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Helen Alexander Recognized with the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award

Lexington, KY – August 18, 2014 – Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR) is pleased to announce that Helen Alexander of Lexington, Kentucky has been named as the inaugural recipient of the Robert N. Clay Conservation Award.

The award, named in recognition of Robert N. Clay's equine land conservation leadership in the Thoroughbred industry, will be presented at the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association National Awards dinner on September 5th in Lexington, KY.

"TOBA is pleased to have established this award in partnership with ELCR to help increase awareness of the importance of land conservation to the Thoroughbred industry and to serve as an inspiration to others within the industry," says TOBA President Dan Metzger.

Helen Alexander was selected as the first recipient of the Robert N. Clay award because of her commitment to ensuring that the nation's most beautiful and productive agricultural and open lands are preserved for future generations. Helen has served in leadership roles at the local, regional and national levels to help permanently protect thousands of acres of land and has protected both her Middlebrook and Spring Station Farms with conservation easements.

In addition to her conservation work with her family in the Brandywine Region of Pennsylvania, Helen is the co-founder with Robert N. Clay of the Bluegrass Conservancy (BGC) land trust in Kentucky. She was elected as the Founding President of the BGC and has served in that capacity since its inception in 1995. Under Helen's leadership, over 20,500 acres have been permanently protected through conservation easements.

Ms. Alexander also served on the panel that formulated the model for the Purchase of Development Rights on farmland in Fayette County, Kentucky. She helped to lead the program through its adoption and subsequently served on the PDR Board. To date 28,000 acres, including 133 horse farms, have been permanently conserved under the PDR program.

About the Equine Land Conservation Resource (ELCR): *ELCR builds awareness of the loss of lands available for horse-related activities and facilitates the protection and preservation of those lands. We work to ensure America's equine heritage lives on and the emotional, physical and economic benefits of the horse-human relationship remains accessible. ELCR serves as an information resource and clearinghouse on conserving horse properties, land use planning, land stewardship/best management practices, trails, liability and equine economic development. For more information about the ELCR visit www.elcr.org or call (859) 455-8383*

About the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association (TOBA): TOBA, based in Lexington, Ky., was formed in 1961 and is a national trade organization of leading Thoroughbred breeders and owners. TOBA's mission is to improve the economics, integrity and pleasure of the sport on behalf of Thoroughbred owners and breeders. Projects managed by TOBA include the American Graded Stakes Committee, Claiming Crown, Ownership Seminars, Ownerview.com and the Sales Integrity Program. TOBA provides international representation for U.S. owners and breeders on the International Grading and Race Planning Advisory Committee, International Cataloguing Standards Committee and International Breeders Federation. Thoroughbred Charities of America (TCA) is the charitable arm of TOBA. TOBA is the owner of The Blood-Horse Inc., and is represented as a founding member on the board of directors of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium