

**CONTACT:** Kurt Gregory Erickson  
President

**PHONE:** W. 703 / 893-0461  
CELL. 703 / 625-2303

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 18, 2013

## **WRAP COMMEMORATES 31<sup>st</sup> YEAR IN FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING AND UNDERAGE DRINKING**

### ***GREATER WASHINGTON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS LAUDED FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE***

**Washington, DC, October 18** – The nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) commemorated its 31<sup>st</sup> year fighting drunk driving and underage drinking today during its 2013 Annual Luncheon Meeting and WRAPPY Awards ceremony held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Washington, D.C.

In the last twelve months alone, WRAP highlights include the organization:

- removing 2,578 would-be drunk drivers from Greater Washington's roadways via WRAP's free cab ride service, SoberRide®, including the posting of a more than 31-percent increase in ridership for this year's Independence Day campaign when nearly 300 persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired;
- reaching over 5,500 Greater Washington residents with WRAP's innovative health education programs including over 4,100 area high school students with WRAP's multi-media outreach program, Alcohol Awareness for Students;
- unveiling the Washington-metropolitan area's inaugural cab-cop car -- an innovative and specially-outfitted motor vehicle launched as a means of deterring impaired driving in Greater Washington and which earned Virginia Governor's prestigious Transportation Safety Award this year;
- celebrating the 21st year of WRAP's esteemed GEICO Student Awards program awarding to-date nearly \$ 60,000 in prizes to area student organizations promoting alcohol and drug-free lifestyles to their peers;
- successfully helping to champion Virginia's legislative efforts to further crackdown on repeat drunk drivers by now mandating target repeat DUI offenders to mandatory one-year jail sentences;

- and spearheading the region's 12th-annual Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign resulting in downward trending alcohol-related traffic fatalities in each the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Following today's speaker, the Attorney General for the District of Columbia Irvin Nathan, WRAP bestowed the following honors:

**2013 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

- AT&T
- GEICO
- Red Top Cab of Arlington
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**2013 LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD**

- Arlington County Police Lieutenant Robert Medeiros

**2013 YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD**

- Fairfax County Public School's Clarence Jones

**2013 MEDIA PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

- Bruce DePuyt, News Channel 8

**2013 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**

- Honorable George Barker, Virginia Senate

**2013 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD**

- Arlington County Police Department and Red Top Cab (for "Chooser Cruiser")

**2013 PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

- District of Columbia Department of Transportation
- Maryland Highway Safety Office
- Virginia Highway Safety Office

**2013 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP AWARD** (contributing \$5,000 or more to WRAP in fiscal year 2013):

- AT&T
- Beer Institute
- Century Council
- Diageo
- GEICO
- Giant Food
- MillerCoors
- Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington
- Volkswagen Group of America
- Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association
- Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

## **2013 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

- Anheuser-Busch and Local Distributors

WRAP today also elected the following officers: **Lieutenant Rudy Landon**, Chairman (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office); **Liz Tobin**, Vice Chairman; **Gary Cohen**, Secretary (Glory Days Grill); **Jim Fell**, Treasurer (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation); **John O'Donnell**, Immediate Past Chairman (Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association).

In addition, the charity also elected both the following three individuals to its Board of Directors: **Andrew Fois** (Office of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia); **Christina M. Hartman, MPH** (Beer Institute); and **Von D. Pelot** (Red Top Cab); as well as the following two individuals as WRAP Members: **Lieutenant Russell Fennelly** (U.S. Park Police); and **Julie Parker** (Prince George's County Police Department).

Sponsors of WRAP's 2013 Annual Luncheon Meeting & WRAPPY Awards included AAA Mid-Atlantic, The Century Council, Charmer Sunbelt Group, the McAndrew Company, LifeSafer, PAS Systems International, Strat@comm and Chris Tavlarides.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide®.

For more information, visit WRAP's web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

#