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PHOTO/PRESS ADVISORY

WORLD'S ONLY TOTALLY BLIND CREW CHIEF TO LEAD DRAG RACING TEAM AT O'REILLY SPRING NATIONALS, HOUSTON, TX Qualifying Races Friday April 8 – Sunday April 10

WHO: **Jay Blake, the only totally blind crew chief in the growing sport of world auto racing.**
Mr. Blake leads his team, 'Follow A Dream' in competition across the Alcohol Funny Car Drag Racing circuit. His car is a 2000 Dodge Avenger riding on a Murf McKinney TA/FC chassis powered by a 526 cubic inch aluminum hemi engine.

Dave Ray, the Follow A Dream team's driver, has been involved in racing since the age of 15. In the 1980's Dave became heavily involved in professional mud racing. He has built a variety of state-of-the-art 4-wheel drive vehicles and has won a multitude of races including two championships. He has set many elapsed time records, some of which still stand today. Dave debuted his Pro Alcohol Funny Car in 1999 and has participated at IHRA National events and selected NHRA Divisional Events.

WHAT: Competing in the National Hot Rod Association's O'Reilly Spring Nationals
For Info/Race Background: www.nhra.com

WHEN: **Friday, April 8 – Sunday April 10**
Jay can be found in his crew's race pit most of the day.

WHERE: Houston Raceway Park, 2525 F.M. 565 South, Baytown, TX
Directions: www.houstonraceway.com
Track: 281.383.RACE (7223) Fax: 281.383.3777

BACKGROUND: **Follow A Dream** (www.followadream.org – a 501c3 non-profit) is Mr. Blake's answer to merging his 20-year love of drag racing with what he views as his responsibility to demonstrate through personal example, that dreams do not have to be surrendered to a life-altering or potentially catastrophic disability. Mr. Blake, a career mechanic, suffered an industrial accident in 1997 that rendered him totally blind. Instead of giving up, he forged ahead with his dream of racing and by applying his mechanical expertise, ultimately assembled an enthusiastic race team. Today Mr. Blake owns and manages a top Alcohol Funny Car (a class of methanol-injected race car distinguished by its carbon fiber body and supercharged engine) and maintains a vigorous race schedule. Like NASCAR, Drag Racing is enjoying spectacular popularity and corporate sponsorship growth. Mr. Blake's goal through racing achievements is to continue to fund the philanthropy of inspirational speaking through racing to take the 'Follow a Dream' message nationally.