

September 20, 2007
George Will to Speak at First Amendment Event

MANCHESTER -- Pulitzer-prize winning columnist and network television commentator George Will headlines the Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications annual First Amendment dinner Nov. 15.

The 5th annual event honors the First Amendment and New Hampshire residents who strive to exercise and protect the essential rights of free speech and free press.

Will's newspaper column has been syndicated by The Washington Post since 1974. It appears in nearly 500 newspapers in the United States and Europe. In 1977, he won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary for his columns.

In 1976, Will became a regular contributing editor at Newsweek magazine and five years later, was a founding panel member on ABC television's "This Week."

He has published three books on political theory and seven collections of his columns. He also topped the New York Times bestseller list with Bunts: Curt Flood, Camden Yards, Pete Rose and Other Reflections on Baseball.

Will's remarks will precede presentation of the Nackey S. Loeb First Amendment honors recognizing New Hampshire residents and organizations who exemplify and guard free press and free speech. A panel of distinguished judges chooses honorees based on public nominations.

This year's panel includes: Rod Doherty, executive editor, Foster's Daily Democrat; former First Lady Kathleen Gregg, wife of Sen. Judd Gregg; John Howe, executive editor, The Citizen; inventor Dean Kamen; former Gov. Stephen Merrill; Charles Perkins III, vice president of new media, Union Leader Corp.; Attorney Gregory Sullivan, trustee and founding member, Nackey S. Loeb School of Communications.

Past winners were former Attorney General Philip McLaughlin, former Keene Sentinel Editor Thomas Kearney, legislator Daniel Hughes and The Citizen of Laconia.

Led by presenting sponsor TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation, the event is backed by a wide variety of business, civic and media leaders. Other major supporters include: Wheelabrator Technologies, Inc.; PSNH; FPL Energy, Seabrook Station; Bank of America; Sen. John Sununu and Kitty Sununu; Sen. Judd Gregg and Kathleen Gregg; Business NH Magazine; The Dupont Group; National Grid; Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Services; Pouliot & Associates; and the Verizon Foundation.

The 2007 dinner committee includes Mark Bodi, state Liquor Commissioner; Richard Jenkinson of ThermoFisher Scientific; attorney Ovide Lamontagne of Devine, Millimet & Branch, Professional Association; Joel Maiola of U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg's staff; Jeff McPherson, of Silvertch, Inc.; Katie McQuaid of NewHampshire.com; Signe McQuaid; Liz Murphy of Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group; Catherine Pouliot of TD Banknorth; Judy Reardon of The Dupont Group; William Sirak of Citizens Bank Investment Management Services; and David Snyder of the N.H. Bar Foundation.

The late Nackey S. Loeb, president and publisher of the New Hampshire Union Leader, founded the nonprofit school in 1999 to promote understanding and appreciation of the First Amendment and to foster interest, integrity and excellence in journalism and other forms of communication.

The annual dinner is a major fundraiser that enables the school to offer free classes on topics including the First Amendment, journalism, sports writing, editorial writing, editorial cartoons, photography and broadcasting.

More than 2,000 students of all ages from throughout the state have participated in the school's classes and workshops.

For information on tickets or sponsorships, call 627-0005.