



## ***Press Release***

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### **SURA Honors Former Governor Robb as “Friend of Science”**

**Washington, DC** – The Southeastern Universities Research Association today announced that former Virginia Governor and U.S. Senator Charles S. Robb would receive SURA’s 2010 Distinguished Friend of Science Award at its Board meeting on October 20. The award is to honor an individual whose extraordinary efforts “fulfill the SURA mission of strengthening the scientific and technical capabilities of the Southeast and nation.”

“Governor Robb was a critical player in the early efforts with SURA to secure the winning bid to place Jefferson Lab in Virginia in the early ‘80’s,” said Charles W. Steger, President of Virginia Tech and Chair of the SURA Council of Presidents and Executive Committee. “And he continued his advocacy for education, science and research in the U.S. Senate.”

At the time of the U.S. Department of Energy’s consideration of bids to design, build and manage the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF, later Jefferson Lab), SURA’s effort was supported by Governor Robb and the Commonwealth. The Newport News-based proposal was accompanied by a pledge of \$1 million in annual state funding plus 17 positions provided through the College of William & Mary.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Robb served on active duty with the United States Marine Corps, retiring from the Reserve in 1991. He began as the Class Honor Graduate from Marine Officers Basic School in 1961 and ended up as head of the principal recruiting program for Marine officers in 1970. In between, he served in both the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions and his assignments included duty as a Military Social Aide at the White House and command of an infantry company in combat in Vietnam. He married the former Lynda Bird Johnson in a White House ceremony in 1967 and entered the University of Virginia School of Law in 1970. After clerking for a federal judge and working in private law practice in Northern Virginia, Robb’s started his political career by winning the lieutenant governor’s race in 1977. He served as governor from 1982 to 1986 before being elected to his first of two terms the U.S. Senate in 1988. Robb served as a member and chair of the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors and in 2004 was appointed by President George W. Bush to co-chair of the Iraq Intelligence Committee. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress and is a Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at George Mason University.

The SURA Distinguished Friend of Science Award was established in 2006 to commemorate the organization’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. SURA’s Executive Committee manages the solicitation, screening and selection of the recipient for this award. Past honorees included U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander (Tennessee), John Warner (Virginia), and Norman Augustine, former CEO of

Lockheed Martin and advocate for American leadership in research and innovation. Each of SURA's 62 member institutions was eligible to nominate candidates for the award.

“Governor Robb’s leadership helped develop the strongest case for building this federal research lab in the Southeast and helped push the SURA bid over the top,” said Jerry P. Draayer, SURA President & CEO. “His support not only allowed us to win the competition against New England and the West Coast, but also set the stage for continued Commonwealth support that has anchored this laboratory as a vibrant, growing entity into the next generation.”

Robb will be presented the award and a \$20,000 honorarium at a reception held in conjunction with the SURA Board of Trustees Fall Meeting in Washington, DC.

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*The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit [www.sura.org](http://www.sura.org).*