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For Immediate Release

SUNSHINE AWARDS® MOURNS PASSING OF BOBBY THOMAS

Teaneck, New Jersey, 29 June 2001..... The SUNSHINE Awards® organization today released the following statement:

It is with great sadness that the SUNSHINE Awards® has learned of the untimely passing of Bobby Thomas. "Bobby was a good friend and a strong supporter of the SUNSHINE Awards® over these many years", said Gil Figaro, Sr., the organization's Founder and Chairman. "I am personally saddened by his death and share a grief, which I know is felt by his many friends and admirers. With his passing, I have lost a dear friend and a friendship, which spanned many years. He will be sorely missed.

"In 1989 Bobby was my co-host at the very first SUNSHINE Awards®, held in New York. His support of the Awards throughout the years was a reflection of his unwavering commitment to enhancing our art forms and promoting our culture. It was also a reflection of his love for his people and his heritage.

"Bobby was an individual who was well liked and admired by many, both in his personal and professional life. As a television announcer, he exhibited a high level of professionalism and imprinted his personal style on his job. He set a standard, which undoubtedly was an inspiration for a younger generation aspiring to that profession. As a pilot captain with BWIA, Bobby stood out as a professional who always strove for excellence, and anyone who had the pleasure of flying with him can certainly vouch for his capabilities as an excellent pilot. Trinidad & Tobago has lost a true role model, someone of whom we can all be quite proud.

"The SUNSHINE Awards® extends to his wife, children, family and friends, its heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy in this time of grief. To this I add my personal expression of sympathy and pray that they will be given the courage and grace to keep them strong during this period of great sadness".