

**INSTRUCTIONS TO SISTER CITY MEMBERS:** Issue this press release any time between now and July 11, 2006 to honor recipients of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Distinguished Volunteers. Please send to news media in your area, such as newspapers, television stations, or radio stations. If you need advice on working with the press or sample press releases, consult the media fact sheets in the [Communications Toolkit](#) produced by Sister Cities International or contact the Communications Department at [communications@sister-cities.org](mailto:communications@sister-cities.org). You may want to offer a photograph (if sending digitally, most newspapers prefer images scanned at a minimum of 300 dots per inch).

**\*\* NEWS RELEASE \*\***

LOCAL [INSERT NAME] TO RECEIVE SISTER CITY HONOR  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Distinguished Volunteers Recognizes Outreach to Countries Abroad*

Local Contact: INSERT CONTACT NAME, PHONE, EMAIL ADDRESS  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE

YOUR TOWN, STATE - Ordinary citizens will be honored for extraordinary influence in the sister city movement this summer. INSERT NAME will be inducted to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Distinguished Volunteers this summer during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C.

INSERT INFORMATION HERE ABOUT HOW THE NOMINEE CONTRIBUTED TO YOUR SISTER CITY PROGRAM, THE SISTER CITY MOVEMENT, ETC.

The induction ceremony will take place at the prestigious Warner Theatre on Saturday, July 15, 2006, where a musical tribute to citizen diplomats will be performed.

“The inductees to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Distinguished Volunteers have passionately supported the sister city mission to build a peaceful world anchored in mutual respect and understanding,” said Tim Honey, executive director of Sister Cities International. “Their work building friendships around the world as ambassadors of goodwill has profoundly impacted the way other countries view the United States.”

Inductees for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Circle of Distinguished Volunteers were nominated by local sister city programs. Inductees were chosen because of their involvement in sister city activities and significant efforts to building cross-cultural international partnerships.

The sister city movement is marking the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its founding in 2006. The movement dates its beginnings to a White House Conference on Citizen Diplomacy convened in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to bring together citizens forging ties with communities abroad. On September 11, 1956, President Eisenhower exhorted delegates, “to help build the road to an

enduring peace” and a Civic Committee was appointed by the President to set up town affiliations linking U.S. communities with counterparts around the globe.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, which will take place July 13-15, 2006, will involve more than 1,000 sister city activists from throughout the globe. President George W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton are both invited to speak at the conference. Conference activities will include embassy receptions, visits to Capitol Hill, workshops on economic development, and the National Summit on Citizen Diplomacy.

Registration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference is available online at [www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org) through June 23, 2006.

Representing more than 2,400 communities in 130 countries, Sister Cities International ([www.sister-cities.org](http://www.sister-cities.org)) is a citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between the U.S. and communities abroad. Begun in 1956 after a White House summit where U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for people-to-people exchanges, sister city partnerships are tailored to local interests and increase global cooperation at the grassroots level. Sister Cities International promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation by focusing on sustainable development, youth and education, arts and culture, humanitarian assistance and economic growth programs.

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