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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
 STATE OF TENNESSEE  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**STATE HONORS 2007 WALKING HORSE WORLD GRAND CHAMPION**
*-Portrait of horse on display at Ellington Agricultural Center-*

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – State Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens, recently honored 2007 Tennessee Walking Horse World Grand Champion owners Lee Wall and Mike McGartland and trainer Jimmy McConnell.

Givens recognized Wall, McGartland and McConnell during a luncheon of industry leaders and supporters at the Ellington Agricultural Center. Givens represented Governor Phil Bredesen at the event which has become a tradition to recognize the contributions of the Walking Horse industry to the state.



“People throughout the world recognize and embrace the beauty, versatility and mild temperament of Tennessee Walkers,” said Givens. “The Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration is a wonderful event that draws thousands to the state each year and has a significant impact to the local economy. Tennessee is fortunate to have this event and industry in our state.”

Stan Butt, Executive Director of the Tennessee Breeders’ and Exhibitors’ Association, presented the official portrait of World Grand Champion “Master of Jazz” to Givens. The portrait, by photographer Debbie Keough will be on display in the Moss Administration Building at the Ellington Agricultural Center.

“As has been the tradition in past, I am honored as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ and Exhibitors’ Association to present this portrait of the 2007 World Grand Champion “Master of Jazz,” said Butt at the event.

State Representatives Stratton Bone and Curt Cobb, representatives of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ and Exhibitors’ Association and the National Celebration joined Givens in recognizing the guests of honor.

The 70th Annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration® is slated for August 20-30, 2008. The Celebration® is the longest continuously-running event in the state of Tennessee.

For more information on the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ and Exhibitors’ Association, visit <http://www.twhbea.com/>.

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