

For Immediate Release

Contact:
Hunt Cooper, Communications Director
Kentucky Association of REALTORS®
(859) 263-7377
hcooper@kar.com



State Award Winners Honored at Annual REALTOR® Convention

Lexington, KY – The Kentucky Association of REALTORS® (KAR), one of the state’s largest professional associations representing over 9,000 members, presented several awards to REALTORS® across the Commonwealth during the 89th Annual KAR Convention in Lexington, Kentucky.

Winners include:

Robert Damron, the owner and general certified appraiser of “D” Research in Pikeville and member of the Eastern Kentucky Association of REALTORS® (EKAR), was named **KAR’s 2011 REALTOR® of the Year**. Damron served as president of the Kentucky Association of REALTORS® in 2008 and has been active with the state association for 18 years, volunteering much of his time to work in leadership positions including the Board of Directors, region director, treasurer and serving as chair for various committees including government affairs and economic development. On the local level, he served two terms as president of EKAR and has served the positions of vice president, president-elect and treasurer. He has served on almost every committee on the local level and is currently serving on EKAR’s board of directors. During his early years in real estate, Damron was instrumental in starting the MLS (Multiple Listing Service) program within the Kentucky Association of REALTORS®, which has since evolved into a service used by local associations across the state. After college, he served in the Army for a two year stint in 1970 and 1971. In 1973, he took a job with the CSX Railway where he worked for 20 years.

The **2011 KAR Distinguished Service Award** was presented to **John Chandler**, a member of the Cumberland Valley Board of REALTORS® (CVBR). This award is given to someone who has provided outstanding contributions and service to the real estate industry and his/her local community. Chandler began his real estate career as a REALTOR® more than 42 years ago and has been serving the London area since. On the local level, he served as president in 1989 and was named REALTOR® of the Year that same year. He was again awarded REALTOR® of the Year in 1996 and 2002. In 2010, Chandler was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from his local board. He served as president of the Kentucky Association of REALTORS® in 2003, treasurer in 1997 and was awarded REALTOR® of the Year at the state level in 1998. Chandler is a dedicated volunteer at the both the local and state levels, having served on virtually every committee and task force at some time. He served as a Trustee for the Kentucky Real Estate Education Foundation and was a director at the national level. Chandler is also

involved with the Bluegrass Chapter of the Appraisal Institute and helped start the Multiple Listing Service at his local board.

Jonah Mitchell, a real estate broker in Lexington, developer and instructor of various real estate courses and a part-time professor at the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics, was named the **2011 Nat Sanders Educator of the Year**. This award is designed to recognize an individual who has made the most significant contributions to, and exemplified leadership and service in, real estate education at either the local, state, or national level. This award was created to honor Nat Sanders, retired executive vice president of the Greater Louisville Association of REALTORS®, who is widely recognized as a leader in the theory of REALTOR® professionalism through continuing education.

The **2011 Community Service Awards**, given to REALTOR® associations on the local level that improve the quality of life in their communities, were presented to three local REALTOR® associations based on membership numbers – small, medium and large. The award in the large category went to the Northern Kentucky Association of REALTORS® for their work with HONK, the Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky, a community building project that provides affordable housing solutions. In the medium category, the REALTOR Association of Southern Kentucky won for their involvement with several projects including the Housing Authority of Bowling Green, the Hope House, the Angel Food Ministry and the Day for Danny golf tournament. For their work on projects throughout the year which includes the American Red Cross, Special Olympics, Kids Against Hunger, and work with the local schools, the Murray Calloway County Board of REALTORS® took home the award in the small category.

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