

CONTACT: Kurt Gregory Erickson
President

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 17, 2014

WRAP COMMEMORATES 32nd YEAR IN FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING AND UNDERAGE DRINKING

GREATER WASHINGTON INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS LAUDED FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Washington, DC, October 17 – The nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) commemorated its 32nd year fighting drunk driving and underage drinking today during its 2014 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 2,452 would-be drunk drivers from Greater Washington's roadways via WRAP's free cab ride service, SoberRide®, including the provision of WRAP's SoberRide® service for 19 consecutive evenings in December, alone;
- reaching nearly 10,000 Greater Washington residents with WRAP's innovative health education programs including over 9,000 area high school students with WRAP's multi-media outreach program, *Alcohol Awareness for Students*;
- celebrating the 22nd 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 Maryland's legislative efforts to crackdown on both persons convicted of DUI whilst transporting a minor as well as repeatedly convicted drunk drivers in the state; and, in Virginia, helping to thwart legislation seeking to weaken that state's underage drinking laws;
- and spearheading the region's 13th-annual Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign resulting in downward trending alcohol-related traffic fatalities in each the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

This afternoon, WRAP also bestowed the following honors:

2014 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

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

2014 LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD

- Metropolitan Police Department (DC) Sergeant Terry Thorne

2014 YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

- Inova Fairfax Hospital's Injury Prevention Coordinator Linda Watkins

2014 MEDIA PARTNERSHIP AWARD

- CBS Radio and 106.7 The Fan's "The Junkies"

2014 PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

- Honorable Sam Arora (D-Montgomery Co.), Maryland House of Delegates
- Honorable Geraldine Valentino-Smith (D- Prince George's Co.), Maryland House of Delegates

2014 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

- Maryland Highway Safety Office Chief Tom Gianni

2014 PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP AWARD

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

2014 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP AWARD (contributing \$5,000 or more to WRAP in fiscal year 2014):

- AAA Mid-Atlantic
- Beer Institute
- Diageo
- District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility
- GEICO
- Giant Food
- MillerCoors
- Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington
- Volkswagen Group of America
- Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association
- Wine & Spirits Wholesalers of America

2014 CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP AWARD

- Anheuser-Busch and Local Distributors

WRAP today also reelected 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 the following three individuals to its Board of Directors: **Todd Heavner** (Enterprise Rent-A-Car), **Lieutenant Christopher Hennigh** (Arlington County Police Department) and **Fred Valentine**; as well as elected the following two individuals as WRAP Members: **Deputy Chief Diane Gittins** (Alexandria Police Department) and **Craig Muckle** (Safeway).

Sponsors of WRAP's 2014 Annual Luncheon Meeting & WRAPPY Awards included AAA Mid-Atlantic, the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, the Charmer Sunbelt Group, the Coalition of Ignition Interlock Manufacturers, the McAndrew Company, PAS Systems International, Chris Tavlarides and Undeland Associates.

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.

#