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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Online.....seattlefirstcitizen.org

**WSU's president and a former governor among group of five
who will pay tribute to Ted Baseler as the 77th "First Citizen"**

BELLEVUE, Wash. (May 18, 2015) – A university president, a former governor, a Master of Wine, an award-winning newspaper columnist and a "Marketing Legend" will pay tribute to Ted Baseler when he is honored as the 77th recipient of the Seattle-King County First Citizen Award.

The five speakers, joined by emcee Steve Raible of KIRO 7 Eyewitness News, will pay tribute to Baseler, president and CEO of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, at a civic banquet. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 28 at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel. (For reservations: SeattleFirstCitizen.org).

The speakers include:

Christine O. Gregoire, the 22nd governor of the State of Washington;

Ron Elgin, consultant, author, entrepreneur, and a retired advertising agency executive;

Patti Payne, columnist, *Puget Sound Business Journal* and principal, The Payne Group;

Dr. Elson S. Floyd, president, Washington State University; and

Bob Betz, MW (Master of Wine), founder and winemaker, Betz Family Winery.

77th Annual Seattle-King County
First Citizen Banquet
honoring

Theodor "Ted" Baseler

Thursday, May 28

Reception 6 p.m. | Program: 7 p.m.

Fairmont Olympic Hotel

411 University Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$125

[Reservations required:](http://www.seattlefirstcitizen.org/)

www.seattlefirstcitizen.org/

In addition to the speakers the program will feature a musical salute by 11-year-old Hadley Strecker, who is a "patient performer" representing Seattle Children's Hospital, one of the beneficiaries of Baseler's philanthropy. Ms. Strecker was born with a rare form of spina bifida. Since age 6 months she has undergone nine corrective procedures, including four spinal surgeries.

The Rev. Wesley H. Howell, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Pullman, will deliver the invocation.

Baseler is being recognized for his accomplishments, support and pivotal roles he has had in the wine industry, higher education, uncompensated medical care for children, economic development and tourism. The respected leader in the U.S. wine industry is known for his dedication to building Washington state into one of the top wine producing regions in the world and for his passion and benevolence centered around higher education and children with limited access to medical care.

This year marks the 77th anniversary of the annual awards gala, which is presented by SEATTLE King County REALTORS®. Since 1939, the event has recognized individuals and organizations that enhance the area's quality of life through visionary leadership, civic engagement, and dedication to building healthy communities through volunteerism and philanthropy.

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Several former First Citizens are expected to attend the celebration. Recent past recipients include Norman B. Rice (2014), former mayor of Seattle who retired last year as president and CEO of The Seattle Foundation; former NBA coach and player Lenny Wilkens (2013), Rotary International District 5030 (2012); former Seattle Mariners pitcher Jamie Moyer & Karen Moyer of The Moyer Foundation (2011); and former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton (2010).

Over the years, the First Citizen inductees have represented humanitarian organizations, charitable, health and educational institutions, arts groups, environmental causes and various civic endeavors.

The Seattle-King County First Citizen Award and civic banquet, believed to be this region's oldest such recognition, has no fund-raising expectation, but instead is designed solely as a not-for-profit celebration of community involvement.

This year's event is supported by Southern Wine & Spirits of America, Inc. (platinum sponsor), Young's Market Company (silver sponsor) and event partners RE/MAX, John L. Scott Real Estate and Windermere Real Estate.

About the [First Citizen Award and Banquet](#)

Since its inception in 1939, the First Citizen Award has celebrated community leadership, volunteerism and public service. Realtor association leaders started the award during the recovery from the Great Depression and organized a civic event to commemorate positive community work taking place despite the dire times.

The first recipient of the prestigious First Citizen Award was Dr. Richard Eugene Fuller, founder (with his mother) of the Seattle Art Museum. He also served as the Museum's unsalaried president for 40 years.

About the [SEATTLE KingCounty REALTORS®](#)

The SEATTLE *KingCounty* REALTORS® is a nonprofit professional trade association whose goals include promoting business practices that reflect a strict code of ethics and supporting policies that preserve and expand real property rights and housing affordability. Based in Bellevue, SKCR has around 6,000 members and is a local board of the National Association of REALTORS®. The term REALTOR® is a registered collective membership mark that identifies a real estate professional who is a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and subscribes to its strict Code of Ethics.

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