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For Immediate Release

Contact: David Messer

Phone: (256) 766-3628

Email: info@florencekiwanisclub.org

Florence Kiwanis Celebrates 85th Installation and Awards Banquet

Florence, Alabama - The Kiwanis Club of Florence recently held its annual installation and awards banquet. This was the 85th anniversary of the Kiwanis' event and was held at Brandon Ministries Center in Florence, AL. The event was called to order by incoming president David Beasley and entertainment soon followed by a special performance by the Florence High School Chorus and a solo acoustic guitar act by Florence High School student Dillon Hodges. After entertainment, dinner and a special viewing of the most recent Kiwanis International television ad campaign, a recognition and awards ceremony was held. Immediate past President Robert Hughes was awarded and recognized for his service with the George F. Hixson Fellowship award and past President Bob Watkins received the Barnett Fellow award. Both of these awards recognize the distinguished levels and dedication of long-term Kiwanis' community service members. Alabama District Governor, Pam Fleming, installed the 2007-08 incoming officers. The officers included:

David Beasley, President

Andy Betterton, President Elect

Bert Bock – Vice President

Pat Burney – Secretary

Ivan Stafford – Treasurer

Bill Gullet - Immediate Past President

The newly installed board of directors included Sally Akin, Mike Broder, Maxi Foster, Beth Haddock, David Messer, Jim Sak, and Sylvester White. David Beasley, the incoming Big Chief, provided members and guests with words of encouragement and plans for the ongoing success of Kiwanis International and the role of the Kiwanis Club of Florence with its **volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time.**

About Kiwanis International

The name "Kiwanis" means "we trade" or "we share our talents" and was coined from an American Indian expression, Nunc Kee-wanis. Kiwanians are volunteers changing the world through service to children and communities. Kiwanis members help shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, mentor the disadvantaged, and care for the sick. They develop youth as leaders, build playgrounds, raise funds for pediatric research, and much more. No problem is too big or too small. Why? Because working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. When you give a child a chance to learn, experience, dream, and succeed, great things happen! Prospective members in Kiwanis are invited to attend as registered guests; the Kiwanis Club of Florence meets every Friday at noon the Marriott Shoals Conference Center in Florence, AL. Visit <http://www.FlorenceKiwanis.com> for an events calendar and more information.

George F. Hixson Fellowship

The Kiwanis International Foundation Board of Trustees created the George F. Hixson Fellowship in 1983 to honor the first Kiwanis International President. Hixson, who served from 1916 to 1918, holds the distinction of being the only leader to serve two terms as Kiwanis International President. Overall, his record accounts for more than 50 years of dedication to Kiwanis service.

J. Mercer Barnett Fellow

This award comes from the Alabama District of Kiwanis Foundation and is made upon a contribution by the club of \$500 to the foundation in honor of the beneficiary of the award.