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**The Walkers of Farmers & Merchants Bank are Semi-Finalists in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards**

**Long Beach, Calif., April 21, 2009** – Farmers & Merchants Bank ([www.fmb.com](http://www.fmb.com)), independently rated as the strongest bank in California, announced Kenneth, Daniel and Henry Walker as collectively selected semi-finalists in the 2009 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) Awards in Orange County. Each year, the EOY program recognizes and applauds entrepreneurial leaders and visionaries who contribute to the strength of their communities and the economy.

Kenneth, Daniel and Henry Walker share this nomination as a family management team of 21 years and collaboratively are responsible for the current growth of Farmers & Merchants Bank. “After 60 years with a century-old institution, it is a humbling experience to be selected as a semi-finalist among all of these accomplished entrepreneurs,” said Kenneth Walker, who previously served as CEO and is now President of the Long Beach Main Branch. As one of the safest banks in the country, F&M continues to flourish through both strong and weak economic conditions.

Today, 22 branches are in place, including 12 in Orange County, and more are on the drawing board. Daniel Walker, Chairman of the Board, noted, “In somber economic times, we consider this a great achievement to be a bank nominated for such an esteemed title.”

Henry Walker, CEO and Chief Credit Officer, credits their strong alliance as the reason for expanding the bank's presence throughout the region. "The success of the bank would not be possible without the loyalty of past and present generations of the Walker family, along with the dedication of the entire F&M staff."

The Walkers continue to have an optimistic yet conservative approach to expanding the Bank to continuous new levels of achievement.

**About Farmers & Merchants Bank:**

C.J. Walker founded Farmers & Merchants Bank in Long Beach in 1907. Celebrating over 100 years of community service and strength, the bank currently has a staff of nearly 600 employees throughout Southern California. In addition to being a full service bank, F&M specializes in commercial and small business banking along with various business loan programs. Farmer & Merchants continues to be one of the strongest banks in the country as measured by a variety of industry standards. For more information about F&M, please call the media contacts listed above or visit the website, [www.fmb.com](http://www.fmb.com).