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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Longtime Highland County Advocate Honored By Ohio MRDD Group**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – One of the true leaders of the *Highland County Board of MRDD* recently was honored at the *Ohio Association of County Boards of MRDD (OACB) 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION* held at the Easton Hilton Hotel on Monday, Oct. 27.

Dennis Butler was one of three board members from across the state of Ohio who received the *Distinguished Service Award*, which began in 2006. There are 616 *County Board of MRDD* members in Ohio's 88 counties.

Board members are nominated and chosen for their outstanding service and commitment to their local *County Board of MRDD*.

“These volunteer board members are the backbone of every school and agency across the state that helps individuals with developmental disabilities,” said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director. “Without their guidance, experience and wisdom, the 80,000 people we serve would not have their abilities and programs they enjoy today.”

In addition to thanking Mrs. Butler, Dennis Butler complimented the hard work and dedication of the two superintendents he served with – Scott Ament who is now superintendent of the *Adams County Board of MRDD*, and Highland County Board of MRDD's current superintendent, Chuck Biggert.

“They both have done a great job. Thank you to all of you who have helped us do what we all believe in,” Mr. Butler said to the crowd of almost 600 people who attended the convention.

Mr. Ament noted that Mr. Butler has served the *Highland County Board of MRDD* for 13 years, and has been president for 12 of those. “He knows the role of the board, and I have always appreciated his humor and laughter,” Mr. Ament said, noting that on a number of occasions, Mr. Butler has admonished board members for asking a question that was already answered in their board packet.

“Dennis expected all board members to be ready for board meetings, and reading their board packet thoroughly was a must,” Mr. Ament said.

Mr. Butler ushered in many improvements to the *Highland County Board of MRDD*, including many technology upgrades, a workshop addition, consolidation of services, and an increase in community employment.

“He’s such a great supporter. Dennis has been active in many community organizations, and he always says he’s been blessed, so he wants to give back,” Mr. Ament said.

The other board members recognized were Paul Shaeffer from the *Preble County Board of MRDD* and Bonnie Sisley of the *Portage County Board of MRDD*.

The *OACB* is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup>. Its mission is to “support *County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.”

All 88 *County Boards of MRDD* in Ohio are members of this organization whose purpose is to educate and advocate for the 80,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

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