



USAHA News Release

United States Animal Health Association

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USAHA Honors Alley, Ragland with Medal of Distinction

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ST. JOSEPH, MO– The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) has honored two individuals with its highest award, the Medal of Distinction. Dr. J Lee Alley and Linda Ragland were the 2007 recipients, honored last week at the organization's 111th Annual Meeting in Reno, Nev.

Dr. J Lee Alley, who has served as USAHA Secretary since 1999, has long been active in the association. A native of Alabama, Alley grew up in the cattle business. He graduated from Auburn University in 1956 with a doctorate of veterinary medicine. His career included work for the United States Department of Agriculture in Alabama, Michigan, and Tennessee. In 1969, Alley returned to Alabama, joining the Auburn Cooperative Extension Service. He then went on to serve as the Brucellosis coordinator for the state, and in 1979 was appointed State Veterinarian, where he served in that capacity for 22 years.

Alley served as the USAHA President for 1991-1992, and most notably served as chair of the Committee on Brucellosis, among others. Additionally, he has been active in a number of USAHA committees. Alley first attended a USAHA meeting in 1964, and has actively served the association since that time.

"J Lee has worked tirelessly to improve animal health and advance our organization for decades," said USAHA President Lee Myers. "We are grateful to J Lee, and his wife Eleanor, for more than 40 years of service."

Linda B. Ragland, of Richmond, Va., has served on the USAHA staff for 33 years, with a majority of that as the office administrator. Linda first participated in USAHA's Annual Meeting in 1979, and since has been the primary coordinator for the association's annual meetings.

"Whether it's balancing the books, updating the web site or planning the meeting, her meticulous attention to detail has nurtured this Association," said Myers.

Ragland's key roles included managing the association's membership and financial records. Ragland has been a vital asset to USAHA, behind the scenes for an impressive tenure.

“I cannot fathom the number of membership dues, committee reports and USAHA News Alerts that Linda has processed in her time with us,” said Myers. “And each one with detail and passion for our organization that you would want from your administrator.”

Both Alley and Ragland will retire from their respective positions at the end of the year.

The USAHA Medal of Distinction is awarded annually to recognize one or more distinguished USAHA members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, provided exemplary service, and have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Association.

USAHA was established in 1897. USAHA is a science-based, dues-supported, voluntary organization whose membership includes state, federal and international animal and public health agencies, allied industry and professional organizations, as well as individual members representing academia, animal owners and animal health professionals. USAHA primarily serves as a forum for communication and coordination among animal health constituents on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health. USAHA operates with 33 species, and subject-oriented committees, and hosts an annual meeting each year with its partner organization, the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

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