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**LEE ANN WOMACK TO HOST  
2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ACM HONORS  
TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2009 IN NASHVILLE**

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**EVENING TO RECOGNIZE SPECIAL HONOREES FROM THE  
44<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**

ENCINO, CA (August 5, 2009) – Today the Academy of Country Music is announcing that country music superstar **LEE ANN WOMACK** will host the 2nd Annual **ACM HONORS**, an evening dedicated to recognizing the special honorees and off-camera category winners from the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. The event will take place on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 in Nashville at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center.

Those being honored include Special Award recipients **Merle Haggard, Harlan Howard, Dolly Parton, Jerry Reed, Kenny Rogers, Randy Travis, Hank Williams Jr., David Young** and the film “**Beer For My Horses**” along with winners of the MBI (musician, bandleader, instrumentalist) and Industry categories, which are not televised during the live telecast of the Academy of Country Music Awards.

“We are thrilled that Lee Ann Womack will help us pay tribute to our amazing honorees,” said Michelle Goble, Director of Membership and Events at the Academy of Country Music. “Last year’s Honors event was an amazing success and we expect to deliver an incredible night once again, with the help of Lee Ann.”

“I’m so happy the Academy asked me to host the ACM Honors,” said Lee Ann Womack, a five-time ACM Award recipient. “Without the good work of so many of these honorees, country music would just not be what it is today, so I’m delighted to be able to help salute them.”

The Academy of Country Music Special Awards are voted on by the ACM Board of Directors and are awarded during years where the Board of Directors feels there are clear and deserving candidates. Honorees include:

- Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award – **Jerry Reed, Kenny Rogers, Randy Travis, Hank Williams Jr.**
- Jim Reeves International Award – **Dolly Parton**
- Mae Boren Axton Award – **David Young**
- Poet’s Award – **Merle Haggard, Harlan Howard**
- Tex Ritter Award – “**Beer For My Horses**”

The winners of the MBI awards are voted based on Academy of Country Music ballots in their respected category. Honorees include:

- Audio Engineer of the Year – **Chuck Ainlay**
- Producer of the Year – **Tony Brown**
- Top Bass Player of the Year – **Glenn Worf**
- Top Fiddle Player of the Year – **Aubrey Haynie**
- Top Guitarist of the Year – **Tom Bukovac**
- Top Percussionist/Drummer of the Year – **Greg Morrow**
- Top Piano/Keyboard Player of the Year – **Gordon Mote**
- Top Specialty Instrument(s) Player of the Year - **Eric Darken, Jelly Roll Johnson (Tied)**
- Top Steel Guitar Player of the Year – **Dan Dugmore**

(more)

Winners of the Industry Awards categories are voted based on Academy of Country Music ballots in their respected category. Honorees include:

- Casino of the Year – **Turning Stone Casino (Verona, NY)**
- Don Romeo Talent Buyer of the Year – **Fran Romeo, Romeo Entertainment**
- Nightclub of the Year – **Joe's Bar (Chicago, IL)**
- Promoter of the Year – **Louis Messina, The Messina Group**
- Venue of the Year – **The Ryman Auditorium (Nashville, TN)**

For more information on the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC** and the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**, please visit [www.acmcountry.com](http://www.acmcountry.com). For information on ACM LIFTING LIVES, please visit [www.acmliftinglives.org](http://www.acmliftinglives.org).

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