



Mayor Dick Murphy NEWS FOR RELEASE

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MAYOR MURPHY NAMED POLITICIAN OF THE YEAR BY NATIONAL LIBRARY PUBLICATION

San Diego - Mayor Dick Murphy has been named "Politician of the Year" by Library Journal, the oldest independent national library publication in the United States. Mayor Murphy appears on the cover of the magazine's September 15, 2004, issue.

In the cover story, Library Journal Editor in Chief John Berry III wrote, "Because of his vision, his commitment to libraries, his conviction that they are as important as other city services and for having the fortitude to execute the library plan, San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy is LJ's choice for Politician of the Year."

"This is a wonderful honor and acknowledges our hard work in building a library system for the 21st century," said Mayor Murphy. "I look forward to continuing to improve libraries for all San Diegans throughout the city."

When he took office in 2001, Mayor Murphy established 10 primary goals for his administration. Goal #7 is to rebuild the city library system. In 2002, the Mayor and City Council approved a landmark \$312.3 million program to build or improve 24 libraries throughout San Diego. One of the projects is a new, state-of-the-art Main Library to be built in downtown.

Since the program began, the city has opened a new Point Loma-Hervey Branch that is five times the size of the older facility it replaced. In addition, the La Jolla-Riford Branch was expanded to double its size. Earlier this year, construction began on a new College-Rolando library and the expansion of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch. Before the end of the year, groundbreakings are planned for new branches in Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa and North University City, and for the new Main Library.

"Our libraries should be seen as a comprehensive system, with branch libraries throughout the community linked to a main library," said Mayor Murphy. "Our libraries provide children a clean and positive place to go. And it gives all people access to information and personal growth."

San Diego is currently served by 35 libraries with a circulation of more than 6 million annually. The San Diego Public Library will celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2007.

Founded in 1876 and based in New York City, Library Journal is read by more than 100,000 library directors, administrators, and others in public, academic and special libraries. The magazine is published by Reed Business Information.

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