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Contact:
Bill Tonkins
President of the VVA
Virginia Vineyards Association
(540) 451-0202
bill.tonkins@veritaswines.com

First Lady Maureen McDonnell to present VVA Grower of the Year Award.

Charlottesville, VA - Virginia First Lady Maureen McDonnell will present the Grower of the Year Award at the annual Winter Technical Meeting of the Virginia Vineyards Association, February 18th, in Charlottesville. Mrs. McDonnell has been a staunch supporter of the Virginia Wine industry. The First Lady has hosted many tours of vineyards and wineries, spoken on numerous occasions both domestically and abroad, and generally supported the virtues of Virginia wine. This past year, Ms. McDonnell presented the Governors Cups Award from the Virginia Wineries Association for white wine at Monticello. Through her FLITE programs, (First Lady's Initiatives Team Effort), Mrs. McDonnell has pledged her support to the travel, film and wine industries of Virginia. This year she has graciously agreed to address the members of the Virginia Vineyards Association at their meeting at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville.

Incorporated in 1983, the Virginia Vineyards Association was formed as a mutual effort between independent growers, wineries and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The focus was to support commercial grape production in the Commonwealth of Virginia, expansion of the wine / grape industry, and free exchange of information for growers and wine makers alike. From modest beginnings, the Virginia wine industry has grown to over 190 wineries and more than 300 vineyards at last count.

Beginning in 2006, the VVA has presented the Grower of the Year Award to people deemed to be innovators and leaders in the industry. The Virginia Vineyards Association is honored to have First Lady Maureen McDonnell present the award for outstanding grower for 2010.

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