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**PBS' RAY SUAREZ KEYNOTE PRESENTER AT
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE EVENT TO HONOR
RICHARD AND CAREN LOBO WITH
2009 CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Senior Correspondent Ray Suarez, of PBS' *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, will be the keynote speaker Wednesday, November 11, 2009, when the West Coast Florida Chapter of AJC (American Jewish Committee) honors Caren and Dick Lobo with its annual Civic Achievement Award. The dinner event, chaired by Gerri Aaron and Elaine Keating, will be held Michael's on East in Sarasota beginning at 6 pm.

The AJC presents its Civic Achievement Award to individuals whose contributions have improved the shared life of the community. The honorees are recognized for their extensive professional accomplishments and their involvement in numerous civic and community activities that benefit and serve the greater good.

Dick Lobo was named President and CEO of Tampa-based WEDU/ PBS in June, 2002 after a lengthy career in commercial television in New York, Cleveland, Denver, Chicago and Miami, during which he was awarded major industry honors including the Peabody Award, the Emmy, the Alfred DuPont Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award. During his WEDU tenure he has led the organization through the historic digital transition, produced numerous, award-winning local documentaries and public affairs programs, started an endowment fund and greatly expanded the community owned station's public outreach.

As a Presidential appointee in President Clinton's administration, Dick served as Director of Cuba Broadcasting for the USIA. He was recently elected to as Chairman of the Florida Public Broadcasting Service Inc. Dick is a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Association of Broadcasters, the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Suncoast Chapter, and serves on the Advisory Board of the Governor's Florida Film & Entertainment Office. He also served on the board of the Sarasota Arts Council and on the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall Advisory Board. Dick was instrumental in growing downtown Sarasota's business community as former President of the Downtown Association.

Caren was a founding force for organizations in Southwest Florida, including the Sarasota Reading Festival and Forum: The Truth for a Change and the Palm Literary Society.

As supporters of reproductive rights, Caren and Dick served as Chairs of Planned Parenthood's 38th Annual Dinner, and Caren was Planned Parenthood's 2009 honoree. Caren serves on the board of the Florida Humanities Council. She served a Presidential elector in the 2008 Electoral College and was a member of President Obama's National Arts Policy Platform Committee and National Finance Committee. She was honored with Selby Gardens' Visionary Award, as well as the Women in Power Award from the National Council of Jewish Women. Together, Caren and Dick co-founded the award-winning independent book store, Sarasota News & Books.

Sarasota Magazine named Dick and Caren Lobo among Sarasota's 100 most powerful people. They have three children and five grandchildren.

The American Jewish Committee is the country's oldest human relations agency. Its work includes safeguarding minorities; fighting terrorism, anti-Semitism, hatred and bigotry; pursuing social justice; advancing human dignity; supporting Israel's right to exist in peace and security; defending religious freedom, and providing humanitarian relief to those in need. Through innovative programs, education, and extensive diplomatic outreach and advocacy, alone and in coalition with like-minded organizations and individuals, AJC's scope and impact are felt on a local, national and global scale.

The Lobos join a distinguished list of past Civic Achievement Award recipients, including Steve Dvoskin, Diane McFarlin, Dr. Duncan Finlay, Vern Buchanan, Phil Delaney, architects Carl Abbott, Guy Peterson, and Tim Seibert; Dr. Larry Thompson, and Rex Jensen. **For more information about how to honor the Lobos, contact Executive Director Brian Lipton at 941.365.4955 ext. 104 or email liptonb@ajc.org.**