



Beckstoffer Applauded

Long-time Napa Valley winegrape grower and agricultural activist Andy Beckstoffer, right, is honored July 20 at the Napa County Farm Bureau's annual dinner meeting as Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year. Congressman Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) presents Beckstoffer with the first-ever Congressional Wine Caucus Commendation.

Agricultural Preservationist Beckstoffer Commended by National Wine Caucus

Winegrower Andy Beckstoffer was honored as Napa County Farm Bureau's Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year at their 94th annual dinner meeting last Friday.

The Farm Bureau recognized Beckstoffer for his dedication to agricultural preservation and his successful advocacy for federal tax incentives for donations of conservation easements. Conservation easements guarantee a property will remain as a farm or open space in perpetuity and ensures farmland is available for future generations.

Beckstoffer was presented with a "first of its kind" Congressional Wine Caucus commendation by Congressman Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) and also received a California Legislative resolution from Assemblywoman Noreen Evans and Sharon Macklin, field representative for State Senator Pat Wiggins. The resolution highlights the milestones of Beckstoffer's career as a grapegrower as well as his involvement in community and civic organizations.

Known for his charisma, soft southern accent and sharp business acumen, Beckstoffer

was born in Richmond Virginia, graduated from Virginia Tech University, served as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

He received a MBA from Dartmouth College.

In 1970 he founded Beckstoffer Vineyards, which is known for its premium winegrapes and its historic and pedigree vineyards.

In the 1970's, he was a founder of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers, and served as a Napa County Planning Commissioner.

Beckstoffer currently serves on the Board of the Napa County Land Trust and the California Association of Winegrape Growers.

He is active with the Rutherford Dust Society and the Boys' and Girls' Club of St. Helena.

Al Wagner, Napa County Farm Bureau president, said, "We applaud Andy's leadership in preserving the agricultural and natural resources of Napa County. His advocacy efforts in Congress will lead to many more conservation easements and protection for thousands of acres of agricultural land and open space."