



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American Floral Endowment (AFE) Establishes the Dona Weder Abbott Memorial Tribute

Edwardsville, Illinois, March 19, 2007 – Dona Abbott, Vice President of Advertising for Highland Supply Corporation, and an internationally recognized artist died March 2 in Boulder, CO after a five-year battle with cancer. Abbott worked for Highland Supply for 37 years handling creative design and advertising. She retired from Highland in 2000.

Born in Highland, IL, November 18, 1943, Abbott moved with her family to Boulder in 1965. While raising her family, she graduated summa cum laude from University of Colorado in 1972. She was a long-standing member of Boulder's Mustard Seed Gallery and an active participant in Open Studios. Her work was regularly featured in national art exhibitions, including Rocky Mountain National, Arts in the Parks and Watercolor West and has appeared in ***Splash, International Artist Magazine*** and other national and international art publications. She authored two art books, ***Watercolor Filled With Bright Colors*** and ***Captured Moments***.

Dona Weder Abbott is survived by her husband Bill Ervin, her son Lon Abbott, daughter Natasha Scholze and three step-children, Zachariah, Jeremy and Sayward Ervin. She was the loving "Oma" to nine grandchildren. She is also survived by a brother, Donald Weder and three sisters, Mary Kay Foley, Wanda Weder and Janet Weder.

As a way to honor Mrs. Abbott, a Memorial Tribute has been established by her family within the American Floral Endowment to provide a way to honor her life and contributions to the industry. To contribute to the Dona Weder Abbott Memorial Tribute, send a check so designated to:

**American Floral Endowment
625 First Street, BMB 803
Alexandria, VA 22314**

The family is always notified. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, all contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

About AFE

AFE, founded in 1961, is the leading non-profit funding source for floricultural research and educational programs in the United States. The Endowment is supported by more than 1,000 companies and individuals throughout the industry. For more information, please visit www.endowment.org.