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CITY OF DOWNEY

PRESS RELEASE



Downey Couple Receives Mayor's Diakonia Award

Downey, CA, September 4, 2013: Mayor Mario A. Guerra presented his Mayor's Diakonia Award to Downey residents Sam and Beverly Mathis, a married couple who has dedicated countless hours to giving back to the community. The special presentation was held at the City Council meeting on August 27, 2013.

Sam & Beverly Mathis have been Downey residents for 48 years and have been married for 54 years. Both Sam & Beverly volunteer their time to assist with local events and fundraisers throughout the year. They are involved in several local organizations that work hard to make a difference in the lives of others. Sam has been a member of the Downey Optimist Club for 35 years, has chaired the Optimist/Soroptimist Halloween Pumpkin Patch event for the last 20 years, is a Rancho Los Amigos Board Member and helps fund the annual Pediatric Carnival at Rancho. Beverly has been a member of the Assistance League of Downey for 25 years and of the Downey Soroptimist Club for 30 years. She is also Chair of the Downey Optimist Club and Downey Soroptimist Club Scholarship Programs, was recently appointed to the Downey Library Advisory Board and has chaired the Rancho Amistad Fundraiser for the last few years.

"Mr. & Mrs. Mathis are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things in our community. We are grateful for all that they do to make Downey a better place and they could not be more deserving of this award," said Mayor Mario A. Guerra.

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Mayor's Diakonia Award. The word Diakonia means "service" in Greek and the award will be presented throughout the year to those who perform random acts of kindness and who go out of their way to make a difference in the community. Anyone wishing to nominate someone for the Mayor's Diakonia Award should contact the City Council office at 562-904-7274 or email at sconte@downeyca.org.

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