2013 Americana Citizens of the Year
Selected from Eight Cities Served by Cypress College

Citizens of the Year from the eight communities in Cypress College's primary service area will be honored at the Cypress College Foundation's 38th Annual Americana Awards. The Americana Awards, sponsored by Union Bank, N.A., will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013 in the Disneyland Hotel's Grand Ballroom.

Citizens of the Year from the eight cities comprising Cypress College's primary service area are: Becky Areias (Anaheim); Dale Eichman (Buena Park); Haze Saliture (Cypress); Bill Dalton (Garden Grove); John Alvis (La Palma), Theresa Murphy (Los Alamitos/Rossmoor); Esther Cummings (Seal Beach); and David Ronnenberg (Stanton).

Kaiser Permanente will be honored as the Foundation's Distinguished Business Partner, and alumnus Trevor Hoffman, a former San Diego Padres legend, is being honored as the Man of the Year, for his accomplishments as one of Major League Baseball's most-successful pitchers and his work in the community.

About the Citizens of the Year:

Becky Areias, Anaheim — Through four generations, the Hilgenfeld Family has provided compassionate, personal and professional funeral services to the greater Anaheim community. Becky Areias carries on that tradition, volunteering and supporting Anaheim Beautiful, the Anaheim Chamber

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For nearly a half-million students, Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. Cypress College: Motivating Minds.

of Commerce, Arts Council, Altrusa, and the Anaheim YMCA. Moreover, she’s a regular volunteer in the day care center at her church. One of her greatest contributions is to “Every 15 Minutes,” which, in conjunction with the local police and fire departments, educates high school students regarding the dangers and possible results of driving under the influence. This is done in dramatic fashion, demonstrating to teens the life-and-death consequences of such behavior. In addition, the Hilgenfeld Foundation, established by her grandfather, Melvin, continues its generous support of higher education through grants and scholarships.


Dale Eichman, Buena Park — Dale Eichman is a 25-plus-year resident of Buena Park who has been involved in numerous activities throughout his time in the city. A financial planner, he has been a member of the Buena Park Chamber of Commerce for 10 years, was an officer in the organization for 6 years, and a has been a member of the Buena Park Lions for 15 years (12 of those years as a board member). He has served as general chairman of Silverado Days as well as an executive board member for the annual event. Eichman is a life member of the Southern California Sight and Hearing Foundation, and a volunteer for AYSO, Boy Scouts of America, and Relay for Life.

Haze Saliture, Cypress — Haze Saliture is engaged in a relentless regional campaign on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving — a mission she began in 1994 when her daughter, Allison, was killed by a drunk driver. She is determined to spare others such a horrific loss. Among Saliture’s efforts: she helped obtain money from Mitsubishi for the purchase of in-car cameras for the Cypress Police Department; volunteers for all Cypress police DUI checkpoints; serves as a major fundraiser for the MADD Golf Tournament and for other events; and, serves as liaison between MADD and Soroptimist, securing donations in Allison's memory for more than 7 years.

For this work, she has been honored by the Cypress Police Department, was named Cypress Police Association Citizen of the Year, received the “Heart of MADD” Award in 2010, and the Volunteer Center’s “Spirit of Volunteerism” Award in 2006.
Bill Dalton, Garden Grove — Prior to serving on the Garden Grove City Council, William “Bill” Dalton was a lieutenant for the Garden Grove Police Department. Mayor Dalton completed his service to the city in November 2012. Dalton has served on the Orange County Sanitation District Operations Committee, the Board of Directors for the Orange County Transportation Authority, was President of Southern California Internal Affairs Investigators Association, and Vice-Chairman of the Garden Grove Housing Commission. He is also a member of the North Orange County Joint Powers Fire Authority, the West Orange County Water Board, the Orange County Office on Aging, and the Orange County Public Library Finance Commission. Finally, Dalton is a member of the Garden Grove Elks Club and the Lions Club, and delivers meals on wheels through the Garden Grove Senior Center.

John Alvis, La Palma — John Alvis is known to young and old throughout his community. A long-time member of Kiwanis, Alvis has served in several leadership positions in the club including president. He is also a former Traffic Safety Committee member and member of the La Palma Volunteers in Policing. But his first passion is education. A retired teacher, Alvis was named Teacher of the Year in 2002 and 2003 at King School, and in 2005 was selected as Outstanding Educator of Orange County by the Orange County Board of Education. He has also served on the Board of the Centralia School District for 17 years. Alvis was President of Cypress Teachers Association, served on the Greater Anaheim Special Education Local Planning Area Board, and was named Outstanding Character Educator of Orange County by the Passkeys Foundation.

Theresa Murphy, Los Alamitos/Rossmoor — Theresa Murphy is well-known and highly respected in the Los Alamitos and Rossmoor communities because of her involvement with Precious Life Shelter, philanthropic work, and countless hours of volunteerism. Precious Life Shelter is a residential supportive services program providing a safe, loving environment for homeless, pregnant, adult women, who have chosen to work toward self-reliance for themselves and their child. In addition to providing leadership (MORE)
for Precious Life as its executive director, Murphy was recently named Woman of the Year by the Cypress Chamber of Commerce, is a member of the Los Alamitos/Seal Beach Rotary Club, participates in the Los Alamitos High School Grad Night, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Los Alamitos and Cypress Chambers of Commerce.

