



From: **National Lieutenant Governors Assoc.**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTANA'S BOHLINGER WINS NATIONAL ARTS AWARD

Montana Lt. Governor John Bohlinger is the recipient of the 2007 Lt. Governors Public Leadership in the Arts award from Americans for the Arts. Americans for the Arts is the nation's leading non-profit organization advancing arts in America.

"Lt. Governor John Bohlinger is most deserving of this national recognition for his role in advancing arts and arts education within his state and its communities," said Americans for the Arts President and CEO Robert L. Lynch.

Bohlinger served on the Board of Directors of the Yellowstone Art Museum and as President of the Billings Symphony. He is active with the Montana Arts Council and the Montana Institute of the Arts. He lead the Montana Arts Council to an endorsement of the arts as a vehicle for community development.

"Most Americans understand that the arts improve our quality of life," said Lynch. "But, the arts are also an industry that stimulates the economy in cities and towns across the country. A vibrant arts and culture industry helps local businesses thrive." A May 2007 study showed nonprofit arts generates \$166.2 billion in economic activity.

"Lt. Governor Bohlinger's public service shows he repeatedly voted in support of arts funding," said Jay Dick, state and local government affairs director at Americans for the Arts. "He was a key vote to defeat efforts to eliminate the state's arts council and Cultural Trust. Now, he is a voice for arts to the Governor's Cabinet. John Bohlinger's support of the arts has been unwavering and strong."

Bohlinger and late artist wife, Bette, collected art and have one son who is a professional musician. John Bohlinger, Jr. is in his fifth season as the band leader for USA Network's Nashville Star. Lt. Governor Bohlinger received the award at the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Annual Meeting. Though NLGA, his peers nationwide bi-partisanly endorsed his selection for the award.