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State Honors Exceptional People in Affordable Housing

Spokane, Wash. — On September 28, 2011 at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, the Washington State Housing Finance Commission presented one lifetime achievement award and seven *Friend of Housing* awards to exceptional individuals at a ceremony attended by more than 300 people involved in affordable housing. The event took place during the annual *Housing Washington* conference.

"This year's nominees represent a broad spectrum of distinguished individuals who have worked at achieving impact in their communities with imagination, leadership, and service," said Washington State Housing Finance Commission Executive Director Kim Herman. "Even though, in this economy, livelihoods are threatened and funding for housing and social services are reduced, there is a strong resolve to succeed in our work and our honorees are remarkable in what they have each accomplished."

The award recipients are:
(Press information on each award recipient is available at www.wshfc.org.)

2001 Margaret M. Sevy Lifetime Achievement Award:

Ray Rieckers of Spokane; retired Director of Housing Opportunities for Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners; Adjunct Professor of Social Work and Human Services at Eastern Washington University; appointed to the Housing Finance Commission in January, 2004.

2001 Friend of Housing Awards: *(in order of appearance at the event)*

John M. Campbell of Orcas Island; retired architect; founder of Homes For Islanders;

Arlene L. Patton of Spokane; retired HUD Field Office Director for both the Spokane/Eastern Washington and the Boise, Idaho HUD offices;

Ray Mooney of Deer Park; retired executive of Sterling Savings Bank;

Marc Cote of Seattle; Program Director of Washington Homeownership Center and of Parkview Services, both based in Shoreline;

Mark Flynn of Burien; retired Seattle Program Center Director for the Northwest HUD field office;

Betsy Lieberman of Seattle; Founder and Executive Director of Building Changes; and

Elena Basset of Nespelem; Executive Director of the Colville Indian Housing Authority; member of the Yakama Indian Nation.

The Commission selected this year's honorees for their leadership and exceptional contribution to creating or supporting affordable housing, implementing housing-related programs, creating innovative financing mechanisms for housing, supporting homebuyer education or technical training efforts within the housing community, helping to solve housing problems, and writing legislation or public policy that addresses the state's housing needs.

The Commission received 23 nominations for the *Friend of Housing* awards from people working in the public, private and independent sectors of the affordable housing industry.

The Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting agency dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability and to expanding the availability of quality community services for Washington state residents.

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