in the industry, and we are pleased to present it to him to recognize him for his demonstrated leadership in the vending and office coffee service world,” said Geerdes. “His accomplishments and services to his community and the vending industry are legendary,” he added.

Vic began his remarks with a cornerstone scripture that has guided his business for 22 years, “Unless the Lord builds a house (or business), those who labor, labor in vain.” In receiving the award Pemberton thanked God for His continuous guard and blessing over the business and congratulated a TEAM of leaders that continue to make Pepi what it is today. He said, “This award is not a result of my work in the industry; instead, it is a fruition of the relationships we daily build with suppliers, customers and employees; a collaborative desire for excellence in everything we do”

Pemberton is a 22 year veteran of the vending/coffee service/foodservice industry; he previously was employed by Pepsi Cola Bottling Co., where he began in route sales and worked his way up to vice president of operations and then sales. Vic earned an AA degree from Bainbridge College and is a graduate of NAMA-MSU Executive Development Program. He is a board member of Southwest Georgia Technical College Foundation, Park Avenue Bank Advisory Board, Memorial Hospital Foundation, and Intelligent Food Solutions. He has held board positions for the Bainbridge Chamber of Commerce, YMCA, Southeast Vending Association, NAMA, and Georgia Automatic

Merchandising Association (GAMA), and is currently chairman of the board for GPL Food Services and DJD Enterprises. GAMA recognized him as Vendor of the Year in 2002, and he has been honored by the YMCA with a Lifetime Achievement Award, and by Kiwanis with an Outstanding President Award. Vic says his most important positions are husband to Lorie; father to Donnie, Jenny, and David; and grandfather to Isaac, Gabriel, Reagan, and Addison.

NAMA is the national trade association of the food and refreshment vending, coffee service and foodservice management industries including on-site, commissary, catering, & mobile. Its membership is comprised of service companies, equipment manufacturers and suppliers of products and services to operating service companies. The basic mission of the association, to collectively advance and promote the automatic merchandising and coffee service industries, still guides NAMA today as it did in 1936, the year of the organization's founding.

###