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**Farmers & Merchants Bank To Honor 10 Orange County Women of Courage
As Companion Program to NAWBO-OC Remarkable Women Awards**

TUSTIN, Calif., October 14, 2009 – Farmers & Merchants Bank today announced the names of 10 dynamic women to be honored on Thursday, Oct. 29, at the inaugural 2009 F&M Bank Women of Courage Recognition Breakfast in Tustin. The honorees were designated in conjunction with the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO-OC), which is recognizing businesswomen at its 14th Annual Remarkable Women Awards Dinner on Oct. 15.

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 six years. This year, as the Courage Theme Sponsor, F&M Bank decided to reach out to thriving businesswomen in the OC communities served by F&M Bank.

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

“As the Courage Theme 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 businesswomen that we've seen come through our

doors,” 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 2009 F&M Bank Women of Courage are:

- Garden Grove – Agnes Green, Green’s Discount Glass
- Fullerton – Janet Newman Ferguson, Newman Backhoe, Inc.
- Santa Ana – Annette Derosa, Blenders and Soft Serve, Inc.
- San Juan Capistrano – Robin Matherson, Mission Motorsports
- Rossmoor – Leslie Siegel, California Closet Company
- Huntington Beach – Diane R. Adams-Rehrig, Diane R. Adams Insurance Agency
- Laguna Hills – Renee Ramos-Hitzel, Program Management International, Inc. (PMI)
- Newport Beach – Katherine A. Litton, Self-Employed Real Estate Investor
- San Clemente – Jeanne Scott, The Waffle Lady
- Tustin – Jenny Rosoff, Village Green Foods

“The women on our inaugural 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 will attend the breakfast, accompanied by their Women of Courage honoree. Special guest of honor will be the NAWBO-OC Business Woman of the Year Cheryl Osborn, founder and CEO of CASCO Contractors, Inc., based in Irvine, who is the Courage Honoree at the NAWBO-OC Remarkable Awards Dinner.

About Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach

Farmers & Merchants Bank 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 recognized as the strongest bank in California and one of the safest banks in the country as 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.

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