Seven Veteran School Leaders Cited for Service

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ARLINGTON, Va. - The American Association of School Administrators will honor five retired educational leaders, as well as the executive director and immediate past president of the association, with Distinguished Service Awards at AASA’s 2008 National Conference on Education in Tampa, Fla., from Feb. 14-17.

These educational leaders are being recognized by AASA for bringing honor to themselves, their colleagues and their profession; rendering exemplary service to their state and/or national professional association; and contributing to the education field through writing, public advocacy or other activities.

To receive the Distinguished Service Award, an individual must have been an AASA member for at least 10 years and be retired from a full-time position in educational administration. Each year the honorees include the immediate past president of AASA.

The Distinguished Service Award carries a life membership in AASA. The 2008 honorees, in alphabetical order, are as follows:

Wayne W. Doyle of Irwin, Pa. He retired in June 2007 after serving as superintendent for four Pennsylvania districts -- the Turtle Creek Area School District, Woodland Hills School District, Gateway School District, and Hempfield Area School District -- during the previous 33 years. Doyle was honored as state superintendent of the year in Pennsylvania in 2000. He served two non-consecutive terms on the AASA Executive Committee and was president of his state professional association. Doyle joined AASA in 1975.

Ivan W. Fitzwater of San Antonio, Texas. He retired in May 1994 as director of graduate education in school administration at Trinity University in San Antonio, where he received professor emeritus status. He previously worked as superintendent of the North East Independent School District in San Antonio and deputy superintendent in Fort Worth. He regularly presented on school leadership at AASA national conferences and received Distinguished Professor status through AASA’s National Academy for School Executives. Fitzwater joined AASA in 1966.

Paul D. Houston of Alexandria, Va. He will retire in June 2008 after leading AASA as executive director for 14 years and serving in education administration since 1969. Prior to joining AASA as executive director, Houston was superintendent of schools in Princeton, N.J.; Tucson, Ariz.; and Riverside, Calif. He also served as an assistant superintendent in Birmingham, Ala., and as a teacher and building administrator in North Carolina and New Jersey. Houston became a member of AASA in 1972.

Joan M. Raymond of Melbourne, Fla. She retired in October 2006 as superintendent in South
Bend, Ind. She previously worked as superintendent in Yonkers, N.Y., and Houston, Texas. Raymond, now an executive consultant to AASA, has served as executive director of the Large City School Superintendents. She served on the AASA Employee Relations Advisory Committee. She joined AASA in 1977.

**Gary D. Sharpe** of Jefferson City, Mo. He retired in July 2007 after 20 years as executive director of the Missouri Association of School Administrators. He also was the first executive director of the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals and chaired the Missouri House of Representatives Elementary and Secondary Education Committee for three years in the early 1980s. He joined AASA in 1987.

**Jay B. Taggart** of Morgan, Utah. He retired in December 1993 as education deputy under Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt. Taggart earlier served as Utah’s state superintendent of schools and superintendent in Weber County and Morgan County, both in Utah. He is a former honoree as Utah Superintendent of the Year. At age 79, he landed an elected seat on the school board in Morgan County. He joined AASA in 1973.

**Eugene G. White** of Indianapolis, Ind. He served as president of AASA in 2006-07. White is in his third year as superintendent of the Indianapolis Public Schools after 11 years as superintendent of the Washington Township schools in Indianapolis. He is a past president of the Indiana Association of Public School Superintendents and the North Central Association, a regional accrediting body. He joined AASA in 1994.

**About AASA**
AASA ([http://www.aasa.org/](http://www.aasa.org/)), founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across the United States. AASA’s mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. AASA’s major focus is standing up for public education.