

February 26, 2019

HUENEME CHAMBER NAMES 2018 CITIZEN & BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR; AWARDS PORT HUENEME POLICE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN'S AWARD

Celebrates 79th Anniversary with Annual Community Awards Dinner at Historic Bard Mansion

PORT HUENEME, Calif— The Hueneme Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its 79th anniversary hosting its annual Community Awards Dinner at the Historic Bard Mansion on Friday, March 29, 2019. Top honors will be awarded to the 2018 Citizen of the Year and Business Person of the Year.

Citizen of the Year honors will be presented to Beverly Merrill Kelley of Port Hueneme. Retiring from teaching in 2012, Ms. Kelley founded the Communications Department at California Lutheran University and was named Professor of the Year in 1987. Her volunteer contributions to Port Hueneme started in 1998 when she started as a "bookie" and tea hostess for the Friends of the Library Board, where she continues to volunteer to this day. She also donates her time and talents to the Port Hueneme Historical Society Museum as a docent and assist with many of the organization marketing and communications efforts.

Ms. Jessica Fuentes of Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU) will be honored as the Business Person of the Year. Manager of the Port Hueneme branch of VCCU, Ms. Fuentes was instrumental in its opening in 2013, which celebrated their five-year anniversary with Ms. Fuentes at the helm in 2018. She has co-hosted many financial literacy workshops helping to educate the community and hosted the first ever "Coffee with a Cop" event with the Port Hueneme Police Department giving local residents a change to get to know local law enforcement.

The Port Hueneme Police Officers' Association (PHPOA) will be presented with the Chairman's Award. Founded in 1984, the goal of the Port Hueneme Police Officers' Association is to partner with the community and provide quality police service through community interaction, emphasizing the highest degree of cooperation, professionalism and ethical behavior, and to create an atmosphere of safety and security. PHPOA donates money and time to benefit numerous charities, groups and organizations in Port Hueneme and throughout Ventura County. In 2018, they participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run and 21st Annual Read Across America program. They have been a partner in bringing Christmas cheer to Port Hueneme families providing support for the Chamber's Holly Day Tree Lighting and the City's Cops for Tots Toy drive.

The Chamber will also recognize several public servants from the community as well as military service members from Naval Base Ventura County: Police Officer of the Year - Officer Chris Taylor; Military Persons of the Year from NBVC - EO1 David Marler and MA1 Kyle T. Bromelia; NBVC Firefighter of the Year - Engineer Cesar Torres; Ventura County Firefighter of the Year – Captain Mike Fine; Educator of the Year – Missey Hernandez and Victor Gomez; and City of Port Hueneme Employee of the Year- Mr. Antonio Almanza.

Tickets are on sale now online at www.huenemechamber.com. For more information, email chamberinfo@huenemechamber.com or call 805-228-1366.

About the Hueneme Chamber of Commerce

Incorporation of the Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce took place in 1940, and its original Board of Directors was the driving force behind the incorporation of the City of Port Hueneme in 1948. The mission of the Hueneme Chamber of Commerce is to be a dynamic business organization striving to promote growth, prosperity and a quality of life for our members and surrounding community. For more information, please visit www.huenemechamber.com.

Contact:

Tracy Sisson Phillips
President/CEO
Hueneme Chamber of Commerce
805-228-1366
chamberinfo@huenemechamber.com
www.huenemechamber.com

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