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For Immediate Release

Legends in the Blindness Field to be Inducted into Hall of Fame

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (October 6, 2023) – Two trailblazing pioneers will be inducted into the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends in the Blindness Field. The award, which is organized by leaders in the field, will be presented on Friday, October 6, during a ceremony at the American Printing House’s 155th Annual Meeting. The new inductees will join 70 esteemed professionals already in the Hall of Fame who have shaped the history, philosophy, knowledge, and skills of the blindness field over the past 200 years.

Carl Augusto

Carl Augusto served as the executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) from 1991 until his retirement in 2016. Under Augusto’s leadership, AFB became the world’s preeminent content provider for the blind on the web. He built a strong leadership team and increased the hiring of blind staff members. He significantly bolstered AFB’s technology program and created and expanded the organization’s award-winning web programs and services, such as Family Connect and CareerConnect, which are now a part of APH. He oversaw the establishment of AFB TECH, the Technology and Employment Center at Huntington (West Virginia), the AFB Center on Vision Loss in Dallas, and the establishment of AFB’s Braille Literacy programs.

Dr. Verna Hart

From 1952-1967, Verna Hart was a special education teacher and administrator in various Michigan public school districts. She joined the faculty of George Peabody College in Nashville, TN as an assistant professor in 1967, where she coordinated programs on multiple handicaps and deafblind education. In 1972 Dr. Hart joined the special education faculty at the University of Pittsburgh where she became a full professor and at various times chaired the department. In the latter phase of her career, Dr. Hart served as a project officer with the United States Department of Education,

Office of Special Education Programs, and Division of Personnel Preparation. Her impact on thousands of students and teachers in these positions was profound.

About the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field

The Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends in Blindness Field is an honor that is organized by leaders in the field. Established in 2001, the award is dedicated to preserving, honoring, and promoting the tradition of excellence manifested by the specific individuals inducted into the Hall of Fame and through the history of outstanding services provided to people who are blind or visually impaired. To nominate someone for the Hall of Fame, visit <https://sites.aph.org/hall/>

About American Printing House for the Blind

American Printing House for the Blind is a worldwide leader in designing innovative lifelong learning solutions for children and adults who are blind or visually impaired. In this fast-changing world, we believe in the power and necessity of learning to open the doors to educational success, satisfying employment, social inclusion, active citizenship, and personal well-being. We level the learning playing field by providing specialized technology, materials, products, and services that are essential for education and life. American Printing House for the Blind is headquartered at 1839 Frankfort Avenue in Louisville, Kentucky. For more information, please visit www.aph.org.

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