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**THE WESTIN KIERLAND, ARIZONA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION HONOR
2006 ARIZONA CULTUREKEEPERS**

~Program Recognizes 10 Arizona Residents Dedicated to Preserving the Culture and Heritage of the State~

PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE — In conjunction with the Arizona Historical Foundation and State Historian Marshall Trimble, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa is honoring 10 Arizona residents for making a positive impact on the state's history, culture, environment and/or economy.

Selected from more than 100 nominees, the 2006 Arizona Culturekeepers honorees will be recognized at a ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 1 at The Westin Kierland. The public is invited to participate in the uniquely Arizonan event. Tickets are \$45. Proceeds will benefit the Arizona Culturekeepers program and the Arizona Historical Foundation.

The 2006 Culturekeepers include Gary Avey (In Memoriam), Joe Baeza, Jim Griffith, Thelma Holveck, Janet Michiko Ikeda, Lex Krieger, Clinton Pattea, Bill Porter, Nancy Sheppard and the Arizona Federation of Business and Professional Women. For a complete description of each honoree, please see below or visit www.kierlandresort.com/culturekeepers.

“We’re proud to acknowledge these unsung heroes,” said Marshall Trimble, Arizona’s official state historian and chairman of the Culturekeepers program. “These are longtime Arizona residents who spend their days working to better their communities, but rarely are recognized for their contributions.”

Each Culturekeeper will be presented with an award that describes the individual’s or group’s contributions to the state. Plaques with photos of each honoree will be displayed along the walls of Culturekeepers Hall, a special area of the hotel adjacent to the Kierland Grand Ballroom.

The Arizona Federation of Business and Professional Women (Phoenix) – Organized in 1921, The Arizona Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW/AZ) is the first women’s working organization to be established in Arizona. For 85 years, BPW/AZ has worked to provide equality for women in politics, society and the workplace. Notable accomplishments include the passage of permitting Arizona women to serve on juries, helping establish the Arizona Girls Ranch and working for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment both nationally and locally. At the beginning of the 21st Century, BPW/AZ continues to build upon its rich history of achievements.

William Porter (Kingman) – An Arizona native, Porter is tireless in his support of organizations dedicated to the preservation of the state’s history and culture. Over the years, Porter has sat on numerous boards including the Mohave County Historical Society, Arizona Historical Society and Arizona State History Convention. Porter, also an attorney, has a standing offer to his community that he will provide free will writing services to anyone willing to make a bequest of any size to Kingman Regional Medical Center, The Kathryn Heidenreich Adult Center or the Mohave Count Historical Society. To date such donations have totaled more than one million dollars to those non-profit organizations.

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Lex Krieger (Prescott) –In 1988, Krieger first laid eyes on the Hotel St. Michael, a dilapidated structure on the corner of Prescott’s historic Whiskey Row. Krieger had spent years working on vintage buildings in San Francisco with the goal of making them useful and decided do the same for the hotel, which was once a grand place that hosted the likes of President Theodore Roosevelt. With strong support from the City of Prescott, the Prescott City Council and various other organizations, Krieger was able to restore the neglected property back to its original splendor. Krieger believes that the best way to preserve architectural history is to assure that historic buildings remain a viable contributor to the local and regional economy. There is no better example of this than the Hotel St. Michael.

Gary Avey (Phoenix) – Gary was the third generation in the Avey family to be involved in the arts in Arizona. His paternal grandmother was the first public school art teacher in the state and his father was responsible for transforming *Arizona Highways* from a highway pamphlet into the colorful publication it is today. Following in his father’s footsteps, Avey became editor of *Arizona Highways* in 1979. He then moved on to become the deputy director of the Heard Museum, leaving in 1988 to grow a magazine he founded called *Native Peoples*. When he wasn’t at work managing the award-winning publication, Avey served as a volunteer, administrator and/or organizer for a variety of groups and associations including the board of directors for St. Luke’s Hospital and the Phoenix Indian Center. He was also a chairman of the Phoenix Arts Commission and served on the Business Council of Greater America. Sadly, Avey passed away in December of 2005 of lung cancer, a loss the state of Arizona and its people will surely feel for years to come.

Clinton Pattea (Fort McDowell/Fountain Hills) – Born on the Fort McDowell Indian Community in the 1930’s, Pattea grew up in an adobe house that had dirt floors and no electricity or running water. The conditions have changed drastically since then due in large part to Pattea’s contributions as councilmember and president of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation. Pattea was instrumental in defeating Orme Dam, which threatened to reduce the reservation from 24,000 acres to 7,000 acres. In 1992, Pattea negotiated a 10-day “cooling off period” after federal agents invaded Fort McDowell Casino in an effort to abolish gambling in the state. The peaceful stand-off led by Pattea eventually led to gaming compact negotiations for all tribes in Arizona, helping secure their sovereignty for future generations.

