



News Release

123 Sesame Street
Bethlehem, PA 18015

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Contact:
Hillary G. Kwiatek
(610) 867-4677
E-mail hillaryk@wlv.org

***BETHLEHEM STEEL:
THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT AMERICA***
NAMED BEST DOCUMENTARY OF THE YEAR
BY PENNSYLVANIA BROADCASTERS

(Lehigh Valley, PA) **BETHLEHEM STEEL: THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT AMERICA**, a Lehigh Valley PBS production, has been awarded the 2003 Award for Excellence in Broadcasting in the category of Best Documentary Program by the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters (PAB). Lehigh Valley PBS/WLVT-TV, channel 39, learned of the honor yesterday. The PAB Awards will be handed out May 5th in Hershey.

BETHLEHEM STEEL: THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT AMERICA takes viewers on an inspiring and poignant journey through the history of one of the Lehigh Valley's most important icons. Told through the stories of the people who forged the steel, protected the massive South Side plant during World War II, escorted dignitaries, and captained the company through tumultuous waters, the documentary sheds new light on the history of the Lehigh Valley and the nation.

BETHLEHEM STEEL: THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT AMERICA premiered during Lehigh Valley PBS's 2003 March Festival membership drive to a tremendous response from the community. It is the most successful installment of the station's "Living History" series to date.

"This accolade from our peers certainly means a great deal to the entire production team at Lehigh Valley PBS, including Executive Producer Amy Burkett and Producer/Writer Jeff Chirico," noted Lehigh Valley PBS President and CEO Patricia Simon. "We are also grateful to viewers for supporting our efforts and telling us that their community's history is important to them. We look forward to producing even more great documentaries in the future."

"**BETHLEHEM STEEL: THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT AMERICA** would not have been possible without the amazing cooperation of everyday heroes like Richard Check, Guillermo Lopez, Ethel Gasda and so many others. And Bethlehem Steel's Bette Kovach was such a help in providing the remarkable historic footage that made this program so special," added Vice President of Production Amy Burkett. "I especially want to thank CBS's Harry Smith for donating his marvelous voice to this documentary."

BETHLEHEM STEEL: THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT AMERICA was made possible with the support of Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network, the Pennsylvania Public Television Network, and Lehigh Valley PBS members. Additional support was provided by the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

The Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters is an organization representing the interests of hundreds of radio and television stations throughout the state. The annual PAB Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting are selected by a judging panel composed of broadcasting professionals.

Lehigh Valley PBS/WLVT-TV is a community-owned public television station licensed to Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, PA, serving eastern Pennsylvania and western New Jersey. Channel 39 is owned and operated by the Lehigh Valley Public Telecommunications Corporation.

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