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American Institute of Floral Designers

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIFD Awards Members and Symposium Contributors With Distinguished Honors

BALTIMORE (July 14, 2009) – Bette Lou Barker AIFD of Santa Ana, Calif. was recognized by the National Board of Directors with the American Institute of Floral Designers' (AIFD) Special Award of Recognition. This news was announced on July 13 during the Institute's 2009 Awards Ceremonies held in conjunction with its 2009 National Symposium in Kansas City. Bette Lou, an AIFD member since 1993, was honored for her continued support and dedication at symposium.

Also honored during the ceremonies was **Rene' van Rems AIFD** of Rene' van Rems International in Vista, Calif. with the Award of Distinguished Service to the Floral Industry. His continued support of the floral industry through growers, wholesalers, garden clubs, students and members of the institute is what deemed him worthy of this award which is presented to AIFD members who have made a significant contribution to the floral industry.

For its use of fresh flowers for the past 10 years on an event that raises awareness and funds for those infected by HIV, **DIFFA Dining by Design** of Kansas City was recognized with the AIFD Award of Merit — Non-Industry. Past honorees for this award have included Lady Bird Johnson, the NBC "Today" Show and Martha Stewart.

Baisch and Skinner Wholesale of St. Louis, Mo was announced as the recipient of the AIFD Award of Merit – Industry, an award that is presented to professionals in the floral industry who are not a member of AIFD, but who are serving a crucial role in advancing the industry. Baisch and Skinner Wholesale received this award for their continued support of receiving product for our National Symposiums, both in St. Louis and this year in Kansas City.

The 2010 National Symposium will be held in Boston (July 3-8).

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About the American Institute of Floral Designers

Established in 1965, the American Institute of Floral Designers is, today, the floral industry's leading non-profit organization dedicated to establishing, maintaining and recognizing the highest standard of professional floral design. AIFD and its worldwide accredited members are in the forefront of the industry in presenting educational design programs and in designing flowers for such renowned events as the Tournament of Roses Parade, Academy Awards and Presidential Inaugurations.