

**DISTILLED
SPIRITS
COUNCIL
OF THE
UNITED
STATES**

NEWS RELEASE

Distilled Spirits Council is the trade association representing producers and marketers of distilled spirits sold in the United States.

Website: <http://www.distilledspirits.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEN. JIM BUNNING, HARVEY CHAPLIN INDUCTED GEORGE WASHINGTON SPIRITS SOCIETY INDUCTS TWO NEW MEMBERS AT MOUNT VERNON CELEBRATION

WASHINGTON, DC – Four prominent individuals were recognized tonight for their integrity, responsibility and service to society as the first inductees into The George Washington Spirits Society at an industry heritage celebration at Mount Vernon, the Distilled Spirits Council announced.

The charter members are: Ambassador W.L. Lyons Brown, Jr., former Brown-Forman CEO; General Alfred M. Gray, USMC (Ret.), former Commandant of the Marine Corps; A. Raymond Tye, Chairman, The United Group; and Charles Bailes, Jr. of ABC Fine Wine and Spirits.

“The George Washington Spirits Society was created to recognize distinguished inductees who best exemplify the outstanding qualities exhibited by our first president in his life, his business enterprises, and his service to his country,” said Distilled Spirits Council President Peter H. Cressy. “Just like our Founding Father, each of these honorees appreciate the moderate use of spirituous liquors and their appropriate place in our society, culture and history.”

The honorees were inducted into the George Washington Spirits Society during a special reception and dinner at Mount Vernon attended by more than 700 guests including industry leaders, legislators, ambassadors and the media. The evening, which raised over \$120,000 for Mount Vernon’s educational campaign “To Keep Him First,” also included a special auction of the first commemorative bottles tapped from the barrels the industry has been aging at Mount Vernon.

During the induction ceremony, the honorees were presented a certificate recognizing each one as the “Guardian of His Spirit” and medal created by the world-renowned Lenox designers. The medals, made through an antique process using burnished silver over pewter, featured an image of George Washington with the words “Heritage, Responsibility, and Integrity” on the one side and a replica of George Washington’s copper pot still on the other side.

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The inductees were selected by the Board of Trustees of the George Washington Spirits Society which is made up of representatives of America's leading distillers and Historic Mount Vernon.

THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON SPIRITS SOCIETY:

- **U.S. Senator Jim Bunning**

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- **Harvey R. Chaplin**

General Gray served his country for 41 years as a United States Marine. In his capacity as the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corp, he also served as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and as Military Advisor to the President. He has contributed greatly to our nation's special operations capabilities, counter-terrorism and maneuver warfare. General Gray continues to serve on many national boards and, for seven years, has supported the distilled spirits industry's responsibility efforts as an active member of The Century Council's Advisory Board.

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