



Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

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GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL NAMES 24 OUTSTANDING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO HONOR IN ITS SATURDAY PARADE

GARDEN GROVE, CA (May 8, 2009) – The theme of the 51st annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is “HONORING OUR HEALTHCARE HEROES.” As part of the four-day Memorial Day weekend event – to be held May 22-25, 2009 -- the festival’s board of directors sought outstanding healthcare professionals to honor in the Saturday, May 23rd parade. Over 1,000 postcards requesting submissions were distributed to healthcare facilities. Twenty-four healthcare heroes -- who have acted with bravery, gone above and beyond the call of duty, demonstrated outstanding skill or provided exceptional care to patients -- were selected. Honorees include physicians, nurses, an optometrist, a dentist, a chiropractor, a laboratory scientist and social workers, plus representatives from hospital and outstanding healthcare charities.

NINE HONOREES FROM GARDEN GROVE

In addition to the festival’s two Theme Grand Marshals, Dr. Sheldon Singer and Dr. Melville Singer nine Garden Grove healthcare professionals were named. Physicians Dr. William Annan, Dr. Douglas Clark and Dr. Arthur Silk were chosen. Others from Garden Grove include Dr. Barbara Victor, chief of staff at Garden Grove Hospital, Optometrist Dr. Sally Dang, Dentist Dr. Gary Heidner, Chiropractor Dr. Michael Russo, Susanna Duron Heapy, a Garden Grove Unified School District pediatric nurse practitioner, and Noel Burcelis, social worker/director of Helping Hands for Better Living.

SIX HOSPITALS REPRESENTED

Healthcare professionals also to be honored are from local hospitals. In addition to Garden Grove Hospital, they include Dr. Paul Vollucci and Dr. Emil Dionysian from Kaiser Permanente, Dr. Marita Fortades at Children’s Hospital of Orange County, and the Veteran’s Administration Hospital’s Dr. Patricia Nance, chief of Comprehensive Rehabilitation. Additional honorees are Lynn Perkins, a clinical laboratory scientist at Fountain Valley Regional Medical Center and from St. Joseph’s Hospital: Nurse Meranda Inez Alvarez; social worker Suzanne Engelder; and Linda Pierog, an emergency room nurse practitioner.

HEALTHCARE CHARITIES ALSO HONORED

Representatives from outstanding healthcare charities will also be celebrated in the parade. The charities include Laurie Beeler from United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County, Dr. Judith Brill from Operation Smile, Lisa Manheim from the Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research, and Lilly Mucarsel from the American Diabetes Association.

For more information, visit www.strawberryfestival.org or email info@strawberryfestival.org.