

## STARS SHINE AT NAWBO'S 'REMARKABLE WOMEN' EVENT

*"A woman is like a teabag. You don't know how strong she is until she's in hot water."*

-- Eleanor Roosevelt

IRVINE, Calif., Oct. 15, 2004 -- Designated as a Remarkable Woman by the National Association for Women Business Owners, Orange County chapter (NAWBO-OC), political icon-turned-entrepreneur Harriett Wieder showed her indomitable spirit by appearing in a wheelchair to accept her reward less than two weeks after surgery to replace a broken hip.

In a short talk laced with humor and sage advice, Wieder credited fellow honoree **Valinda Martin**, who was paralyzed in a boating accident 11 years ago, for inspiring her to attend the event, no matter the circumstances.

The event was the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Remarkable Women Awards Luncheon, touted as "absolutely the best luncheon in all of Orange County every year" by Henry Walker, executive vice president of the event's Marquee Sponsor, Farmers & Merchants Bank.

A record crowd of approximately 750 women and men applauded the achievements of 32 Remarkable Women and one male honoree. The latter was described as "the bravest man in the world" by mistress of ceremonies Ann Pulice, anchor of KOCE-TV's "Real Orange." Pulice provided her own testimonial for the event, which she said is the only luncheon she and her fellow workers at KOCE "attend every single year, without fail."

NAWBO-OC President Rochelle Schneider of RJS Legal & Business Consulting, said, "'I am proud to lead an organization that organizes an event of this magnitude. This really is a platform for recognizing the women who guide us, as guiding stars every day.'" Co-chairs for the event were Cathy Daugherty of Trademark Insurance and Danielle Hewitt of Invisible Accountant.

In addition to **Wieder**, president of the consulting firm Linkage, and **Martin**, who owns Art for the Soul galleries on Balboa Island and in Laguna Beach, headliner honorees were **Linda Hawkins**, president of Winkelmann Realty in Fullerton; **Hilary Kaye**, president of Hilary Kaye Associates, Inc., a Tustin public relations firm; and **Susan VerBurg**, CEO of Merlex Stucco, Orange.

Along with the five headliners, the event honored individuals selected as Members of the Year by 27 community and professional organizations, including NAWBO's own Woman of the Year, Alice Lei, owner of Nightingale Technology.

Honorees spoke of obstacles overcome, dreams fulfilled, and the passion that drives them to succeed. Said **Martin**, "Fear is a force so strong it can stop you. Not letting it is the remarkable part of who you are. I took my adversity and turned it into my amazing life."

In addition to Farmers & Merchants Bank, sponsors included: *Platinum Sponsor* Sunwest Bank; *Gold Sponsor* Citibank; *Silver Sponsor* Boeing; *NAWBO Partners* Metropolitan Water District and The Image Center; *Champion Sponsors* Applied Computer Solutions, BB Graphics, MyBar Corporation and Orange County Transportation Authority; *Media Sponsors* OC Metro, Orange Coast and Adelphia; and *In-kind Sponsors* Art for the Soul; The Back Bay Rowing and Running Club; Bowers Museum; Ice Magic; Invisible Accountant; Michael Harrison, artist; Mocha Kiss Coffee; Stephanie Hager Photography; Neemo Enterprises and Zov's Bistro.