



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2009

MAYOR ANNOUNCES NATIONAL OLDER AMERICANS MONTH EVENT
Gold and Silver Awards to be Presented to Four Oakland Residents

OAKLAND – The City of Oakland’s Department of Human Services will host its 7th **Annual Celebrate Aging – Making Oakland a Great Place to Grow Old on Friday, May 29, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Frank Ogawa Plaza.** This free event, marking National Older Americans Month, will feature guest speaker **Ruth Beckford**, dancer, actress, author, and Oakland-born activist. Entertainment will include performances by the Bay Area Blues Society, the Stovall Sisters, singer/songwriter Blanca, STAGEBRIDGE, Emeryville Taiko, roaming clowns and a senior art exhibit featuring more than 40 artists. Also, there will be resource booths with over 65 community agencies participating. Jerri Lange, a veteran broadcaster and the first African American woman to have a syndicated national talk show on PBS will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies. Additionally, the City of Oakland will recognize four individuals with Gold and Silver Awards acknowledging the valued experience, wisdom and richness of our older residents and honoring their tremendous and lasting contributions toward making Oakland a great place to grow old!

“When you start to have as much gray hair as I do, Older Americans Month begins to hold a special place in your heart,” said Mayor Ron Dellums. “Whether they’ve stood on the sidelines or been on the frontlines fighting for equality or fighting for justice, older Americans have seen this country change era-after-era. This event, which marks Older Americans Month in the city of Oakland, will allow us to reflect on historical moments and to pay tribute to our brothers and sisters who have brought us to where we are today.”

The Gold and Silver Award recipients are: **Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley** (District 4) for his long-running advocacy on behalf Oakland seniors that began in 1986 when he created United Seniors of Oakland and Alameda County; **community activist Cathy Cade**, a pioneer lesbian feminist who has captured the lesbian movement for nearly 40 years; **volunteer Robert Smith with the City of Oakland’s Senior Companion Program** who skillfully cares for some of our most frail and challenging clients; and **five Safe Walk to School Program monitors (Norma Jean Cureaux, Marylou Rivera, Helen Bradford, Virginia Glosson, Pat Harris)** who help keep our children safe as they go to and from school.

The month of May was first designated Senior Citizens Month in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy and later deemed Older Americans Month by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. It is established as a time to acknowledge the contributions of older persons in our country with ceremonies, fairs and events. For more information, please call (510) 238-2377.

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For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:

 : <http://www.youtube.com/ronalddellums>

 : <http://www.facebook.com/mayorrondellums>

 : <http://web.me.com/mayorrondellums>


CITY OF OAKLAND: <http://www.mayorrondellums.org>