



**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Governor Ernie Fletcher's Communications Office**

**For Immediate Release
May 6, 2005**

The Kentucky Derby Gallops into the World Expo

AICHI, JAPAN – In celebration of “the greatest two minutes in sports,” the Commonwealth of Kentucky will give away copies of Governor Ernie Fletcher’s Kentucky Derby Poster to the first 250 families who come through the U.S. Pavilion at World Expo 2005 on Derby Day, May 7.

The poster, featuring a dramatic racing photo by native Kentuckian John S. Hockensmith, is a collector’s item and is sure to disappear quickly. It’s a vivid stop-action shot of horses and their riders roaring around the first turn of the track. “The Kentucky Derby is known and loved the world over, and particularly in Japan,” Governor Fletcher said. “We wanted to share a little of Kentucky with some of our good friends in Japan.”

The Kentucky Derby, the world’s most famous horse race, is held on the first Saturday in May in Kentucky’s largest city, Louisville. This year – the 131st running of the race for 3-year-old thoroughbreds – will mark the first Derby since the completion of a \$121 million upgrade of Churchill Downs, the Derby’s home. Derby memorabilia is popular worldwide and known for retaining its value.

The Governor’s Derby Poster can also be purchased online at <http://store.kentucky.gov/kyhs/>

Kentucky will be the featured state in the U.S. Pavilion during the week of May 16-22. Governor Fletcher along with officials from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Kentucky Commerce Cabinet, University of Kentucky and Georgetown College will promote the state to business leaders, travel professionals and education leaders in a series of Kentucky events and promotional opportunities throughout the week.

The World Expo 2005 opened in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on March 25 and continues through September 25. Business and political leaders from around the world will be among the estimated 15 million visitors to the Expo. Of the 122 country exhibits, the U.S. Pavilion is expected to be a major attraction that celebrates nature, progress and human achievement, with the Pavilion theme dedicated to “The Franklin Spirit” in honor of Founding Father Benjamin Franklin.

###