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2006 Oregon Wine Industry Symposium Awards the Vuylsteke Family *The Founders Award*

Willamette Valley, OR: At this year's 2006 Oregon Wine Industry Symposium, Oak Knoll family pioneers were awarded the prestigious **Founders Award**.

Family member and winery president Greg Lint expresses the family's gratitude, "This means so much to the Vuylsteke family. Ron, Marj, my siblings, and I have been diligently working for so long. The **Founders Award** is an honor that recognizes all that we've done, as we've been living our passions and dreams in Willamette Valley."

Each year the **Founders Award** is given to a person (in this case a family) whose long time work in and for the industry has laid the groundwork for the direction and accomplishments of the industry, and whose efforts have helped foster cooperation among growers and winemakers.

With the Vuylsteke Family being so honored for their early establishment into the Oregon Wine Industry, it recognizes within their peer group that important family history has not gone unnoticed, and is truly appreciated.

Their story began in 1970, when Ron and Marj Vuylsteke became pioneers of Oregon winemaking by founding the oldest, operating winery in Washington County. At that time, there were only a few vineyards and a handful of wineries in all of Oregon!

According to Ted Farthing, Executive Director of the Oregon Wine Board and Oregon Wine Advocacy Council, "It was perfect timing for the Vuylsteke family to be recognized, as they represent all that this award embodies."

A high resolution image of the family is available at <http://www.oakknollwinery.com/founders>

Left to right: Tom, Marj, Ron, and John Vuylsteke



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