



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Downtown Norfolk Council Announces Award Recipients for 2011

Norfolk, VA – It is with pleasure that the Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) Board of Directors announces award recipients to be honored at the organization’s Annual Luncheon Meeting on June 1, 2011 at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

Annually, DNC recognizes an individual as “Downtowner of the Year.” This year, this honor will be bestowed on JoAnn Falletta, Conductor, Virginia Symphony Orchestra. “It is particularly fitting that we honor Ms. Falletta this year as she is celebrating her 20th anniversary serving as Conductor of the VSO”, said Donna Phaneuf, Chairman of the Board, Downtown Norfolk Council. “With her commitment to excellence, she has helped solidify downtown Norfolk’s role as the region’s cultural center.”

DNC is also choosing this year to bestow another honor at their Annual Meeting; one that has only been given one other time; that being a Lifetime Achievement Award. This recognition is being given to local attorney and philanthropist, Peter G. Decker, Jr., The first time this award was presented was to Frank Batten, Sr. in 2006.

Peter Decker is known throughout Hampton Roads and even the Commonwealth for his civic and charitable contributions. He has served as Chairman of the Norfolk Airport Authority; for many years he served as Chairman of the National Maritime Center (Nauticus) and he now serves on the Board of Visitors of Norfolk State University. He has also been a very active and engaged contributor to the cultural art scene in Hampton Roads. The Virginia Stage Company, the Virginia Symphony, the Virginia Opera, the D'Art Center, and many, many other cultural groups have benefitted from his outstanding contributions of time, talent and resources. He is also recognized nationally for his work with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and for more than 40 years, he has served as a member of the Board of Governor of that institution.

"Both of our honorees have contributed greatly to the cultural life and vitality of our community" said Cathy Coleman, President & CEO of the Downtown Norfolk Council. They have inspired us with their energy and their vision and because of them, both the physical and the cultural landscape of the City has been enhanced."

Towne Bank is the Presenting Sponsor for the Downtown Norfolk Council Annual Meeting and many other sponsors will join us in recognizing these two outstanding individuals.

The Downtown Norfolk Council is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous Downtown. DNC also manages the Downtown Norfolk Improvement District, a 48-block Special Services District providing enhanced services that keep Downtown friendly, safe and spotless.

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