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**THE WESTIN KIERLAND RESORT & SPA, SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM AND
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONOR 2010 ARIZONA CULTUREKEEPERS**

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

PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE — In conjunction with the Sharlot Hall Museum, Arizona Historical Society, 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 2010 Arizona Culturekeepers honorees will be recognized at a luncheon ceremony on Sunday, September 19th, at The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa. The public is invited to participate in the uniquely Arizonan event. Tickets are \$45. To purchase tickets, the public is encouraged to call The Westin Kierland Resort & Spa at 480-624-1356. Proceeds will go to support the Sharlot Hall Museum and Arizona Historical Society.

The 2010 Culturekeepers include Sue Harris, Reba Wells Grandrud, Annie Antone, Frank Barrios, Dan Harkins, Bill Owen, Roxanne Knight, Aaron Cohen, Rose Mofford and the Scottsdale Charros. For a complete description of each honoree, please see below or visit ww.kierlandresort.com/Arizona-culturekeepers.

“We’re proud to acknowledge these Arizonans that have contributed so much,” 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 the Resort’s meeting space, including Culturekeepers Hall, a special area of the hotel adjacent to the Kierland Grand Ballroom.

Sue Harris (Phoenix) – Arizona Performer and Songwriter – Raised right here in the Valley of the Sun, Sue Harris has a special love for the West and its music. She has spent her life gathering songs and stories from and about the West - from classic country to more recently written western songs; authentic folksongs, cowboy songs, poems and folktales describing what life was like here not that long ago; and even the occasional Mexican folksong. Harris has toured her state extensively as well as around the Southwest, and even Canada, performing at festivals, concerts and schools. She has released two CD’s- *Where Have I Been All My Life* and *Tall Tales and Treasures*, both which have enjoyed international airplay. Harris’ recording of Dean Cook’s song “Where Do You Go When There’s No Place to Go” was selected for inclusion on the Smithsonian Folkways label compilation CD *Songs and Stories from Grand Canyon*, released in May 2005.

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Reba Wells Grandrud (Phoenix) – *Historian* – A native of New Mexico, Reba Wells Grandrud came to Arizona in January 1982. She holds degrees from the University of New Mexico, majoring in Spanish Borderlands History and History of the American West. She has taken an active role in researching, preserving, teaching and publishing state, local and regional history in New Mexico and Arizona. In 1998, Grandrud retired from working for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office as National Register Coordinator, and became the Director for the Central Arizona Division of Arizona Historical Society in Phoenix and Tempe. A speaker for the Arizona Humanities Council lecture series for a number of years, she participated in “History on the Hill” with Arizona’s congressional delegation in Washington D.C., and in “History on the Mall,” an annual event at the State Capitol in Phoenix. For many years, Grandrud has been active with leadership roles in the National Trails System, on the Anza National Historic Trail Advisory Council, active in the Old Spanish Trail Association, and Co-chaired the Mapping Committee for the Southwest Chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association. She organized a historic trails session at the Arizona History Convention in Safford in 2004. Most impressive were Grandrud’s efforts to resurrect the AZ Women’s Hall of Fame program in 2002 after 11 years hiatus.

Annie Antone (Tohono O’odham) – *Basket Weaver* – Annie Antone, a member of the Tohono O’odham tribe has been making traditional Tohono O’odham baskets since she learned the craft from her mother as a teenager. Not content to do the same designs over and over, Antone began using contemporary designs on her baskets: a portrait, a semi-truck, mountain lions, flowers, etc. Antone’s unique designs as well as her flawless execution caught the attention of collectors and museums. She has demonstrated her basket weaving at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, the Smithsonian Institution Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C., the London Museum of Mankind/British Museum in London, the Buffalo Bill Cody Museum in Wyoming, The Museum of Albuquerque, Organ Pipe National Monument and many others. Some of these museums have purchases her baskets for their permanent collections. Antone has been winning ribbons and awards for her basketry since 1985. She has dozens of first place ribbons as well as “Best in Class,” “Best in Category,” “Best in Division,” “Best in Show” and “Judge’s Choice.” She received the “Award of Excellence in Basketry” from the Arizona State Museum Southwest Indian Fair in 2000 and the “Most Creative Design, Any Classification,” from the SWAIA Santa Fe Indian Market in 1991.

