



FROM: Preservation League of New York State
44 Central Avenue
Albany NY 12206-3002
www.preservenys.org

CONTACTS: Colleen M. Ryan, Director of Communications
Preservation League of New York State
518-462-5658, ext. 17; cryan@preservenys.org

(For Assemblymember Hoyt) Ellen Przepasniak
716.885.9630; ellen@samhoyt.com

(For Senator Valesky) Ariana Caplan
315-396-4070; arianacaplan@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Senator David Valesky, Assemblymember Sam Hoyt to be honored

ALBANY, NY – May 5, 2010 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the legislative sponsors of New York’s Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, Assemblymember Sam Hoyt (D-Buffalo, Grand Island) and New York State Senator David Valesky (D-Oneida) to receive an 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.

“Historic Preservation is an economic force to be reckoned with. Communities that treasure their historic resources reap tangible benefits, whether through job creation, enhanced property values, heritage tourism growth or downtown revitalization,” said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. “The Preservation League works in every corner of the Empire State to highlight historic preservation’s important role in our civic lives. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Assemblymember Hoyt and Senator Valesky, New York now provides more effective incentives and program features for developers and municipalities seeking to rehabilitate historic buildings, and to advance redevelopment and economic stimulus goals.”

“As a member of the Assembly from Western New York, I have the privilege of coming from the home of some great historic architecture,” said Assemblymember Sam Hoyt. “But when I saw some of those buildings being lost to decay and vacancy, I realized that state government had to take a proactive approach before it was too late to save them. The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit is just such an approach. Not only will it help preserve our state’s architectural heritage, but also create jobs and help revitalize our economy. I am therefore proud to have helped craft the legislation with Senator Valesky and humbled by this award.”

(more)

According to Valesky, who sponsored the bill in the Senate, “The passage of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit was a crucial victory for Upstate New York’s economic development efforts, and we are already seeing results. We are continuing to work to improve the program so it can have an even bigger effect, drawing businesses and people back to our downtowns, and reigniting them as economic engines.”

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 12th** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44th Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: William S. Hackett Middle School, Albany; The Belmont Hotel, Allegany County; Walkway over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie; The Guaranty Building, Buffalo; The American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street Façades, New York; Empire State Building Lobby Restoration, New York; Oswego Public Library, Oswego; West Hall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy. ***Looking for Work: Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York*** by Peter H. Stott (Syracuse University Press, 2007) will be honored as an outstanding publication. Senator David Valesky and Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Legislative sponsors of the New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, will be honored for individual excellence.

“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 nominations, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to present this award to Assemblymember Hoyt and Senator Valesky in recognition of their support for the economic and community development opportunities that the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits will provide.”

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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