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**MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION**

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**Grocers Recognize Phillip Brooks**

**St. Paul, MN** – Phillip A. Brooks, CEO of H. Brooks and Company was honored by the Minnesota Grocers Association with its 2010 Outstanding Vendor Award. This award is given to individuals who show innovation in customer support, excellence in customer service as well as involvement in the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA). The award was presented on August 1, 2010 at the MGA Annual Convention in Brainerd, MN which was attended by over 400 of Brook's peers.

As a third generation leader, Brooks started working at family-owned H. Brooks and Company as a young boy sweeping floors, loading trucks and rail cars. He earned a B.S. degree at St. Cloud State University and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. He succeeded his father Irving as CEO of the company in 1994. Brooks passion for people and innovation give him the ability to lead the over 100 year old company with a culture dedicated to freshness, innovation, speed and sustainability.

H. Brooks and Company is one of the leading fresh produce receiver and distributor in the upper Midwest, servicing retailers in Minnesota and neighboring states. Based in New Brighton, MN, H. Brooks and Company sells more than 750 fresh-cut fruit and vegetables and other specialty products from the U.S. and around the world.

Brooks is well respected, serving on multiple boards and advisory councils as an expert voice for industry. His collaborative approach has created strong relationships and dramatic improvements in the quality and safety of products available to Minnesotans, which allows for great success for both H. Brooks and Company and their customers.

Brook's dedication to and support of the Minnesota Grocers Association is unmistakable. He utilizes his voice for the industry's vendor community, working diligently to support his retail partners on issues that are important to the industry.

Brooks and his wife Jane reside in Vadnais Heights and have six children.

*The MGA is a state trade association representing the food retail industry since 1897. We have over 200 retail members with nearly 1,100 stores statewide, as well as approximately 100 distributors and manufacturers. Our member companies employ over 122,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.*

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