Thelma Steiner Holveck (Scottsdale) – A Scottsdale resident since her birth more than 90 years and the city’s eldest native-born female, Holveck has seen the city transform from a dusty farming community to one of the country’s most cosmopolitan locales. She is a founder of the Scottsdale Historical Society and was instrumental in saving the Little Red Schoolhouse, now the Scottsdale Historical Museum, from demolition. Although she has not written a Scottsdale history book, she has provided material and valuable information to the authors of the *Winfred Scott Biography* and *Scottsdale, the Jewel of the Desert*. Holveck has been named to the Scottsdale History Hall of Fame and had “Thelma Holveck Day” proclaimed in her honor three times.

Nancy Sheppard (Globe) - Raised on a cattle ranch, Sheppard learned the art of roping and riding horses at an early age. She was a mere nine-years-old when she began performing at rodeos as a trick rider and trick roper. By age 19, Sheppard was wowing audiences with her horsemanship at New York City’s Madison Square Garden. Sheppard’s expertise on a horse, her skill with a rope and ability to captivate an audience earned her inductions into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Performing all over the globe, Sheppard has been a worldwide ambassador of the sport of rodeo, helping keep a major part of Arizona’s spirit alive.

Dr. James (Big Jim) Griffith (Tucson) – A former University of Arizona professor and a folklore specialist, Griffith is dedicated to preserving and celebrating the cultural landscape of the American Southwest and the Arizona/Sonora borderlands region. Griffith has spent the past 25 years researching, publishing, and teaching the traditional lore, customs, arts, and architecture of this important American/Mexican region. He also established the Southwest Folklore Center at the University of Arizona and organized the seminal "Tucson Meet Yourself" festival, which celebrates the food, art, music, and other

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traditions of the city's various ethnic communities. A renowned scholar throughout his career, Griffith has authored scores of nationally-acclaimed books including *Hecho a Mano: The Traditional Arts of Tucson's Mexican American Community*, *Saints of the Southwest* and *Folk Saints of the Borderlands: Victims, Bandits & Healers*.

Janet Michiko Ikeda (Mesa) – Ikeda was born in Los Angeles and moved to Mesa in 1942 to avoid the forcible relocation of her family during World War II. She had studied Japanese classical dance in Los Angeles under noted dance master Fujimka Kansuma and continued her studies in Arizona to become certified as a Japanese classical dance. She taught Phoenix area dance students for over 20 years. Janet has served as past president of Mesa Jaycee Bells and as a board member of the Mesa Fine Arts Board. During the Mesa Arts Alliance capital campaign drive, Janet and her husband, Tom, donated \$1 million, the largest single gift to the Mesa Arts Center, which enabled the Alliance to surpass its goal. In honor of the Ikeda's donation, the largest theater in the Mesa Arts Center is named the Tom and Janet Ikeda Theater. Ikeda's generous gift has helped ensure that the arts are central to the quality of life in the Mesa community.

Jo Baeza (Pinetop) – Originally from Minnesota, Baeza has been a resident of Arizona for the past 57 years. In 1956, Baeza married rancher Conney Jeffers and lived on a 100-section cattle ranch southwest of Holbrook, an experience she chronicled in the renowned memoir, *Ranch Wife*. Published in 1964 and reprinted 30 years later, critics and historians alike praised the book for “making an important contribution to the understanding of lives of rural women in the America West.” In 1965, Baeza moved to Pinetop where she has made her living writing, teaching and working summers as a Forest Service fire lookout. In 2001, Baeza was awarded with the Sharlot Hall Award for the contributions her writings and teachings have made to the understanding and awareness of Arizona history.

The Arizona Culturekeepers were selected based on the following criteria:

- A Culturekeeper must have worked to preserve the image of Arizona.
- This individual must maintain the traditions, rituals and cultures that have made Arizona a home and a preferred travel destination for decades. These could be artistic, ethnic or historic traditions or activities. These could be actions taken to preserve Arizona's natural environment or animal habitat.
- A Culturekeeper must have a long-time commitment to services as a keeper or influencer of Arizona culture and have served the state through paid or volunteer efforts.
- The recognition will honor the individual who has demonstrated a passionate dedication to the issue, hobby or endeavor that keeps Arizona's culture alive.
- This individual must have lived within Arizona's borders during the time for which he is being recognized, and he must be living.

About Arizona CultureKeepers:

Working in conjunction with the Arizona Historical Society, The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa designed the Culturekeepers program to recognize state residents who are committed to upholding the traditions, rituals and culture of Arizona. Established in 2002, the Culturekeepers will continue to announce and recognize 10 individuals during an annual event at The Westin Kierland for the next six years. By the state's centennial in 2012, 100 Culturekeepers will have been honored at the resort. The selection committee is led by Marshall Trimble, Official State Historian and was originated by Katherine “Kax” Herberger, longtime Valley philanthropist, who passed away in 2003.

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