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**JOHN H. AKERS AWARDED 2008 RUTH BYRNE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD**

GLENDALE, Ariz. -- The Glendale Historic Preservation Commission awarded John H. Akers the prestigious Ruth Byrne Historic Preservation Award for outstanding historic preservation contributions at the Historic Preservation meeting on May 22, 2008.

Commission Chairman Bud Zomok presented the award to John. Attending the ceremony was John's wife, son, and two-month old daughter, and John's mother and father. Chairman Zomok noted Mr. Akers was a member of the Historic Preservation Commission from 1995-1998, and Chairman from 1997-1998. He also recognized that John helped develop the Ruth Byrne Award and the Catlin Court Historic District Overlay.

John previously served as a member of the Sahuaro Ranch Foundation from 1996 to 1997. He was a board member of the Glendale Historical Society from 1995-1998.

John has published a number of papers regarding Glendale's history including *The Effects of the Cotton Boom and Bust on Mexican Emigration to Glendale, Arizona 1916-1921. Satellite, Suburb, or Something Else. The Urban Transformation of Glendale, Arizona*, and *Life Cycle of an Edge City: Glendale, Arizona*. These papers were presented at history association conferences in Arizona and Texas. John wrote his master's thesis at Arizona State University on Glendale, *From Dale to Hollow? The Urban Transformation of Glendale, Arizona, 1940-1990*.

Commission member Ruth Byrne for whom the Award was named after commented, "We could not have selected a more deserving person for this award".

Mr. Akers is currently the Historic Educator and Outreach Coordinator for Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area for the Glendale Parks and Recreation Department. He has been active in participating in a citywide history committee as a historian. He helped develop a downtown walking tour brochure as well as a series of signs and interpretative plaques for several Glendale historic sites. John recruits and trains tour guides, manages a school tour program, and develops historic programming which includes a series of outdoor history signs. He has played an integral role in keeping the history of Glendale and Sahuaro Ranch Park alive.

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