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The 2009 Horatio Alger Award Winner Chosen

The Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans is pleased to announce that Mr. Robert L. Wright, Jr. will be presented with the 2009 Horatio Alger Award and inducted as a lifetime member of the association for his determination in achieving success despite his humble upbringing.

Mr. Wright, chairman of FE Holdings, Inc. in Virginia, will be officially inducted into the prestigious association on April 3rd in Washington, D.C. Recipients must have overcome humble beginnings or adversity to achieve success and serve as outstanding role models to the national community.

"We welcome these extraordinary leaders into the Horatio Alger Association. Each has demonstrated steadfast determination and amazing achievements that support our unwavering mission of honoring true American success stories," said Mr. David L. Sokol, president and CEO of the Horatio Alger Association. "Robert will serve as a role model for today's youth by encouraging motivation, purpose and superior accomplishments."

Mr. Wright was born in Columbus, Ga. in 1937. Growing up during the Depression in the segregated South made it difficult for Mr. Wright, as a young African American, to dream of being successful. Even when the Ku Klux Klan burned crosses in his neighborhood, Mr. Wright's parents encouraged him to believe that through education he could create a better life.

The new members will be presented their awards on April 3rd at the Horatio Alger Awards Induction ceremonies. Activities include three days of meetings and celebrations in some of the nation's most historic buildings.

