

Subject: News Release: Sen. Creigh Deeds named Legislator of the Year



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 13, 2007**

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### **Senator Deeds Receives VAFP Legislator of the Year Award**

(Bumpass, VA) – Virginia Senator R. Creigh Deeds has received the Virginia Association for Parks Legislator of the Year for 2007 for his outstanding support of the Virginia State Park system. Deeds received the award from VAFP President Johnny Finch during the association's Spring Conference at Occoneechee State Park in Clarksville, Virginia.

This marks only the second time in VAFP's 10 -year history they have presented a legislator's award.

"Our criteria for the award is stringent and based on long-term contributions," said Finch. "As is indicated by the number on the street, we don't give these away like Christmas presents."

The association cited Sen. Deeds' long standing support of Virginia's state parks. Deeds co-chaired the 2002 Commission on the Future of Virginia's Environment, which made significant recommendations to increase staffing levels, maintenance and operational budgets for all 34 of Virginia's state parks. The commission recognized that staffing and funding for parks had not kept up with demands on the system including increased attendance and operation of new parks and numerous new facilities developed with funding from the 1992 General Obligation Bond Referendum. More facilities are now being developed, and parklands acquired, as the result of a 2002 bond referendum.

Deeds has consistently supported budget amendments to help increase staff and funding for state park operations and maintenance. During the 2007 General Assembly session he introduced four bills aimed at providing the park system's

law enforcement personnel with job-related protections already provided to other state law enforcement personnel.

Deeds represents the counties of Alleghany, Bath, Nelson; parts of Albemarle, Rockbridge and Buckingham; plus the cities of Buena Vista, Covington and Charlottesville. He serves on four standing Senate committees including Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation.

In accepting the award, Deeds recounted his experiences at Douthat State Park near his home in Alleghany and Bath counties, where he was a summer ranger as a youth.

For more information on the Virginia Association for Parks and its work in supporting all parks in Virginia, go to [www.virginiaparks.org](http://www.virginiaparks.org).

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**(Editor: See photo attached)**

