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**President of Farmers & Merchants Bank Main Office,  
Kenneth Walker, Celebrates 60 Years of Service**

**LONG BEACH, Calif. (September 18, 2008)** – Kenneth Walker, president of Farmers and Merchants Bank's ([www.fmb.com](http://www.fmb.com)) main office in Long Beach, today celebrates his 60th year with the bank. Kenneth is the third generation member of the Walker family to help lead the financial institution, ranked one of the strongest banks in the country.

Kenneth, now 81, began working at F&M at age 11 as the elevator operator and groundskeeper of the Long Beach headquarters. He later served in the U.S. Navy and then attended USC, where he studied finance, accounting and economics. Following his military service and educational pursuits, he married and returned to work at F&M as a teller in 1948, and has worked in almost every conceivable banking capacity at F&M until becoming its executive vice president in 1965. In 1979, Kenneth succeeded his father, Gus Walker, as president of the bank.

One of Kenneth's greatest accomplishments was seeing his sons, Henry and Daniel Walker, rise to executive level roles in the bank. Succeeding his father in March 2008, Henry stepped into the role of Chief Executive Officer. His brother Daniel has taken the reigns as Chairman of the Board and President of Farmers and Merchants Trust

Company. Kenneth's grandchildren, Christine and Matthew Walker, also carry on the legacy by holding leadership roles in the family enterprise.

"F&M has long been a Walker family tradition, and seeing my children and grandchildren rise to the helm of these organizations, bringing with them a new level of business expertise, is fulfilling on many levels for me," said Kenneth. "This is more than just a business for our family, it is part of our family culture, and we take its success personally."

Kenneth's role as president of the Long Beach main office has been critical in the institution's success. His expertise ranges from oversight of investments, commercial loans, and management of the bank's personnel.

"My father's fierce loyalty to Farmers and Merchants Bank has set an influential example for not only me, but all F&M employees. I hope to follow in his footsteps and continue his service to the bank and community," Henry Walker said.

"My father's longevity and strong work ethic have driven the bank's success and set the tone for others. He is an outstanding example of how to manage a financial institution and its staff," said Daniel Walker.

F&M enjoys an extremely strong employee retention rate, especially for the banking industry. At last count, more than 100 employees, or 20 percent of the workforce, have been with the bank for at least 15 years. Sixteen employees have been at F&M for more than 30 years, and four have been at the bank for 40 years or longer. An additional 65 employees have been with the bank for 20 to 30 years.

Kenneth not only sets an example of company loyalty, but of commitment to the community as well. He serves on the Board of the Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach Memorial Hospital, and the California Conference for Equality & Justice. His recent honors include the Community Honoree Award from Stranski Steel Magnolia on behalf

of Miller Children's Hospital, the YMCA Harold C. Smith Award for Christian Emphasis, and he and his wife Nancy have been honored with the Family Life Award for their faithful activity with local groups in the Long Beach community.

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

Farmers & Merchants Bank was founded in Long Beach in 1907 by C.J. Walker. 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. Farmers & 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).