Esther Cummings, Seal Beach — According to one civic leader: “Esther Cummings’ commitment to Seal Beach knows no bounds.” She has participated in numerous community efforts, working on behalf of the environment as a member of the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, for which she has received her “1,000 Hour” pin. She has served on the Seal Beach Planning Commission, the Environmental Quality Control Board, and donates her time to various activities at Leisure World. In addition, she donates her sewing skills to the Seal Beach Play Group at the Marina Center. Her greatest contributions likely have been as a volunteer for the Seal Beach Friends of the Library, Mary Wilson Branch. She has been the bookstore manager for 10 years, leading a volunteer “staff” of fifty; under her leadership the bookstore donates more than $10,000 per year to the Library.

David Ronnenberg, Stanton — As President of CR&R Waste and Recycling Services, David Ronnenberg continues his family’s legacy of giving back to the local community. The company, and Ronnenberg personally, support numerous organizations throughout the county, including the Boys and Girls Club of Stanton and the Stanton Chamber of Commerce. Meanwhile, CR&R is recognized as one of the region’s most innovative and successful recycling and waste collection companies. Thanks to groundbreaking technologies, CR&R recycles over 120,000 tons of materials each year, creating cleaner communities, reducing air and water pollution, conserving landfill space, and extending natural resources. As a result of all these efforts, our community is a better place to live and work.

About the Americana Awards:

Tickets for the Americana Awards are available from the Cypress College Foundation for $225 per
person with various sponsorship levels also available. Information is available by calling (714) 484-7126 or at http://www.CypressCollege.edu or http://www.Facebook.com/AmericanaAwards. The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with no-host cocktails and a silent auction. Dinner is served at 7 p.m.

In July, 2010, Union Bank, N.A., strengthened its partnership with Cypress College, agreeing to serve as the title sponsor of the 2011, 2012 and 2013 Americana Awards. At the 2011 awards, Union Bank extended its sponsorship through 2015. Union Bank has a long-standing leadership role at the college with representation on the Cypress College Foundation Board of Directors. Union Bank’s five-year commitment to Cypress College totals $125,000.

For more information about the Americana Awards, please call the Cypress College Foundation office at (714) 484-7126 or visit: http://www.cypresscollege.edu/about/Foundation/.

About Cypress College:

Cypress College has motivated the minds of students since 1966. For nearly a half-million people — including actors, athletes, doctors, executives, mechanics, nurses and teachers — Cypress College has been a springboard to their dreams. For some, Cypress College is the ticket into their university of choice and for others it provides essential training for a rewarding career. Just one Cypress College class is often all it takes to provide cutting-edge skills that lead to a promotion or a new job.

Cypress College’s 15,500 students and the highly qualified teaching faculty are proud of the many excellent academic and vocational programs. Cypress College offers 58 university-transfer majors, 145 career-certificate programs, and degrees in 55 areas of study. The college’s traditional semesters begin in February and September, while short-term courses start throughout the year. A Cypress College education costs $46 per unit — $138 for a typical, full-credit class — California’s lowest tuition. Financial aid and scholarships also are available to qualifying students.

Cypress College is one of three campuses in the North Orange County Community College District and a member of the 110-campus California Community College System. The college primarily serves the cities of Anaheim, Buena Park, Cypress, Garden Grove, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Stanton.

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Bob Simpson is the president.

Located at 9200 Valley View Street in Cypress, the college is easily accessible from several Southern California freeways, including the 5, 91, 605, 22 and 405. The campus is just a stone’s-throw from Downtown Disney and Knott’s Berry Farm.

More information about Cypress College is available by calling (714) 484-7000 or by visiting the campus Web site at http://www.CypressCollege.edu.

About UnionBanCal Corporation & Union Bank, N.A.

Headquartered in San Francisco, UnionBanCal Corporation is a financial holding company with assets of $84 billion at June 30, 2010. Its primary subsidiary, Union Bank, N.A., is a full-service commercial bank providing an array of financial services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, and major corporations. The bank operated 396 banking offices in California, Oregon, Washington and Texas as well as two international offices, on June 30, 2010. UnionBanCal Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. Union Bank is a proud member of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG, NYSE:MTU), one of the world’s largest financial organizations. Visit www.unionbank.com for more information.

NOTE: Thumbnail portraits and identifications are attached.
2013 Americana Awards Citizens of the Year and Man of the Year

Below are portraits of the eight Americana Citizens of the Year, and the 2013 Americana Awards Man of the Year. They will be honored at the 38th Annual Americana Awards on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Disneyland Hotel. For more information about the Americana Awards, please call the Cypress College Foundation office at (714) 484-7126 or visit: http://www.cypresscollege.edu/about/Foundation/.

NOTE: Full-resolution versions of these thumbnail portraits are available from the Cypress College Public Information Office. The photographs are also available via download at: http://news.cypresscollege.edu/Photos/2013AmericanaAwards_portraits.zip.