



Contact: Amy Lago
202-334-6510
lagoa@washpost.com

NEWS RELEASE

Jim Toler Joins the Writers Group

WASHINGTON, June, 20, 2011 – Jim Toler, a 33-year veteran of the newspaper syndication business, has joined The Washington Post Writers Group as its sales representative for the Northeastern U.S. -- from Maine to Virginia to Ohio.

As a sales representative for United Feature Syndicate from 1979 to 1996, Toler helped launch two comic strip blockbusters, *Garfield* and *Dilbert*. He then spent the next decade heading his own syndication business, Toler Media Services, in addition to teaching writers the basics of self-syndication. Then in 2005, he was recruited back to UFS to manage its East Coast sales.

"Jim has delivered outstanding sales results in this business for decades," said Alan Shearer, editorial director/general manager of the Writers Group. "He is a true gentleman who is well-liked by clients and prospects throughout his territory. We are glad to welcome him to our sales team."

"I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an organization of such high quality and integrity as The Washington Post Writers Group," says Toler, "and to be on a team with such outstanding newspaper syndicate professionals."

A Virginia native, Toler is a former marine, earned a B.A. in Journalism from Washington and Lee University and attended the Culinary Institute of America. He lives in South Glens Falls, N.Y., with his wife, Connie, who, after 20 years in business management, returned to school and earned two masters degrees to pursue her lifelong dream of teaching.

The Writers Group maintains four domestic sales territories. Jennifer Ferrell, who traveled the Northeast for five years, has shifted her efforts to the South, which ranges from North Carolina to Florida to Texas. Sally Ragsdale covers the Midwest, and Brian Patten, the West and Canada.

As the syndicate for The Washington Post, the Writers Group develops and markets editorial features and comics to newspapers, magazines and electronic publications worldwide. The Writers Group is host to columnists such as Pulitzer Prize winners Charles Krauthammer, Kathleen Parker, Eugene Robinson and George Will, as well as E.J. Dionne Jr., David Ignatius, Esther Cepeda and Ruben Navarrette Jr.; Pulitzer-winning editorial cartoonists Nick Anderson, Clay Bennett and Signe Wilkinson, as well as Lisa Benson; advice columnist Carolyn Hax; Merl Reagle's Sunday crossword puzzle; the comic strips *Pickles* by Brian Crane, *Candorville* by Darrin Bell and *Reply All* by Donna A. Lewis; and the Newsweek and AmericaEconomia news services.

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1150 15th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20071-9200 202-334-6375 or 1-800-879-9794
e-mail: wpwgsales@washpost.com www.postwritersgroup.com Fax: 202-496-3836