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*Hampton Roads
REALTORS® Association*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 2, 2021

HRRRA celebrates top producers, honors REALTOR®, Property Manager of the Year

NORFOLK – The Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association’s (HRRRA) stars shone brightly July 31 as 1,400 members and guests gathered at the Hilton Norfolk The Main for “A Toast to You” during the annual Circle of Excellencesm (COE) Awards Gala.

The celebration – this year a hybrid in-person and virtual event this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic – recognized those who reached exceptional production levels and longevity milestones in 2020. The REALTOR® of the Year and Distinguished Property Manager of the Year also were named.

REALTOR® of the Year and Distinguished Property Manager of the Year recipients are nominated based on professional integrity, outstanding sales production, and contributions to industry and community, and are voted on by their peers. Longevity Awards honor recipients who have obtained a Circle of Excellence™ award for 10 years or more.

About 1,200 sales, property management and longevity awards were presented, including individual and team members, in multiple sales category levels.

Mary Ross Ellsworth with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty in Chesapeake was named 2020 REALTOR® of the Year. A HRRRA member since 1977, Ellsworth was described by 2019 award recipient Donn Irby as “what a REALTOR® represents ... of strong character and integrity and, most of all, she has a servant’s heart.”

Ellsworth, who served as HRRRA’s chairman of the board in 2001, is this year’s RPAC Fundraising Committee chair, a role she also served in 2018 with then-co-chair Tanya Monroe. The Suffolk resident has received 16 COE awards for production and longevity, and in 2018 was named REALTOR® Volunteer of the Year, a service award.

Ellsworth has also served in REALTORS® Political Action Committee roles with Virginia REALTORS® as well as on the state association’s Board of Directors. She is also involved in her community, assisting her church with its homeless program, blood drives and building fund.

HRRRA’s 2020 Distinguished Property Manager of the Year Award, recognizing one who has demonstrated strong character and integrity, professional knowledge and experience, and civic engagement, among other criteria, was presented to Catrina Watson with Rose & Womble, Chandler Property Management in Norfolk.

A HRRRA member since 2001, Watson launched her real estate career in 1998 in accounting, administration and leasing, and became a property manager the following year. She has maintained a large portfolio of properties since then. Lee Halyard, the 2019 award recipient, said that Watson’s “patience, attention to detail, organizational skill and customer service are evident in everything she does.”

Watson, of Virginia Beach, attends HRRRA’s Property Management & Leasing Council meetings, the association’s annual Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act Seminar, and Virginia REALTORS®’ annual Property Management Coalition

Conference. Halyard also noted Watson's perseverance and excellence in the face of unique challenges to property management presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sales excellence top honorees were:

- No. 1 Individual – Susan Pender, ABR, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty
- No. 1 Small Team – The Dunbar Team, Re/MAX Alliance
- No. 1 Large Team – Steve Doll Team, RE/MAX Alliance
- No. 1 Mega Team – Team Bryant Homes, The Bryant Group Real Estate Professionals LLC
- No. 1 New Homes Salesperson – Scott Berry, Rose & Womble Realty
- Outstanding Rookies of the Year – Crystal Bell, OWN Real Estate; Tein Hlwa, eXp Realty; Elijah Merchant, Keller Williams Realty; Racheal M. Pridgen, Keller Williams Town Center; Geoffrey Whiteside, Keller Williams Town Center; and Morgan Xenos, Dragas Realty Inc.

These top agents have reached a high level of achievement set forth by rigorous criteria and guidelines, through professionalism, due diligence, customer care and attention, and a strong knowledge of the real estate industry. In order to be eligible for a prestigious Circle of Excellence™ Award, a REALTOR® must be a current and active member of HRRRA, be affiliated with a firm in good standing, and reach certain sales production levels. Sales are calculated from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of any given award year.

