



Press Release

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
For Immediate Release
www.sura.org

For more information contact:
Greg D. Kubiak
Chief Communications Officer
202-408-2412 * kubiak@sura.org

Senator Warner Honored with “Friend of Science” Award

Washington, DC – The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) today announced that Senator John Warner of Virginia is the recipient of its SURA Distinguished Friend of Science Award for 2007. The award is to honor an “individual whose extraordinary efforts within the SURA region fulfill the SURA mission of strengthening the scientific and technical capabilities of the Southeast and nation.”

“Senator Warner has been a great friend to the science and technology community and the role of higher education to advance research and economic competitiveness. He’s been a strong advocate for our nation’s education and science agenda,” said William R. Harvey, President of Hampton University and past chair of the SURA Council of Presidents and Executive Committee.

The SURA Distinguished Friend of Science Award was established in 2006 to commemorate the organization’s 25th Anniversary. SURA’s Development and Relations Committees manage the solicitation, screening and selection of the recipient for this award, as well as a “Distinguished Scientist Award,” presented annually at their Spring Board of Trustees meeting. Each of SURA’s 63 member institutions were eligible to make one nomination for the award.

“Senator Warner has been a great friend to SURA, the Jefferson Lab and our nation’s scientific and research interests, and therefore is deserving of this important recognition,” wrote University of Virginia President John Casteen in his letter nominating the Senator. He added, “Senator Warner has worked in the Senate to provide incentives for America’s college and university students to enter the very critical fields of math, science and engineering.”

In 2006, legislation he co-authored was enacted to provide over \$4 billion in grants to encourage America’s youth to pursue these programs of study as well as certain foreign languages that are crucial to our national, homeland, and economic security. This legislation which he helped author, known as the SMART Grant program, provides low-income third and fourth year college students who major in one of these important areas an additional \$4,000 per year for the costs associated with their education. Senator Warner also co-sponsored the PACE (Protecting America’s Competitive Edge) legislation in the Senate – in support of the Administration’s American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) and recommendations of the *Rising Above the Gathering Storm* report.

Senator Warner began his public service in 1945 when he joined the Navy at age 17. He later attended Washington & Lee University on the GI Bill, and then entered the University of

Virginia Law School. At the outbreak of the Korean War, Warner interrupted his law studies and commenced a second tour of active military duty. Upon his return from Korea, Senator Warner finished his law degree and in 1956, was appointed an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He entered private law practice in 1960. Senator Warner resumed his public service with his Presidential appointment to be Under Secretary of Navy in 1969. For over five years during the war in Vietnam, he served in the Department of the Navy, and led the Department as Secretary from 1972-1974.

While the SURA award was announced late last year at the SURA Trustees meeting in Washington, Senator Warner was unable to attend due to a brief hospitalization at the time. The award was presented to the Senator in his office today by SURA President & CEO Jerry P. Draayer.

Senator Warner has won five consecutive elections to the U.S. Senate, beginning in 1978. Now the second-longest serving U.S. Senator from Virginia in the 219-year history of the Senate, Senator Warner announced he will not seek reelection when his term expires in 2009.

###

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.