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Sept. 25, 2008

Harriet Miller Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at League of California Cities Annual Conference

LONG BEACH — Harriet Miller, former mayor of Santa Barbara, was honored with the League of California Cities Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award today at the League's annual conference in Long Beach.

Miller was elected mayor of Santa Barbara in 1995 and served until retirement in 2002. Prior to her service as mayor, she was a member of the Santa Barbara City Council from 1987 through 1994. A former member of the League of California Cities board of directors, Miller also served on the boards of the National League of Cities and the Institute for Local Government, and represented her city at the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. Miller was also the superintendent of public instruction for the State of Montana and served as the director of American Association of Retired Persons in Washington, D.C.

Hal Conklin, a League past president and former mayor of the City of Santa Barbara presented Miller with the award.

"Harriet Miller epitomizes a true public servant in the very best sense of the term. That's why the League's past presidents selected her for this prestigious award. She consistently demonstrated a great capacity to lead, a genuine concern for people, and the ability to make a difference. Harriet's service advanced the quality of life for Santa Barbara residents and helped the League of California Cities become a more effective advocate for all California cities," noted Conklin.

Miller spoke about her long-term commitment to community service. "Local government is the most meaningful to me. It's the level of government closest and most responsive to the people," remarked Miller.

The League's Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 1996 and is given annually to an individual who has made a significant and unique contribution to the state or to his or her community over an extended period of years. Preference is given to nominees with close ties to cities; however, nominees may also be selected from the categories of local government leaders, academics/teachers, authors, media producers, community leaders, and state or national leaders.

The League of California Cities was established by and for city officials in 1898 to provide opportunities for members to meet and exchange ideas, set policies, and advocate for legislation that protects and upholds the principles of local control.

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