Frank Barrios (Phoenix) – *Author, Historian* – Frank Martin Barrios, a native Arizonan, graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and is a Registered Civil Engineer and Land Surveyor in the State of Arizona. Barrios, currently retired, formerly worked with the Bureau of Reclamation, Arizona Water Commission and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. He is a Board of Directors member with the Phoenix Society of St. Vincent DePaul, Board member with the Pioneer Cemetery Association, on the Executive Committee of the State Board of Directors for the Arizona Historical Society, and is past President of Arizona's First Families and was President of the Board of Directors for the Phoenix Museum of History. He is also on the Senior Advisory Council for the Attorney General's Office. Recently, Barrios was appointed to the Governor's Centennial Commission. He is also an active member with Council-284 and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Barrios served in two Arizona Town Halls: the Yuma Town Hall on Alternative Energy Sources and the Grand Canyon Town Hall on Arizona/Sonora Relations. He is the recipient of the 2002 “Hon-Kachina” Award for volunteer service. Barrios is the author of the book *Mexicans of Phoenix*. Barrios was appointed by Governor Napolitano in January 2003, to complete the term vacated by Terry Goddard. He represented Maricopa County on the CAWCD Board of Directors until December 31, 2006.

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Dan Harkins (Arcadia) – Philanthropist – Dan Harkins was conceived in a studio apartment attached to the projection booth of a movie theatre, raised in a movie theatre and eventually married in a movie theatre. Along the way, he worked every job in the theatre, from janitor to doorman to projectionist. The story of how Harkins Theatres grew from a single movie house in Tempe to the Southwest's largest independent exhibition company begins with Dan's father, Dwight "Red" Harkins. In 1933 at the height of the Depression, Red opened Tempe Arizona's first movie house, The State Theatre. By 1973, Red had built a chain of five movie theatres throughout the Valley. In 1974, Red passed away leaving his oldest son Dan, a junior at ASU and General Manager of the chain, as head of the family business. With a lifetime of experience in the theatre business, and an enthusiasm for the growth and change that was taking place around Phoenix, Dan was ready to build on his father's legacy. Over the years, he has built a reputation as a leader and innovator, both in the theatre industry and the local community. He is an unprecedented three-time recipient of the nationally coveted "Showman of the Year" award. The American Institute of Architects awarded Harkins the 1996 "Community Vision" award. He also received the 1998 "Arizona Business Leadership" award for outstanding leadership and corporate growth and the 1999 "Entrepreneur of the Year" award. Dan's leadership and creativity goes beyond the world of movies. Over the past 20 years, Harkins Theatres has helped set a new standard for charitable giving in the Western U.S. through charity benefit premieres and screenings, souvenir and holiday gift sales and public service announcements on the movie screens. The company has helped many schools and organizations raise millions of dollars. Harkins Theatres has worked with dozens of groups, including Boys & Girls Clubs in Metro Phoenix, Oklahoma City and Denver, March of Dimes, Big Brothers Big Sisters, The Alzheimer's Association, Phoenix Children's Hospital, The Children's Center in Oklahoma City, The Humane Society and many more.

Bill Owen (Kirkland) – Cowboy Artist – Bill Owen was born in 1942 in Gila Bend, Arizona to a mother who was an artist and a father who had been a cowboy throughout the early 1900s. These influences shaped his desire to be an artist and cultivated his interest in the cowboy lifestyle. Owen has exhibited at the Whitney Museum in Cody, Wyoming, the Grand Palais in Paris, France, and at the Western Art Show in Beijing, China. In 1991, he was voted into the National Academy of Western Artists; in 1993 he became a member and staff artist of Rancheros Visitadores and that same year was awarded the "Frederic Remington Award for Artistic Merit" by the Cowboy Hall of Fame. In 1996, the prestigious Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma honored Owen as their Rendezvous Artist and at the 2003 Prix de West Invitational Exhibition and Sale he became the first recipient of "Express Ranches Great American Cowboy Award." Inducted into the Cowboy Artists of America in 1973, Owen has served as CAA President three times and has earned numerous medals and awards at the annual show, including the CAA Award four times.

Roxanne Knight (Springerville) – Cultural Preservation – Roxanne Knight was born in Lubbock, Texas and moved to Arizona in 1950. Knight has worked tirelessly for the Apache County 4H, Round Valley High School Speech and Drama, 4 Corners Heritage Council, Little Colorado RC&D, Round Valley Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Cattle Growers Association and the Northern Arizona Bluebells. She is most recently involved in the saving of the old Springerville School and in making it a historical museum and cultural center. Knight's love of Arizona and her many projects are directly related to the telling of the story of the unique heritage of the White Mountains. Knight received a grant, researched and published the "Pistols, Plows and Petticoats" tours. This two book series details the activities that happened at various local sites throughout the Springerville, Edgar and the White Mountain Region. She was a leader in the design and opening of the Round Valley Auditorium, further guaranteeing the presence of the fine arts in our towns. She was also involved in the organizations of the White Mountain Historical Society, which is responsible for museum displays and a heritage park. She has served on the Casa Malpais Archaeological Park boards and has contributed to the preservation and promotion of this Native American ruin site located in Springerville.

