Rotary Club of San Diego

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NEWS RELEASE

2006 SALUTE TO LOCAL HEROES

(January 10, 2007) – A terminally ill woman in a wheel chair came to the aid of a stabbing victim is among the six people who will be honored Thursday **(January 11)** as local heroes by the heads of the three largest local law enforcement agencies in San Diego County.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Diego, the 16TH annual Salute to Local Heroes recognizes average citizens who have performed courageous deeds that assisted fellow citizens and/or law enforcement. Presenting the awards will be Sheriff Bill Kolender, District Attorney Bonnie M. Dumanis and San Diego Police Chief Bill Lansdowne.

The honorees are:

Jason Bemis (San Diego) assisted a hate crime victim at the Balboa Park Pride Parade who was being beaten by three suspects.

John Fontanini (San Diego), witnessed a bank robbery, followed the suspect, and reported to the police

Paula Stead (Casa de Oro) came to the aid of a homicide victim.

Charles Moore (Santee) was instrumental in the arrest and apprehension of a robbery suspect.

Angel Rivera (Ramona) came to the aid of a rape victim and testified at the trial.

And **Jenny Pino** (Lemon Grove) at great personal risk came to the aid of a victim that was being stabbed.

The San Diego Rotary Club also will present an award to one organization that has made a significant contribution to public safety in San Diego County. The recipient will be announced at the end of the official program.

The Salute to Local Heroes will be held at the Sheraton Harbor Island-East Hotel, 1380 Harbor Island Drive (across from Lindbergh Field). The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with a hosted reception in the Harbor's Marina 1 room. ***This will be an excellent opportunity for media to interview the honorees.***

The luncheon -- in the Harbor Island Ballrooms 1 & 2 -- begins at noon, with the first award scheduled to be presented at approximately 12:45 p.m. The ceremony will be over by 1:30.

We encourage your coverage of these average citizens being honored for helping to make this a safer community.

For further information, contact Chet Lathrop, Executive Director of the Rotary Club of San Diego, at (619) 299-3309.