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STATE LEGISLATORS BAKER AND GRIMSLEY RECEIVE HONORS

MAITLAND, Fla. (Sept. 25, 2008) – The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association presented its Legislator of the Year awards Sept. 23 to Florida State Sen. Carey Baker, R-Eustis, and Rep. Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring.

“As chairperson of the House Agribusiness Committee, Rep. Grimsley made sure that the bills that were supported by the agriculture industry moved through their assigned committees,” said Butch Calhoun, FFVA’s director of Governmental Affairs. “She also helped the ag industry by not hearing bills that were adverse to agriculture. During the 2008 legislative session, Rep. Grimsley was truly a champion for agriculture,” Calhoun said.

Baker was the Senate sponsor of many of the major bills that the agricultural industry supported during the 2008 legislative session. Those bills included SB 1578, the Bert Harris/Private Property Rights Bill; SB 1946, the over-width farm implements bill; SB 2054, the surveyor’s trespass bill; and SB 2246, the ag enclaves/densities bill.

“As chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. Baker led the fight for private property rights in the Florida Senate during the 2008 legislative session,” Calhoun said.

The awards were announced at FFVA’s 65th Annual Convention held at the Ritz-Carlton, in Naples.

Past recipients of the Legislator of the Year Award include Sens. Mike Bennett, Jeff Atwater, Nancy Argenziano and Bill Posey, and Reps. Baxter Troutman, Dean Cannon, Dudley J. Goodlette and Marty Bowen.

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association is an agricultural trade organization representing Florida’s producers of fruits, vegetables and other crops.