

## Huntington Beach Revealed Online October 21, 2010



13 women honored at the second annual F&M Bank Women of Courage

### Farmers & Merchants Bank Honors 13 Orange County Women

#### Second Annual Women of Courage Awards Program

TUSTIN, Calif., Oct. 21, 2010 – Farmers & Merchants Bank (F&M) celebrated 13 dynamic women on Thursday, Oct. 21, at the second annual F&M Bank Women of Courage Recognition Breakfast at Zov's in Tustin. The honorees were selected by each branch manager in Orange County for their courage, tenacity and innovation in business and the community. This program is an F&M extension from the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO-OC) event, which recognized businesswomen at its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Remarkable Women Awards Dinner Oct. 5.

F&M's Women of Courage program has grown from the Bank's dedicated involvement with the NAWBO-OC Remarkable Women event for the past seven years. F&M Bank is continuing its commitment to recognize thriving businesswomen in the OC communities served by F&M Bank.

The F&M honorees are local women selected by F&M branch managers from among their current clientele or women they know from their immediate communities. The honorees are women who best exemplify the word "courage" – either in their business, community or personal life.

"As the Presenting Sponsor for the NAWBO-OC Remarkable Women Awards Dinner, we felt that October, Remarkable Women month, was the perfect opportunity to recognize and honor the dedicated women that we have seen come through the doors of our Orange County branches," said F&M CEO Henry Walker. "These women have shown courage – many in the face of formidable challenges – and they continue to inspire us in our everyday lives."

Farmers & Merchants Bank's selections for the 2010 F&M Bank Women of Courage are:

- Garden Grove – Donna Lee, Global Partnership LLC
- Laguna Hills – Claudia Kihano Parker, Parker Law Group, Inc.
- Orange – Dolores Marikian, YMCA of Orange
- Fullerton – Connie Black, Double Eagle Resort and Spa
- San Clemente – Ruth Denault, Denault's Hardware
- Santa Ana – Teresa and Patricia Saldivar, Teresa's Jewelers
- San Juan Capistrano – Pam Lytle, Landmark Realtors
- Tustin – Suzanne Sotomey, Eaton Corporation
- Huntington Beach – Sue Rueb, B.R.A.I.N
- Lake Forest – Liz Schmidt, Organic and Healthy
- Rossmoor – Marty Thompson, WE CARE
- Newport Beach – Marcia Manker, Orange Coast Memorial Center

"The women on our list have displayed courage in various aspects of life, from running a successful business in a male-dominated industry to battling disease and raising children," said F&M Chairman of the Board Daniel Walker. "We are proud to honor these women and have them as a part of our extended F&M family."

F&M Orange County branch managers attended the breakfast, accompanied by their Women of Courage honoree. Special guest of honor was the NAWBO-OC Business Woman of the Year Angela Cortright, founder and president of Spa Gregorie's, based in Newport Beach.

#### **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. 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)