REALTOR® Longevity awards recipients were:

- 40 years – Linda Fox Jarvis, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Tom Seddon, Coldwell Banker NOW
- 35 years – Trudy M. Hoff, Re/MAX Alliance; Angie Zengilowski, Re/MAX Alliance
- 30 years – Patti Frankenfield, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Charlee Gowin, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Dee Maltese, The Real Estate Group; Frank Trygar, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; and Jonell Walthall, CRS, Howard Hanna Real Estate
- 25 years – Neil Bennett, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Ann Davis, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Susan Pender, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Sandy Preiser, Rose & Womble Realty; and S. Dane Scott, Scott & Associates
- 20 years – Bea Cobell, Rose & Womble Realty; Tom Pullen, Century 21 Nachman Realty; and Patricia Wiles Zuraw, Howard Hanna Real Estate
- 15 years – Jill Blank, Rose & Womble Realty; Donna Bosze, SRES, Century 21 Nachman Realty; Casey Bushey, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Karen Davis Real Estate Team, RE/MAX Allegiance; Gary L. Kennedy, Howard Hanna Real Estate; Mark Llobell, Associate Broker, Atkinson Realty; Melanie Rice, ABR, GRI, SRES, Howard Hanna Real Estate; and Evelyn F. Thomas, ABR, GRI, CDPE, ASP, MRP
- 10 years – Shannon Allen, Chandler Realty; Cindy Caskey, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Janine T. DeMello; Steven Ross Dunbar, ABR, RE/MAX Alliance; Debbie Byrd Ellis, Rose & Womble Realty; Mary Miller Gentry, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Mona Ghobrial, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Doug Keutt, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Carl Master, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Page Atkinson Miyares, Principal Broker, Atkinson Realty; Josh Parnell, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty; Sandy Stokes, Rose & Womble Realty; and Bob Widger, Century 21 Nachman Realty

Distinguished Property Manager Longevity awards recipients were:

- 30 years – Jan Rucinski, Long & Foster Real Estate
- 15 years – Mary Ann Mosley, Judy Boone Realty

In addition to the awards, highlights of the evening included a special “mixology” session with each of the delicious drinks created featured at the event bar and special remarks from Chairman of the Board Tanya Monroe. After the ceremony, guests hit the dance floor and celebrated the night away in private party rooms.

The evening's sponsors were TowneBank Mortgage, Presenting Sponsor; Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp., Hall of Excellence Sponsor; Southern Trust Mortgage, Virtual Sponsor; Caliber Home Loans and OVM Financial, Stage Sponsors;

Title Concepts, Reader Board Sponsor; CMS Mortgage Solutions, Registration Sponsor; Atlantic Coast Mortgage, Prosper Insurance, Tidewater Mortgage Services and REIN, Mixology/Bar Sponsors; COVA Insurance, Hanger Law, Old Republic Home Protection and Movement Mortgage, Décor Sponsors; and AAFMAA Mortgage, Cinch Home Services; Choice Home Warranty, Fulton Mortgage Co. and LoanDepot, Mask Sponsors.

The Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association is a nonprofit organization of about 5,000 REALTORS® and Affiliates whose mission is to enhance the ability of REALTORS® throughout Eastern Virginia to achieve business success in an ethical and professional manner, and to protect and preserve private property rights. REALTORS® are real estate agents and members of the National Association of REALTORS®. They adhere to a strict code of ethics and work to protect and preserve private property rights. For more on HRRRA, visit www.hrrra.com.

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Cutlines (Photo credit: Photos courtesy WhiteRidge Visuals)

HRRRealtorYear2020.jpg: Mary Ross Ellsworth, right, a Suffolk resident and REALTOR® with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty in Chesapeake, was named the Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association's (HRRRA) REALTOR® of the Year for 2020 during HRRRA's Circle of Excellencesm Awards Gala at the Hilton Norfolk The Main on July 31. HRRRA Chairman of the Board Tanya Monroe presents the peer-nominated award.

HRRAPropertyManager2020.jpg: Catrina Watson, right, a property manager with Rose & Womble, Chandler Property Management in Norfolk and resident of Virginia Beach, was named HRRRA's Property Manager of the Year for 2020 during the Association's Circle of Excellencesm Awards Gala at the Hilton Norfolk The Main on July 31. HRRRA Chairman of the Board Tanya Monroe presents the accolade.

HRRASalespersonYear2020.jpg: Susan Pender, ABR, right, a REALTOR® with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty in Virginia Beach, was named No. 1 Individual salesperson for the Hampton Roads REALTORS® Association in 2020 for outstanding sales production. HRRRA Chairman of the Board Tanya Monroe presents the award.