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Sharyn McCrumb

Press Release

***St. Dale* Wins 2006 People's Choice Award for Fiction**

October 23, 2006:

St. Dale, a novel by New York Times Best Selling Author Sharyn McCrumb, was awarded the 2006 People's Choice Award for Fiction at the ninth annual Library of Virginia Literary Awards on Saturday evening, October 21st. at the Library of Virginia in Richmond, VA. The People's Choice Awards are sponsored by the Library of Virginia and the James River Writers, a nonprofit writers' organization in Richmond. A panel of independent Virginia booksellers and librarians chose the people's choice finalists from the books nominated for the library's literary awards. Readers chose the winners by voting online and in bookstores and libraries. Ms. McCrumb received \$2,500 and an engraved crystal book. The awards honored books published in 2005 by or about Virginians. This year's host was actress Daphne Maxell Reid and the celebration was attended by about 300 supporters of the Library.

Published in February of 2005 by Kensington Publishing, *St. Dale* is a novel about a group of people who go on a pilgrimage in honor of NASCAR racing legend Dale Earnhardt. It is a modern day version of the Canterbury Tales and is studied by high schools and colleges across the country. This book was also featured at this year's National Book Festival in Washington, DC in September 2006.

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.

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