

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRPA Announces 2008 National Award Honorees

- Congressional Leaders, Agencies, Companies, Individuals Recognized -

ASHBURN, Va. - October 15, 2008 - The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) announced today the 2008 recipients of its esteemed National Awards during the Opening General Session at the NRPA Congress & Exposition in Baltimore. The National Awards honor congressional leaders, agencies, professionals, volunteers, and corporations throughout the United States that demonstrate commitment and excellence in media relations, voluntary services and long-term service contributions in the parks and recreation community.

This year's honorees were awarded in the following categories:

National Voluntary Service
Kern River Parkway Foundation

Rich O'Neil and Bill Cooper

National R.O.S.E. Significant Efforts

Dan Kinney
Director of Parks
Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Springfield, MO

National Distinguished Professional

Dr. Myron Floyd
Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management

College of Natural Resources, North Carolina State University

Robert W. Crawford Young Professional

Jody Brooks
Recreation Supervisor
Sheboygan (WI) Area School District Community Recreation Department

The Dorothy Mullen Arts & Humanities Award

Class I - Homeland Cultural Center, MacArthur Park, Long Beach, CA

Class III - Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department and
Georgia Recreation and Parks Association, Athens, GA

Class IV - Carolina Actors with Special Talents (C.A.S.T.), Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission, Columbia, SC

Class V - ARCC Dance Program, Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, Aberdeen, SD

Congressional Award

Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL)

Rep. Donald Payne (D-NJ)

Rep. Tom Udall (D-NM)

Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)

Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME)

KUDOS - Overall Best Communicator

Class I - Population less than 100,000

Bend Metro Park & Recreation District, Bend, OR

Class II - Population more than 100,000

King County Parks and Recreation Division, King County, WA

A panel of parks and recreation professionals reviews and judges all application materials. Judges are chosen for their considerable experiences and knowledge in parks and recreation on both local and national levels.

"The National Awards honor a diverse representation of those who, often from the front lines, inject creative thinking and proven practices into their personal passions and commitment for the parks and recreation field and their communities," said NRPA Chief Executive Officer Barbara Tulipane, CAE. "This year's new streamlined process allowed for a smoother process to apply, bringing us more applications than ever before."

About NRPA

The National Recreation and Park Association is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation and

conservation efforts that enhance quality of life for all people. Through its network of more than 21,000 recreation and park professionals and citizens, NRPA encourages the promotion of healthy lifestyles, recreation initiatives, and conservation of natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit www.nrpa.org <<http://www.nrpa.org/>> .

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