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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MTSU FOOTBALL COACH AWARDED FOR EFFORTS IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Jason Foundation Presented Coach Rick Stockstill with the *Grant Teaff "Breaking the Silence" Award*

(Hendersonville, TN – January 23, 2018) Every year, the *Grant Teaff "Breaking the Silence" Award* is presented by The Jason Foundation (JFI) at the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Convention to honor a coach that has exceeded expectations as a National Awareness Ambassador. These coaches have been involved in activities that further the mission to spread awareness of the problem of youth suicide and help prevent it. Recipients of the award have shown outstanding leadership in youth suicide prevention.

On January 8th, JFI was honored to present the award to Rick Stockstill, Head Football Coach of Middle Tennessee State University. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for our nation's youth ages 10-24, the age groups that AFCA coaches impact. Coach Stockstill has been a staunch supporter of The Jason Foundation for more than a decade.

In 2006, Rick Stockstill was hired as the Head Football Coach of the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders. That year, The Jason Foundation asked him to become a Coaching Ambassador. There was no hesitation as he accepted the responsibility. Since that time, Coach Stockstill has eagerly participated in functions, public service announcements, and activities that help spread awareness of the terrible tragedy of youth suicide.

"It is very important to us to have the support of the coaching influencers in our area. Coach Stockstill is one of our longest tenured Ambassadors and most avid supporters," said Clark Flatt, President of The Jason Foundation. "Along with the awareness that he brings, I am happy to call him a true friend. "

About the Organization:

JFI is a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting the "silent epidemic" of youth suicide through educational programs for young people, educators, parents, and other community groups. JFI, headquartered in Hendersonville, TN, was founded in 1997 after the tragic death of Jason Flatt, the 16-year-old son of Clark Flatt. For more information, please visit JFI's website, www.jasonfoundation.com.

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