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KENTUCKY

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Sally Brown to Receive the 2008 Hellard Award

NOTE: *An electronic version of this press release is available at the Center's Web site:*
www.kltprc.net/pressreleases/pr_2008hellardawardwinner.htm

FRANKFORT, KY (October 29, 2008) — The Board of Directors of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center has chosen renowned civic activist Sally Brown as the recipient of the 12th annual Vic Hellard Jr. Award for public service. The award will be presented at the Center's annual conference on November 20 in Covington, Kentucky.

Mrs. W.L. Lyons Brown, 97, "grew up around the world" as the daughter of an Army general and settled in Kentucky with her husband and family, where she became "A Force of Nature," as the KET documentary about her life suggests. An internationally trained and accomplished artist in her own right, Mrs. Brown became widely known simply as "Sally Brown," a powerful and knowledgeable activist on behalf of environmental protection, conservation, historical preservation, population, the arts, education, planning, philanthropy, and numerous other facets of civic life. The breadth of her interests and the depth of her knowledge have yielded incalculable contributions to her adopted home state, as well as the nation.

Founder and secretary of the W.L. Lyons Brown Foundation named for her late husband, Mrs. Brown has dedicated seemingly boundless energy, as well as her personal resources, to protecting the environment and restoring and preserving the beauty of her home state. Her many gifts to the Commonwealth include the Sally Brown State Nature Preserve, a 600-acre tract of land along the gorgeous palisades of the Kentucky River; River Fields, a corridor around Louisville designed to protect the Ohio River; the internationally acclaimed Actor's Theatre in Louisville; and the W.L. Lyons Brown Library at Bellarmine College, to which she generously contributed.

Too numerous to count, Mrs. Brown's official contributions range from local to global, including service as chair of the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission under three successive governors, as a member of the Louisville and Jefferson County Planning Commission, and on diverse governing and advisory Boards, including, among many others, those guiding Shakertown, the Speed Art Museum, Transylvania University, the Louisville Ballet, and Louisville's Downtown Waterfront Development. Nationally, Mrs. Brown has served on the boards of such organizations as the Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the National Parks and Conservation Association, the American Farmland Trust, the Garden Club of America, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the World Wildlife Fund. Internationally, Mrs. Brown served as a delegate to United Nations Conferences on World Population and Nature, as well as to the International Union for Conservation and Nature.

Recently, Mrs. Brown was involved in the revival of the Shakertown Roundtable, a forum for discussion of public issues. Typical of her efforts, according to noted Kentucky journalist Al Smith, it was one that "a wise observer of aging humanitarians likened to planting trees for others to live under, and enjoy." Usually the one who gives awards, in the form of checks or phone calls, even to Presidents of the United States, Smith observes that this recognition of Sally Brown comes, "in appreciation by the rest of us for a life well lived, and for an example of citizenship, in the Vic Hellard tradition, that is enduring."

Given in recognition of service in the interest of Kentucky's future, the annual award is made in memory and honor of Mr. Hellard's long and distinguished career of public service. As Director of the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), Mr. Hellard was a tireless champion of legislative independence, considered by many to be the cornerstone of modern governance in Kentucky. He is also widely credited as the principal architect of the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center. At the time of his death on September 17, 1996, Mr. Hellard, who had retired from his LRC post, was still serving as a member of the Center's Board, contributing substantially to its guidance and to its efforts to shape a vision for the future of the state and a system for evaluating progress toward its realization.

Previous winners are Judge Anthony M. Wilhoit, retired Chief Judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and now Executive Director of the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission; Joseph W. Kelly, who served as chairman of the Kentucky Board of Education from 1991 until April of 1998, a period of far-reaching change for education in Kentucky; Mary Helen Miller, a retired state government executive whose career began in the classroom and went on to include high-level posts in both the legislative and executive branches under two governors; veteran journalist Al Smith, a former newspaper publisher, editor, and reporter, and one of the state's most engaging and enduring media personalities; renowned State Historian for Life, the late Dr. Thomas D. Clark, author of over 20 books, recipient of countless awards, and the founder of the Thomas D. Clark Foundation, a private, nonprofit foundation that provides financial support for the University Press of Kentucky; Virginia G. Fox, long-time Executive Director of Kentucky Educational Television and former Kentucky Education Cabinet Secretary; Walter A. Baker, a Glasgow attorney with a reputation for public service that has extended to the international stage; Robert M. (Mike) Duncan, an Inez banker with a national reputation for public service; William H. Hintze, Jr., a dedicated public servant for 33 years who held the position of Deputy State Budget Director for five Kentucky governors; Sylvia Lovely, President of the NewCities Institute and long-time Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Kentucky League of Cities; and John R. Hall, civic leader, philanthropist, and former CEO of Ashland Inc.

Information about the Center's upcoming conference is available online at <<http://www.kltprc.net/2008conference.htm>>.

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