



Automotive Trade Organizations of California, Inc.

3002 DOW AVENUE, SUITE 308, TUSTIN, CA 92780-7234
PH: 714.734.1801 800.432.3083 FAX: 714.734.1807
WWW.AUTOCA.ORG

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2001 **CONTACT:** Will Woods (714) 734-1801

CALIFORNIA SERVICE STATION OPERATORS DONATE \$20,000 TO FIREFIGHTER, POLICE DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS

TUSTIN, CA — California service station operators were looking for a way to help in the wake of the tragic events of September 11th in New York, so they asked their trade associations to hold a fundraiser. The fundraiser was held on October 11th, and on November 11th, the checks began rolling in. Some service station dealers donated a specific dollar amount. Others chose to donate a specific amount for each gallon of gas sold.

In the end, the Automotive Trade Organizations of California (AuTO-CA) and the California Service Station and Automotive Repair Association (CSSARA) had received checks written to the New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund and the World Trade Center Police Disaster Relief Fund totaling over \$20,000.

The two California associations bundled up the checks and forwarded them to the New York State Association of Service Stations and Repair Shops for presentation. “These days, you never know what you’re going to get in the mail,” said Ralph Bombardiere, executive director. “The association leaders had told me their dealers had asked to do this, but to be honest, I never expected such large contributions. This display of compassion and patriotism has lifted the hearts of our staff and service station operators throughout New York. Shortly after the terrorist attacks, the media raised the question of how the independent service station operator was going to react. In California, and throughout the country, service station dealers have overlooked their business difficulties and opened their purse to those in need. That is how the independent service station operator reacted.”

AuTO-CA represents over 500 independently-owned service station dealers, auto repair shops, car washes and convenience stores throughout the state. Our members are not the major oil companies; we are small business owners.

Should you have questions regarding this correspondence or other materials you receive related to the oil industry, please don't hesitate to contact Will L. Woods, CAE, Executive Director, at the AuTO-CA office, 714.734.1801.