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## Virginia Housing Coalition Honors Affordable Housing Leaders *Bob Sledd Delivers Keynote Address*

**Richmond, VA** – The Virginia Housing Coalition held its annual awards dinner to celebrate the achievements of some of the leaders of Virginia’s affordable housing community at the Omni Richmond Hotel on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The keynote address was delivered by Bob Sledd, Senior Economic Advisor to Governor McDonnell. Sledd’s address focused on Executive Order Number 10, the Housing Policy Framework of the Commonwealth of Virginia, issued by Governor McDonnell at the end of April.

Four individuals and one organization received Housing Leadership Awards at the event:

- **Blue Ridge Home Builders Association**
- **Acquanetta Ellis**, City of Norfolk
- **Jill Norcross**, Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers
- **The Honorable Chris Peace**, Virginia House of Delegates
- **Fronce` Wardlaw**, Project FAITH

The Seventh Annual Virginia S. Peters Housing Award was presented to **Andy Kegley**, Executive Director of Helping Overcome Poverty’s Existence (HOPE) Inc., in Wytheville. The award recognizes vision, courage, tenacity, justice and compassion in the fight to provide more affordable housing opportunities.

Two individuals were also inducted into the Coalition’s Affordable Housing Hall of Fame:

- **Paul Berge**, Accomac-Northampton Regional Housing Authority (*retired*)
- **Bill Miles**, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (*retired*)

Major sponsors of the event included the Virginia Housing Development Authority, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, and Virginia Community Capital.

This year for the first time the Coalition offered training on a variety of affordable housing issues preceding the dinner. The First-Ever Summer Symposium featured a variety of topics for participants to select from, including sessions on Easy Living Homes, how to create an Energy Alliance, and an update on Federal Housing policies.

The Virginia Housing Coalition supports organizations and individuals working to provide affordable housing options in Virginia by influencing and developing public policy, recognizing exemplary achievement, and providing education, training and services that will make its members more effective in attaining their goals.

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