



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE REPORTS FOURTH QUARTER AND ANNUAL EARNINGS
10TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF RECORD REVENUES AND EARNINGS
5.2% INCREASE IN COMPARABLE STORE PRODUCT SALES**

Springfield, MO, February 25, 2003 -- O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. ("O'Reilly" or "the Company") (Nasdaq: ORLY) today announced record revenues and earnings for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2002, representing 10 consecutive years of record revenues and earnings for O'Reilly since becoming a public company in April 1993.

Net income for the year ended December 31, 2002, totaled \$82.0 million, up 23.6% from \$66.4 million for the same period a year ago. Diluted earnings per common share for the year ended December 31, 2002, increased 21.4% to \$1.53 on 53.7 million shares versus \$1.26 a year ago on 52.8 million shares. Product sales for the year ended December 31, 2002, totaled \$1.31 billion, up 20.2% from \$1.09 billion for the year ending December 31, 2001. Gross profit for the year ended December 31, 2002, increased to \$553.4 million (or 42.2% of product sales) from \$467.8 million (or 42.8% of product sales) for the year ended December 31, 2001, representing an increase of 18.3%. Operating, selling, general and administrative ("OSG&A") expenses for the year ended December 31, 2002, increased to \$415.1 million (or 31.6% of product sales) from \$354.0 million (or 32.4% of product sales) for the year ended December 31, 2001, representing an increase of 17.3%.

Net income for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2002, totaled \$18.7 million, up 17.6% from \$15.9 million for the same period in 2001. Diluted earnings per common share for the fourth quarter of 2002 increased 16.7% to \$0.35 on 53.7 million shares compared to \$0.30 for the fourth quarter of 2001 on 53.4 million shares. Product sales for the three months ended December 31, 2002, totaled \$314.2 million, up 12.9% from \$278.4 million for the same period a year ago. Gross profit for the fourth quarter of 2002 increased to \$131.0 million (or 41.7% of product sales) from \$122.3 million (or 43.9% of product sales) for the fourth quarter of 2001, representing an increase of 7.1%. OSG&A expenses for the fourth quarter of 2002 increased to \$99.8 million (or 31.8% of product sales) from \$95.1 million (or 34.2% of product sales) for the fourth quarter of 2001, representing an increase of 4.9%.

Comparable store product sales for stores open at least one year increased 5.2% and 3.7% for the fourth quarter and year ending December 31, 2002, respectively, representing 39 quarters of comparable store product sales increases since becoming a public company in April 1993.

David O'Reilly, co-chairman and chief executive officer, stated, "This was another solid year for Team O'Reilly especially considering a struggling economy. Our comparable store product sales this quarter improved two percentage points over the third quarter. We opened 23 new stores this quarter making a total of 106 new stores for the year. We will continue to focus on our planned expansion, including 130 new stores for 2003, supported by our strong balance sheet and financial flexibility."

The Company will host a conference call Wednesday, February 26, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. central time to discuss its results as well as future expectations. The call will be available by web cast at www.oreillyauto.com, www.vcall.com or www.streetevents.com. Investors may listen to the conference call

live on the Company web site, www.oreillyauto.com, by clicking "Investor Information," then "Conference Calls." A replay will also be available on the web site shortly after the call.

O'Reilly Automotive is one of the largest specialty retailers of automotive aftermarket parts, tools, supplies, equipment and accessories in the United States, serving both the do-it-yourself and professional installer markets. Founded in 1957 by the O'Reilly family, the Company operated 981 stores within the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas as of December 31, 2002.

The Company claims the protection of the safe-harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements discuss, among other things, expected growth, store development and expansion strategy, business strategies, future revenues and future performance. These forward-looking statements are based on estimates, projections, beliefs and assumptions and are not guarantees of future events and results. Such statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and assumptions, including, but not limited to, competition, product demand, the market for auto parts, the economy in general, inflation, consumer debt levels, governmental approvals, our ability to hire and retain qualified employees, risks associated with the integration of acquired businesses, weather, terrorist activities, war and the threat of war. Actual results may materially differ from anticipated results described in these forward-looking statements. Please refer to the Risk Factors sections of the company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001, for more details.

O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

	December 31, 2002	December 31, 2001
	(Unaudited)	(Note)
	In thousands	
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 29,333	\$ 15,041
Short-term investments	502	500
Accounts receivable, net	45,421	41,486
Amounts receivable from vendors	42,918	38,440
Inventory	504,098	447,793
Refundable income taxes	--	168
Deferred income taxes	5,040	3,908
Other current assets	3,733	3,327
Total current assets	631,045	550,663
Property and equipment, at cost	491,523	392,365
Accumulated depreciation and amortization	137,922	103,361
Net property and equipment	353,601	289,004
Notes receivable	1,880	2,557
Other assets	22,893	14,635
Total assets	\$ 1,009,419	\$ 856,859
Liabilities and shareholders' equity		
Current liabilities:		
Note payable to bank	\$ --	\$ 5,000
Income taxes payable	9,798	--
Accounts payable	85,370	61,875
Accrued payroll	15,257	12,866
Accrued benefits and withholdings	19,165	14,038
Other current liabilities	17,150	15,514
Current portion of long-term debt	682	11,843
Total current liabilities	147,422	121,136
Long-term debt, less current portion	190,470	165,618
Deferred income taxes	15,939	9,141
Other liabilities	5,064	4,673
Shareholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$0.01 par value:		
Authorized shares – 90,000,000		
Issued and outstanding shares – 53,371,242 at December 31, 2002, and 52,850,713 at December 31, 2001		
	534	528
Additional paid-in capital	269,030	256,795
Retained earnings	380,960	298,968
Total shareholders' equity	650,524	556,291
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	\$ 1,009,419	\$ 856,859

Note: The balance sheet at December 31, 2001, has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements at that date, but does not include all of the information and footnotes required by generally accepted accounting principles for complete financial statements.

O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	2002	2001	2002	2001
	(In thousands, except per share data)			
Product sales	\$ 314,241	\$ 278,377	\$1,312,490	\$1,092,112
Cost of goods sold, including warehouse and distribution expenses	183,251	156,061	759,090	624,294
Gross profit	130,990	122,316	553,400	467,818
Operating, selling, general and administrative expenses	99,819	95,117	415,099	353,987
Operating income	31,171	27,199	138,301	113,831
Other expense, net	(1,949)	(1,742)	(7,319)	(7,104)
Income before income taxes	29,222	25,457	130,982	106,727
Provision for income taxes	10,515	9,549	48,990	40,375
Net income	\$ 18,707	\$ 15,908	\$ 81,992	\$ 66,352
Net income per common share	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.30	\$ 1.54	\$ 1.27
Net income per common share - assuming dilution	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.30	\$ 1.53	\$ 1.26
Weighted average common shares outstanding	53,322	52,652	53,114	52,121
Adjusted weighted average common shares outstanding - assuming dilution	53,740	53,449	53,692	52,786

O'REILLY AUTOMOTIVE, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
SELECTED FINANCIAL INFORMATION
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended December 31,	
	2002	2001
Inventory turnover (1)	1.6	1.5
Inventory turnover, net of payables (2)	1.9	1.8
AP to Inventory	16.9%	13.8%
Debt-to-capital	22.7%	24.7%
Return on equity	13.6%	13.0%
Return on assets	8.8%	8.0%
Total employment	14,273	12,676
Miscellaneous (in thousands):		
Capital Expenditures	\$ 29,647	\$ 30,031
Depreciation & Amortization	\$ 9,786	\$ 8,356
Interest Expense	\$ 2,296	\$ 2,342
Lease & Rental Expense	\$ 8,268	\$ 8,035
Store count:		
New stores, net	23	111
Total stores	981	875
Square footage (in thousands):		
O'Reilly	6,132	5,346
Mid-State	485	535
Totals	6,617	5,882
Sales per weighted average square foot:		
O'Reilly	\$ 49.87	\$ 51.75
Mid-State	\$ 39.68	\$ 26.81
Consolidated	\$ 49.08	\$ 49.30
Sales per weighted average store (in thousands):		
O'Reilly	\$ 338	\$ 347
Mid-State	\$ 236	\$ 171
Consolidated	\$ 329	\$ 328

(1) Inventory turnover is calculated as cost of sales for the last 12 months divided by the average of beginning and ending inventory.

(2) Inventory turnover, net of payables is calculated as cost of sales divided by the average of beginning and ending inventory less accounts payable.