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Aaron Cohen (Scottsdale) – *Guidon Books* – Anyone seeking information about the American Civil War, the development of the American West, or the History and Culture of Arizona knows where to go —Guidon Books in downtown Scottsdale where Aaron Cohen sits behind the desk and warmly greets all who venture in seeking information about our great Western heritage. Aaron L. Cohen moved to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1964 with his wife, Ruth Cohen, and three children to open a Western Americana and Civil War bookstore. Guidon Books was opened in August 1964, the name reflecting the interests of Aaron and Ruth. During the hey-day of Western Art in Scottsdale, the Cowboy Artists of America members would stop in to see what was new, what they needed for their next project and possibly show off their recent art pieces. The greatest impact Cohen had on the history community was his eagerness to expand the awareness of readers and students of history – not to just read one book on a subject but to look at all aspects. Today, Aaron Cohen is 91 years old – he still goes into Guidon Books six days a week. Still in the original location, the store is filled with new books and older volumes, sought after by collectors from within Arizona to across the world. Cohen is still encouraging others to read and learn more about American history, the West and Arizona.

Rose Mofford (Globe) – *Humanitarian, Historic Preservation* – Rose Mofford has not only supported historic preservation in Arizona, her legacy is part of that history. Born in Globe just a short 10 years after Arizona became a state, she began to make her mark at an early age. As a harbinger of things to come, her classmates elected her as the first female class president in the history of the school. Shortly after leaving high school, Mofford began her fifty-one-year career in Arizona government as the State Treasurer’s secretary. Her early career included positions at the Tax Commission and as business manager for Arizona Highways. Then in 1960, Secretary of State Wesley Bolin hired her as his executive secretary where she served until he became Governor. Impressed with her abilities, Bolin appointed Mofford to fill the remainder of his term as Secretary of State. As the first woman to serve in that office she again made history and at the end of the term she added to it by running for reelection three times winning in 1978, 1982 and 1986. Then in 1988 Mofford’s history-making career took an unexpected turn. In February, she became Arizona’s first woman Governor when appointed to succeed her predecessor as Acting Governor and was then sworn in as Governor two months later. During her tenure as Governor, Mofford honored her love of softball as a youth by becoming instrumental in the establishment of major league baseball’s Cactus League here in Arizona. The league has proven itself as a boon to Arizona’s economy and brought visitors from across the nation to enjoy what Arizona has to offer. Not content to sit on her laurels since leaving office, Rose has dedicated her time and efforts to numerous civic and charitable activities. Not one to ignore history and the education of residents and visitors, she loaned her considerable Arizona mineral collection to the Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum. Then in 1998, Mofford decided to help recognize the contributions of our multi-cultural citizens by becoming involved with the Arizona State Railroad Museum project. Since that time she has served as the Senior Board Member. Mofford’s commitment to historic preservation and interpretation is founded in her deep pride for the people of Arizona, their accomplishments, and the legacy of her home state.

Scottsdale Charros – The official name of the group “Scottsdale Charros” was selected in April of 1961 because it reflected Scottsdale’s heritage, tied nicely with “The West’s Most Western Town” theme, and provided a classical, cross-cultural connection with horsemanship and ranching, past and present. The group was founded as a special activity organization of the Scottsdale Chamber of Commerce. It consists of 40 civic and business leaders in Scottsdale. Among the most notable accomplishments of the Scottsdale Charros is their dedication and support of excellence in education. For over 40 years, the Charros have provided their time and financial support to athletic programs, parent teacher organizations and the faculty of each school in the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD). Recognizing the importance that education plays in the

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community's future, the Charros annually award two Scottsdale high school seniors, who are pursuing a degree in education, full scholarships to in-state universities. In addition, the Charros have created a Master in Education scholarship that awards master Degree scholarships to teachers within the SUSD. Each fall, community-spirited individuals are invited to participate in the annual Charro Ride: a five-day riding adventure in some of the most scenic areas of Arizona. The ride is an opportunity to recognize those businesses and individuals who have given generously of their time and resources to the community and the Charros in support of their programs. Some notable members of Charros include: Former Mayor Herb Drinkwater, Jim Bruner, Alan Rodbell, Mark Miller, John Berry, Don Carson, Paul Critchfield, Art Decabooter, George Getz, Judd Herberger, Dick Houseworth, Paul Messenger, Bill Mack, Dennis Robbins, Norm Saba, Tom Silverman, Gregg Tryhus, Quinn Williams, Phil Carlson, Max Poll and Ron McPherson.

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/or 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 they are being recognized, and they must be living.

About Arizona Culturekeepers:

Working in conjunction with the Official State Historian, Marshall Trimble, 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 four 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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