



Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast PRESS RELEASE

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'MILK WOULD BE PROUD, BUT NOT PATIENT,' GIULIANO TELLS CROWD AT HARVEY MILK DIVERSITY BREAKFAST

Palm Springs, CA - More than 200 community leaders and activists were present to hear keynote speaker **Neil Giuliano**, CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and former mayor of Tempe, AZ, tell them that "Harvey Milk would be proud, but not patient, in viewing the many advances to gay rights we have today," at the first **Coachella Valley Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast** this morning, Monday, May 21, at the Hilton Palm Springs.

Hosted by the Greater Palm Springs Pride and Equality California Palm Springs, along with the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast Coalition, the breakfast featured a number of special guests, among them **Hailey Carr**, co-President of the La Quinta High School Gay-Straight Alliance, who told the audience that "Harvey Milk was her hero and had inspired her with his activism, courage and message of hope.

Also present was **Scott Hines**, Mayor of Rancho Mirage, **Sam Toles**, Councilman from Cathedral City, and **Jay Thompson**, City Clerk for Palm Springs, who each read proclamations naming May 22nd as **Harvey Milk Day** in their cities that coincide with Harvey Milk Day being celebrated across California.

In welcoming everyone, **Ron deHarte**, Executive Director of Greater Palm Springs Pride, said that this was a historic gathering in celebration of Harvey Milk, as not only the first one in the Coachella Valley, but also the first in the world to occur on the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation, a Sovereign Nation.

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Rancho Mirage resident **David Sanchez**, Past President and CEO of the California Teachers Association, and grade school and community college teacher, was the recipient of the first *Harvey B. Milk Leadership Award of the Coachella Valley*. Bestowed upon an individual who has worked to enrich the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents of the Coachella Valley through activism in labor, housing, education and human rights, