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ROBERT ARKLEY, REALTOR® FROM VERMONT, NAMED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNER

NEW ORLEANS (November 13, 2006) – Robert J. Arkley, a Realtor® from Waterbury, VT, was named a 2006 recipient of the prestigious Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of Realtors®. The announcement was made during the annual REALTORS® Conference & Expo. Nearly 30,000 Realtors® and guests attended the November 10-13 convention.

Arkley, a real estate professional for 31 years, is broker-owner of Robert Arkely Real Estate, a commercial real estate brokerage in Waterbury. Arkley was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for the time, talents and energy he has volunteered to the real estate industry.

The Distinguished Service Award was established by NAR in 1979 to honor Realtors® who have provided outstanding contributions and service to the real estate industry and their local communities. The award is considered the highest honor an NAR member can receive. Since its inception, the award has been present to 68 Realtors®. Arkley and Joseph K. Funkhouser II of Harrisonburg, VA, are the 69th and 70th Realtors to be honored.

The award honors members who have served with distinction at the local, state and national levels in organized real estate. Recipients of this prestigious award are recognized as local leaders whose performance and involvement in political and community activities have been extraordinary. All recipients have the qualifications to serve as president of NAR but have never sought the position.

Arkley founded the Robert Arkley Real Estate in 1999. Before that he was co-owner of Vermont Realty Exchange, the second largest firm in Vermont. Arkley became a Realtor® after retiring with 23 years as an officer in the U. S. Army, much of which was in Special Forces Operation.

His military service began as an Infantry platoon leader in the 7th Division in Korea; he graduated from Ranger School and from the Defense Language Institute as a Chinese interpreter, serving 12 years in the Special Forces mostly in the Far East.

Arkley served in the 7th, 1st and 5th Special Forces Groups and commanded the 10th Special Forces Group which controlled all the Special Forces in Europe. He made over 200 jumps, and did 3 tours in Viet Nam, where he served as Operations Officer of Region 3 that included Saigon.

Arkley was awarded over 20 medals and ribbons, most notably the Legion of Merit, 3 Bronze Stars; 2 Distinguished Service medals and the Air Medal for 25 combat missions. His last assignment was as Chief of Concepts and Development for all classified special operations manuals.

Arkley is currently vice chair of the NAR's Commercial Leadership Forum and was a member of the NAR Board of Directors for 5 years and, with this award, now will continue as a life-time member of the

board. In 2002, he served as NAR Regional Vice President of Region I, composed of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. He has chaired several NAR committees including Conventional Finance and Lending, Commercial Finance, and the Commercial Legislative/Regulatory Subcommittee.

He has served on numerous NAR committees including the Realtors[®] Commercial Alliance, Public Policy Coordinating, Strategic Planning, NAR Nominating, Executive, Federal Housing Policy, Commercial & Investment, Government Mortgage Program, Real Estate Finance, Housing Needs and Rural Housing Finance, as well as the Housing Needs forum, Commercial Forum and Commercial and Investment Forum. He is a life member of REALTOR[®] Political Action Committee (RPAC) and has been a Crystal "R" donor for five years.

On the state level, Arkley was president of the Vermont Association of REALTORS[®] in 1993 and president-elect and vice president before that. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Vermont association since 1989. He has been recognized twice as the Vermont "REALTOR[®] of the Year" (ROTY) in 2002 and 1994, and a three-time ROTY of his local board.

Active in community and local affairs, Arkley has served as President for 2 years and has been a member of Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation for 27 years and continues as Director Emeritus. During his tenure, millions of dollars in loans were arranged for startup businesses and thousands of jobs were either created or retained. He was selected to participate in a business development delegation to Russia representing the banking industry. Arkley has participated in numerous political campaigns and has recently been appointed by the Governor to serve on the Governor's Veterans Advisory Council. He has been involved in numerous housing developments for low to moderate income buyers, housing for the elderly, a shopping center and an industrial park. Arkley has served on the Board of Directors of two banks and on their loan committees. He has also been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International for his community service.

He and his wife Marjorie reside in Moretown, VT. They have 2 children.