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LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN RECEIVES O'CONNOR MORTUARY HEART & SOUL AWARD

IRVINE, Calif. – Nov. 21, 2011 – An ear to listen. A strong voice to help someone be heard. According to Irvine resident Lindlee Sims, speaking out is the most important thing someone can do to help those in need, which is why she dedicated the last four years of her life to helping our aging population receive the care they so justly deserve. As an ombudsman for The Council on Aging, Sims helps to prevent abuse and advocate for quality-of-life issues in long-term care facilities throughout Orange County. For her compassion, dedication and advocacy, she has been named the November 2011 recipient of the O'Connor Mortuary Heart & Soul Award.

Created by [O'Connor Mortuary](#), the Heart & Soul Awards program is designed to recognize Orange County citizens for their passion for life and their dedication to making a difference, whether they possess a lifetime of endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement. One Orange County citizen is presented the award each month.

“Lindlee is not only incredibly professional in serving as an ombudsman, but she is also a sincere friend and compassionate advocate for the seniors she serves,” said Neil O'Connor, president and CEO of O'Connor Mortuary. “Her action, advocacy and steadfast friendship have benefitted countless seniors in our community, helping to ensure their safety, security and comfort.”

Sims works closely with approximately 30 long-term care facilities throughout Orange County. She receives correspondence from seniors in need each day, traveling throughout the region to listen to their concerns, evaluate their living situation and proactively address myriad issues associated with purported abuse, facility cleanliness, personal comfort and overall quality of life.

As a passionate activist for senior citizens, Sims regularly goes above and beyond the requirements of her position by educating the general public about senior issues, mentoring new ombudsmen and simply by being a friend to the elderly when they need it most.

“Lindlee’s ability to address the needs of seniors and perform a leadership role in the program are a testament to her hard work and dedication,” according to the ombudsman program’s director, Kathleen Weidner. “She will always rise to meet whatever challenge stands in her way, so long as it ensures a more positive existence for our aging population.”

Sims is also an active member of the California Retired Teachers Association. As insurance chair for her local Tustin-Irvine area chapter, Sims helps ensure that members receive the necessary insurance information and suggestions for a long and fulfilling retirement. Additionally, she is an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, Beta Phi chapter, an organization of women educators dedicated to educational issues worldwide.

As a winner of the Heart & Soul Award, O'Connor Mortuary will present Sims with an official plaque, and a donation will be made in her name to The Council on Aging Orange County's Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.

ABOUT THE HEART & SOUL AWARDS

Created by O'Connor Mortuary in 2010, the Heart & Soul Award honors Orange County individuals each month for their exemplary and inspiring roles within the community. In celebrating the human spirit, the award recognizes OC residents for pouring their heart and soul into making a difference, whether for a life filled with dedicated endeavors or for a one-time inspirational achievement. One recipient is honored each month with an award plaque, a one-time donation to a local nonprofit organization in his/her name and recognition at a quarterly award reception. To nominate an outstanding Orange County citizen, email Patricia Kolstad at patricia@oconnormortuary.com.

ABOUT O'CONNOR MORTUARY

[O'Connor Mortuary](#) is the oldest family owned and operated mortuary in California. With offices in Laguna Hills, San Juan Capistrano and Irvine, Calif., it is the leading "stand alone" mortuary in Orange County. Founded in 1898 by Patrick J. O'Connor, and succeeded by his son Joseph and grandson Joseph Jr., the company today is managed by fourth generation CEO, Neil P. O'Connor and his two brother-in-laws, Joseph Fitzgerald, CFO and Charles Ricciardi, COO; as well as Jeff Turner, CAO. O'Connor Mortuary is recognized throughout Southern California for its longstanding tradition of caring, personalized service, honesty and integrity. The multi-generational company is active in numerous local charitable organizations and was honored by the California Historical Society for more than 100 years of continuous care and service to Southern California families. In addition, the company was honored in 2005 by the Family Owned Business Council for longevity and has received the Leatherby Award for Ethics in America.

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