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Home Builders Honor Members of the Year

Members of the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association (HBA) joined together Saturday, December 12 at the Sea Pine Resort for their annual holiday celebration where the 2010 officers and directors were installed and awards were presented to the Builder and Associate Members of the Year. This honor is presented each year to individuals representing the organization's builder and associate membership for their outstanding dedication and contribution to the HBA, the community and the building industry.

The 2009 Builder Member of the Year award was presented to Mike Tuten of Harden Tuten Custom Homes. Tuten has been an active member of the HBA for more than 10 years, serving multiple terms as a member of the Board of Directors throughout his tenure. In 2009 he served as the Vice President of Administration, where he was instrumental in the association's development and implementation of new and expanded programs, helping members weather through slower economic times. Tuten has also participated on the association's council for green building and is the recipient of eight 2009 Lighthouse Awards, two of which were awarded the highest honor of best overall. Earlier in the evening, Mike Tuten was installed as the association's 2010 President.

The 2009 Associate Member of the Year was awarded to Vince Hollis of Lowcountry Paver. Hollis serves on the association's Board of Directors as an Associate Director and has been an active member of the HBA for about five years. In 2009, he stepped forward as chairman of the Home & Garden Show Committee, which produces the association's largest annual public event, the Hilton Head Area Home and Garden Show. Hollis also serves on the association's golf tournament committee, and has represented the association at various state engagements. Hollis will serve as the Associate Vice President on the association's 2010 Board of Directors.

Several other awards were presented during the evening's festivities. Denny Fraser, of Finger & Fraser, P.A. received the coveted 2009 President's Award in appreciation of his years of commitment and support to the association and building industry. Additionally, Chris Cleland of Cleland Site Prep, Don Lee of D. Lee Builders and Ed Pitoniak of SunTrust Mortgage were each presented with HBA Hammer Awards. The award recognizes extraordinary members who work behind the scenes, ensuring the success of association programs, events and community service projects.

2009 Home Builders Association President James Garman stated, “The association exists only by the strength and dedication of its members. Tonight’s award winners truly exemplify the best of the best and their time and efforts are greatly appreciated and admired.”

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About the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association:

Chartered in 1965, the Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association is a not-for-profit professional trade association of business professionals that represent, promote and support excellence in the home building industry through education, community service and environmental stewardship. The organization is made up of more than 500 member companies, representing residential and light commercial builders, subcontractors, suppliers and many other service providers to the home building industry throughout Southern Beaufort County. The association also administers the Hilton Head Home Builders Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization formed to support and raise funds for continuing education within the Southern Beaufort Country region.

The Hilton Head Area Home Builders Association is affiliated with the Home Builders Association of South Carolina and the National Association of Home Builders.