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January 15, 2009

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**CFO of the Year Awards Honors John Hinrichs of Farmers & Merchants Bank**

**Newport Beach, Calif., January 15, 2009** – John Hinrichs, executive vice president and CFO of Farmers & Merchants Bank ([www.fmb.com](http://www.fmb.com)), was presented the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at the CFO of the Year Awards held on Wednesday, January 14. The event, hosted by the Orange County Business Journal and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants, recognizes CFOs who have made outstanding contributions to their companies' performance and to the Orange County business community over the past year.

“John has been an invaluable asset to Farmers & Merchants Bank. He has been the backbone to our organization,” said Henry Walker, CEO of F&M Bank. “This award is well-deserved recognition for his great work and amazing achievements.”

Hinrichs, who joined the Bank in the early 1960s, will be celebrating his 45-year anniversary of working with Farmers & Merchants in March. He began his career with the Bank as a teller. After a brief internship at the Garden Grove branch, he returned to the Main Office in 1967 and was appointed assistant vice president in 1968. In December 2000, Hinrichs was appointed to his current position of chief financial officer.

“I am extremely honored to receive this award, and very grateful to F&M for the chance to be a part of their family and unique company culture for such a significant part of my life,” said Hinrichs.

Hinrichs is one of four F&M employees that have been with the 101-year-old bank for 40 years or more, and one of 16 employees that have been with the bank for more than 30 years.

**About Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach**

Founded in Long Beach in 1907 by C.J. Walker, Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach has 22 branches in L.A. and Orange counties. The Bank specializes in commercial and small business banking along with business loan programs up to \$35 million. The Bank is one of the strongest banks in the country measured by a variety of industry measurements. Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach is a California state chartered bank with deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”). For more information about F&M, please call the media contacts listed above or visit the website, [www.fmb.com](http://www.fmb.com).

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