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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### ***Restoration of the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola to be honored***

ALBANY, NY – May 4, 2009 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the restoration of the **Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building** in Mineola to receive a Preservation League award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League's statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

"The restoration of the 1901 Old Nassau County Courthouse, has transformed the building to the Nassau County Executive and Legislative offices," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "This stands out as one of the most extensive preservation projects ever undertaken on an early reinforced-concrete public building, and is the centerpiece of County Executive Tom Suozzi's efforts to transform Nassau County into a model of smart growth and sustainable development."

Contributing to the success of this project were the County of Nassau; John G. Waite Associates Architects, PLLC; Robert Silman Associates, PC; Plus Group Consulting Engineering, PLLC; Greyhawk North America/Carter Burgess; Bovis Lend Lease / The Liro Group; and M. A. Angeliades. Major funding was secured through a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

Then-Governor Theodore Roosevelt laid the cornerstone of what would become Nassau County's first municipal building in 1900. Unfortunately, after years of neglect, the building fell into a terrible state of decay.

Thomas R. Suozzi, Nassau County Executive said, "I am overjoyed to announce that not only has the historic restoration of the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building been completed, but the local civic pride has been equally restored. A restoration of this

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magnitude and quality is entirely deserving of the honor of being recognized by the Preservation League.”

John G. Waite, FAIA said, “After his election in 2001 as the first Democratic County Executive in Nassau County since 1971, Tom Suozzi decided that the dilapidated original Nassau County Courthouse would be restored as the center of county government. Thanks to Tom Suozzi, the restored building is now the centerpiece of his reformed administration’s efforts to transform Nassau County into a model of smart growth and sustainable development.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: Astor Courts in Rhinebeck, Dutchess County; Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County; Asbury Delaware Church – “Babeville,” in Buffalo, Erie County; The Emerson in Manhattan, New York County; The Guggenheim Museum in Manhattan, New York County; the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in Mineola, Nassau County; and The Chapel of the Sisters in Prospect Cemetery, Jamaica, Queens County. The Fred L. Emerson Foundation and Foundation Historical Society in Cayuga County will be honored for organizational excellence, and Dr. Robert B. MacKay of Cold Spring Harbor, Suffolk County, will be honored for individual excellence. ***The Olmsted City – The Buffalo Olmsted Park System: Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*** (University at Buffalo, 2008) will be honored as an outstanding publication.

“Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State,” said DiLorenzo. “Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the restoration of the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building the statewide recognition it deserves.”

*The Preservation League’s Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.*

*By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.*

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