

NEWS RELEASE



World Class Royalty Company

Stanley Dempsey Presented the Saunders Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in Mining

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DENVER, COLORADO. FEBRUARY 28, 2008: ROYAL GOLD, INC. (NASDAQ:RGLD; TSX:RGL), the leading precious metals royalty company, today announced that Stanley Dempsey, Executive Chairman, was awarded the 2007 William Lawrence Saunders Gold Medal Award, in recognition of distinguished achievement in mining by the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration ("the Society" or "SME"). Dempsey was recognized at the Society's Annual Award Banquet on Wednesday and received the SME Citation for "Changing the paradigms of what a successful mining company must be, and for your giving of yourself to improve the industry we love and the communities we touch." Dempsey has been a member of the SME for 47 years.

"Stan has had a tremendous impact on this Company as well as the mining community," said Tony Jensen, Chief Executive Officer. "He built the foundation for Royal Gold's successful business model, and we are privileged to have his continued presence and guidance on our board."

Dempsey has spent his entire career in the mining industry beginning at AMAX's Climax Molybdenum mine, in Climax, Colorado in 1960. During his tenure with AMAX, Dempsey held various engineering, legal, operating and executive positions, including Chairman of AMAX Australia, Vice President of AMAX Inc., Senior Vice President of Climax Molybdenum Company, President of AMAX Iron Ore, Director of Environmental Affairs, and Division Attorney-Western Operations. He was a co-founder of Royal Gold in 1986 and served as Chief Executive Officer until June 2006, when he assumed the role of Executive Chairman. Dempsey received degrees in geology and law from the University of Colorado and completed the Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School.

Additionally, Dempsey is active in trade, professional, civic and environmental organizations. He is presently a director of the World Gold Council. He served as a former director of the National Mining Association, former chairman of the Colorado Mining Association, and past president of the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation. Dempsey also served as chairman of the Colorado Historical Society and as president of the Mining History Association.

The William Lawrence Saunders Gold Medal Award was established in 1927 by the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, Inc. Other noted mining professionals to receive the William Lawrence Saunders Gold Medal Award include Herbert Hoover, Daniel Jackling, and Frederick W. Bradley.

Royal Gold is a precious metals royalty company engaged in the acquisition and management of precious metals royalty interests. Royal Gold is publicly traded on the NASDAQ National Market System, under the symbol "RGLD," and on the Toronto Stock Exchange, under the symbol "RGL." The Company's web page is located at www.royalgold.com.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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