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## NCFB honors Andy Beckstoffer as Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year

**NAPA, CA-** On July 20, 2007, esteemed winegrower Andy Beckstoffer was honored as Napa County Farm Bureau's Outstanding Agriculturist of the Year at their 94th annual dinner meeting. Farm Bureau recognized Mr. 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 our farmland is available for future generations.

Mr. Beckstoffer was presented with a "first of its kind" Congressional Wine Caucus commendation by Congressman Mike Thompson 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 grape grower as well as his involvement in community and civic organizations.

Known for his charisma, soft southern accent and sharp business acumen, Mr. Beckstoffer was born in Richmond Virginia, graduated from Virginia Tech University, served as Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and 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. Mr. Beckstoffer now serves on the Board of the Napa County Land Trust and the California Association of Winegrape Growers, and 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 hundreds of acres of agricultural land and open space."

NCFB is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental organization whose basic goal is to ensure the proper political, economic, environmental and social climate for the continuation of agriculture. Napa County's strong agricultural heritage has contributed significantly to this state's economy. Today, NCFB strives to preserve land for agriculture, and creates policies and programs that allow us to maintain a high quality of life in Napa County.

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