

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

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**TEN VIRGINIANS RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S CAREGIVER
RECOGNITION AWARD**

~ Awards program is in its fourth year ~

RICHMOND – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced the recipients of the Governor's Caregiver Recognition Awards, the annual award that honors the more than one million unpaid caregivers in Virginia. Ten outstanding caregivers from throughout the Commonwealth will receive awards in a ceremony on November 17 in Richmond. The annual awards program, in its fourth year, is sponsored by the Virginia Council on the Status of Women.

“Too often we overlook the simple sacrifices that Virginians make every day to care and provide for their loved ones,” Governor Kaine said. “I am happy and humbled to recognize the extraordinary recipients of the 2009 Governor's Caregiver Recognition Awards, and hope that their stories will inspire others to assist those in the community who may be in need.”

These caregivers are part of a growing trend across the country and the Commonwealth. An estimated 700,000 people in Virginia serve as family caregivers. It is estimated that there are more than 44 million volunteer caregivers nationwide. The need for such individuals is expected to increase during the next 25 years as the population grows and ages.

This year's recipients include the following caregivers who have devoted their lives to providing comfort and care for family members:

Recipients, Governor's Caregiver Recognition Awards

- **Ruth Davis-Leonard of Roanoke**- helps care for her grandmother;
- **Harvey Lee of Stafford**- cared for his mother for 20 years through several health challenges;
- **Wanda Matney of St. Paul**- cares for her adult sister who has Down's Syndrome;
- **Betty Ridge of Hillsville**- has provided care for 45 years to her daughter who has spina bifida;

- **Karen Switzer of Roanoke**- cares for her granddaughter who has spina bifida;
- **Ann Vaughn of Fredericksburg**- has cared for her husband for 21 years following a stroke.

Honorable Mention, Governor's Caregiver Recognition Awards

- **Sukhpal Kaur of Falls Church**- provides care and support for her daughter and granddaughter;
- **Gordon Temple of Church Road (Dinwiddie)**- cares for his elderly mother and his wife, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1981;
- **Trequan & Shandra Woody of Richmond**- teenage siblings who care for their mother.

For more information on the annual awards, please visit:
http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/council_women/caregiver.html.

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