



THE **HUMANE** SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Krutch Medal Presentation

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
April 20, 2012

Anita W. Coupe, Esq.

The Humane Society of the United States honors Anita Coupe with its highest award, the **Joseph Wood Krutch Medal**, for decades of wise and selfless leadership and devotion to the noble cause of animal protection. Anita has been a member of The HSUS's board of directors for 22 years and served as board chair for four years (2008-2012). As an accomplished corporate attorney with a specialty in labor and employment law, Anita has made outstanding and essential contributions to the integrity, competence, and professionalism of all aspects of The HSUS's management and operations. During a time of major expansion, Anita's steadfast guidance, calm yet penetrating assessments, and unerring diplomatic skills as chair have brought The HSUS to a place of remarkable strength, sophistication, and capacity.

In the midst of sweeping changes in the field of animal protection and intensifying interest in the work and mission of The HSUS, Anita has been an exemplar of principled, prudent, and purposeful leadership. Her deep love of animals, her commitment to standards of excellence, and her fierce respect for the dignity and wonder of all living things have embodied all that The HSUS stands for.

In 1990, when the long-serving president of The HSUS, John Hoyt, urged members to "figure out what you care about and live a life that shows it," Anita responded to the call. Her tenure on the board of directors, including becoming the first woman to serve as vice chair (1999) and the first woman to serve as chair, has been marked by the purest form of dedication, undergirded by a great sense of community and connection with all life, and a determination to make this world a better one for people and animals alike. In Joseph Wood Krutch, who believed that "All living things are in this together," the earliest generation of HSUS leaders found a guiding light, a philosopher of humaneness whose thought would shape their new organization and its work far into the future. They launched The HSUS in full confidence that other leaders would emerge to surmount the challenges that lay ahead. Anita Coupe, in her time, has made good on the promise of their faith.

David O. Wiebers, M.D.

The Humane Society of the United States honors Dr. David O. Wiebers with its highest award, the **Joseph Wood Krutch Medal**. David has been a member of the HSUS board of directors for 22 years and served as board chair for nine years. During his tenure as chair, The HSUS tripled its revenues and quadrupled its assets, transitioned to new executive leadership, and engineered a number of corporate unions and mergers that greatly strengthened the organization.

David's accomplishments as a physician, researcher, and academician at one of the leading medical centers in the world are legion, but his truly distinguishing features are his extraordinary personal characteristics of humility, decency, thoughtfulness, fairness, and generosity of spirit. When he first joined the HSUS board he perceived a regrettable distance between the medical and animal protection communities, a distance he thought unwarranted and avoidable. For more than twenty years, David has carried the cause of animal protection throughout the world as a writer, speaker, and public figure. Today, the success of his effort to promote a rapprochement between the humane movement and the medical community and to promote an integrated vision of caring and respect for all creatures, regardless of species boundaries, has had an enormous impact and is evident to all.

Joseph Wood Krutch, wary of a world stripped by reductive science of its spiritual and moral values, a world heedless of the interconnectedness between humans and the rest of nature, strove throughout his life to celebrate the splendor of non-human animals. As a physician and scientist, David Wiebers has aligned his life's work on this honorable trajectory. With regard to what he termed the "innate need for us as a species to extend our circle of compassion to nonhuman beings as the next logical step to evolving spiritually," David has confidently expressed his view that "all humans have within them the potential to awaken to the significance of this step." In these words we see David's true calling, wherein he has taken that step and seeks, through his years of leadership within The HSUS, to make it possible for everyone on earth to do so as well.

About the Joseph Wood Krutch Medal

The Humane Society of the United States awards the Joseph Wood Krutch Medal to individuals who have made a significant contribution toward the improvement of life and the environment, and/or distinguished themselves through service to The HSUS. A celebrated American educator, journalist and naturalist, Joseph Wood Krutch spent his last years defending nature and animals, and in 1968, he received The HSUS's Humanitarian of the Year Award. In 1970, The HSUS renamed the award in Krutch's honor, and in 1971, it commissioned the striking of the Joseph Wood Krutch Medal, designed by the renowned medal sculptor Ralph J. Menconi.

The Joseph Wood Krutch Medal is The HSUS's highest honor. Krutch's life epitomized the same commitment to celebrating animals and preventing cruelty that has motivated The HSUS since its founding in 1954. It is fitting that his dedication to animals and nature be remembered by an award that honors individuals who have devoted themselves to extending Krutch's legacy.

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES