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# Virginia Forestry Association

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PAUL R. HOWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **JOHN W. BURKE III WINS VIRGINIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

**Richmond, VA** – John W. Burke III exhibits strong commitment to land management and the conservation of Virginia's forest resource as well as to forestry education and leadership service. In recognition of these commitments, John received Virginia Forestry Association's Distinguished Service Award at the 2017 Virginia Forestry Summit.

John is a landowner in Caroline County, in central Virginia, where he manages his family forest with hardwood and pine species. Burke Woodlands is a certified Tree Farm, certified by the American Tree Farm System as a sustainable woodland. The Burke family manages for the long range, the farm has been in their family for six generations and John is working to ensure that the next generation will be able to pass the land on as well. John is renowned for his experimental planting of long leaf pine and bald cypress in an area usually not known for these species.

"John Burke exemplifies the ideals of leadership, commitment, and integrity in forestry" stated John Magruder, Consulting Forester. John and his family forest, Burke Woodlands, have been the focus of many forestry tours and educational visits for school children, teachers, forest landowners, and legislators. "If you've ever been to one of these tours you can feel John's enthusiasm and love of his woods...he truly is dedicated to leaving the legacy of a better forestry future on his land" remarked Magruder.

John is a retired partner of McGuireWoods and his practice involved transactional aspects of intellectual property including technology transfers, licensing agreements and joint venture arrangements, as well as the protection of intellectual property, including trademarks, copyrights and dispute-related issues.

John is a Past President and member of VFA and currently serves on the Virginia Board of Forestry, which advises the Governor and Virginia State Forester on forestry matters. His is also a member and past Chair of the American Forest Foundation Board of Trustees. John has written and spoken frequently on forestry issues and he is the author of an article in Tree Farm Magazine, "Forestry and the Law" that details the top ten legal concerns for forest owners. He has testified before Congress on several occasions on forest management and renewable energy issues.

VFA's Distinguished Service Award was created to give public recognition to individuals, groups, associations, and/or companies and corporations that have made a significant, continuing and lasting contribution to the conservation of Virginia's forest resources and/or the enhancement of Virginia's forest-based community.

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### **About Virginia Forestry Association:**

Founded in 1943, the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a non-profit, privately supported organization with the mission of promoting the stewardship and wise use of the Commonwealth's forest resources for the economic and environmental benefits of all Virginians. VFA members are forest landowners, foresters, forest products businesses, loggers, forestry consultants, and a variety of individuals and groups who are concerned about the future well-being of Virginia's forest resource. VFA seeks to maintain a political and economic climate favorable for forest ownership and forest industry in the state and to enhance the public's perception of forestry through effective outreach and communications. Learn more at [www.vaforestry.org](http://www.vaforestry.org).