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**Sharyn McCrumb**

# Press Release

## **National Book Festival Welcomes Nationally Acclaimed Novelist Sharyn McCrumb**

**September 25, 2006:**

Award-winning Virginia novelist Sharyn McCrumb will be a featured author at the 2006 National Book Festival, hosted by First Lady Laura Bush, in Washington, DC. The festival, which will kick off with an opening and gala reception at the Library of Congress on Friday, Sept. 29, and a breakfast at the White House with the First Lady on Saturday, Sept. 30, includes a presentation in the Fiction and Fantasy Area on the National Mall at 2:30 p.m. with a book signing to follow at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006.

Featured at this year's National Book Festival is *St. Dale*, a novel about a group of people who go on a pilgrimage in honor of NASCAR racing legend Dale Earnhardt. Published by Kensington Books in February of 2005, *St. Dale* is the recipient of the 2006 Appalachian Writers Association Book of the Year Award and is a finalist for the 2006 People's Choice Award awarded by the Library of Virginia and the James River Writers Association.

Born in North Carolina and now residing in southwest Virginia, Sharyn McCrumb is the author of more than twenty books of fiction. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with an M.A. in English from Virginia Tech, she is among the best known of contemporary Appalachian writers. Her Ballad novels among them *The Hangman's Beautiful Daughter* (1992), *She Walks These Hills* (1994), *The Rosewood Casket* (1996), *The Ballad of Frankie Silver* (1998), and *The Songcatcher* (2001) have earned her numerous awards, including the Appalachian Writers' Association Award for Outstanding Contribution to Appalachian Literature in 1997 and the Appalachian Writer of the Year Award from Shepherd College in 1999. *Ghost Riders* (2003), won that year's Wilma Dykeman Award for Regional Historical Literature.

For more information about the National Book Festival, visit <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/welcome.html>.



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