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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R. Richard Ryan, O.D. of Spokane Named ‘Optometrist of the Year’ by the Optometric Physicians of Washington

R. Richard Ryan, M.S.E, O.D. of Spokane was named the 2004 Doctor of Optometry of the Year by the Optometric Physicians of Washington (OPW) at their recent annual convention held in Seattle, Wash. He has been a member of OPW since 1989 and practices with Five Mile Eye Care, Inc.

The Doctor of Optometry of the Year is awarded annually by the OPW to an optometric physician who has demonstrated outstanding service to his/her community, the visual welfare of the public, and the eye care profession. The OPW is the only professional association in Washington State that is affiliated with the American Optometric Association (AOA). The OPW has 13 statewide professional societies with a membership of more than 600 optometric physicians. Dr. Ryan is a member of the Inland Society.

As an excellent eye care provider, immediate past Chairperson of the Washington State Board of Optometry, and member of numerous committees for both the OPW and AOA, Dr. Ryan is committed to improving his profession and the public’s eye health on a daily basis. Additionally, he serves as a board member of the Northwest Chapter of the Volunteer Optometric Service to Humanity (VOSH-NW) which maintains a clinic at the Union Gospel Mission where he regularly volunteers his time providing eye examinations. He recently returned from Novillero, Guatemala as part of a team of Inland optometrists and ophthalmologists that identified and provided care for persons suffering from eye disease such as cataracts and glaucoma. The project was a joint effort between the Spokane Catholic

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community's Guatemala Commission, Adopt-A-Family and VOSH.

"I am very honored to be chosen from the field of distinguished colleagues that were considered for this award," said Dr. Ryan. "I'm confident the outreach efforts that OPW members have made to educate the public—from families and educators, to school nurses and legislators—about the role of optometric physicians in providing preventive eye care will continue to better the eye health of our communities whether here in Spokane, the State of Washington, or in third-world countries. Eye care is essential to health and wellness and all people should have access to good eye and vision care."

Dr. Ryan received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Pacific University where, in 1979, he also obtained his Doctor of Optometry degree and was given the award for best research thesis in visual science in his graduating class. Additionally, he received a Master of Science in Education with an emphasis on learning disabilities from the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh in 1985.

As a practicing professional, Dr. Ryan has been named the Inland Society's Optometrist of the Year several times and is a seven-time recipient of the Optometric Recognition Award from the AOA for his efforts in keeping up-to-date on the rapidly changing research and technology of eye care. He is a member of the Ciba/Novartis Professional Advisory Panel and a member of the Technology Committee for the national professional group the Association of Regulatory Boards in Optometry. He is Medical Director for the Vision Care Technology Program at Spokane Community College and an Adjunct Assistant Professor for Pacific University and University of Houston Colleges of Optometry and in those capacities has taught students on numerous eye care topics including pharmacology, infection control, and diagnosis and treatment of eye disease.

The mission of the Optometric Physicians of Washington is to advance, improve and enhance the vision care and eye health of the public and to promote the continued development of the profession of optometry.

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