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Seven Prestigious Awards Presented at the CERT 30th Anniversary National Conference

Los Angeles, CA –CaliforniaVolunteers presented today the 2016 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) 30th Anniversary National Conference Awards to honorees that have contributed to making CERT so successful.

"Our CERT programs throughout the nation have been successful thanks in part to great people and organizations like these," said CaliforniaVolunteers Director of Disaster and Volunteering Preparedness Suu-Va Tai. "The award winners that were chosen are positive examples of people stepping up to help their communities through the power of CERT."

The awards were presented today during the CERT 30th Anniversary National Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Universal City.

The 2016 CERT 30th Anniversary National Conference Award winners are as follows:

Outstanding Community Emergency Response Team Initiatives and/or Innovation - Irvine Police Department CERT, California

Presented to the Irvine Police Department CERT, which created and implemented an initiative that improved the ability of their CERT program to achieve innovative and sustainable practices in emergency management to make their jurisdiction safer, stronger, better prepared, and more resilient.

Outstanding Inclusive Initiatives in Emergency Management - Office of Access and Functional Needs, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Presented to the Office of Access and Functional Needs, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, which has excelled in working with populations that are disproportionately impacted by disasters due to risks associated with access and functional needs in order to better prepare them for disasters.

Most Valuable CERT Volunteer - Trish Huelga, Ozark, Missouri

Presented to Trish Huelga for her outstanding contribution to her CERT program and community.

Outstanding Private Sector Initiatives - Nutrilite CERT, Buena Park, California

Presented to Nutrilite CERT, which has demonstrated outstanding creativity and made a measurable impact in engaging employees and local communities in improving disaster preparedness and resilience.

Preparing the Whole Community - City of Issaquah CERT Program, Issaquah, Washington

Presented to the City of Issaquah CERT Program, which successfully engaged their community to improve disaster preparedness and resilience; encouraged and explored ways to develop whole community partnerships; and advocated a grassroots approach to emergency planning.

Private Sector Award – NBCUniversal, Hollywood, California

Presented to NBCUniversal for going above and beyond within the private sector to grow and promote a CERT program.

Lifetime Achievement Award – Frank Borden, Los Angeles, California

Presented to Frank Borden, also known as the “Father of CERT,” for his lifetime commitment to CERT.

About CaliforniaVolunteers

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering, including the state AmeriCorps program and the management of volunteers and monetary donations during times of disasters. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

About CERT

Developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates individuals about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. CERT members give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to affected individuals and organize volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that improve the safety of their community.