



In 2000, the agency established the “Turtle” Award, named fondly for the agency logo’s perceived likeness to a “turtle.”

The “Turtle” Award annually recognizes an individual, often from outside government, or organization for support of Arizona’s rich cultural heritage and the work of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records. A second award is given as the Director’s recognition to a member or members of the agency staff for their attitude and commitment to our agency, our clients, and our work.

We present the “Turtle” Award annually at the Arizona Convocation of librarians, archivists, museum professionals, historians, genealogists, records managers, preservationists, conservators, and others responsible for and interested in preserving Arizona’s cultural heritage.

The Convocations help build a community of Arizonans who collect, provide public access to, manage, protect and cherish the records, maps, objects, publications, photographs, and other materials that form the state's cultural legacy. The Convocations enable these individuals to share information about their collections and programs, to discover opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing, and to promote public access to the books, records, and objects of Arizona’s past.

The Director of the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records selects the two annual recipients of the “Turtle” Award. Winners receive a framed certificate and the external individual or organization representative receives the agency’s logo “Turtle” lapel pin.

2007 “Turtle” Awards

The 2007 “Turtle” Awards were presented to Micki Henningsen, Capitol Museum Gift Shop Manager, and to Melodee Jackson, Director of Constituent Services, Office of the Governor. The awards were presented at the Arizona Convocation in Phoenix on March 4 and 5, 2007.

Micki Henningsen received the award for staff excellence due to her tireless work and excellent customer service as the Capitol Museum Gift Shop Manager at the State Library.

An award for support and continual collaboration with the State Library went to **Melodee Jackson** from the Governor’s Office. Melodee passed away on Friday, September 21, 2007.

Melodee worked closely with Library and Archives through the Centennial and Arizona Quarter Commission efforts. As Chair of the State Quarter Commission, among many duties involved with that position, she helped coordinate the statewide balloting to choose the final design. The coin will be minted next year and Melodee took great pride in the Commission's final selection. As Director of the Governor's Office of Constituent Services, Melodee was in charge of the team that fielded literally thousands of phone calls, emails and letters every day, from citizens across the state. She also helped Arizonans access all make and manner of public services and information, and kept the Governor constantly informed of issues of concern to constituents. Every Wednesday evening, Melodee Jackson volunteered her time with Hospice of the Valley, supporting families whose loved ones were in the final stages of life. Melodee lived a life that mattered and made a difference in the world in which she lived, her presence will be greatly missed.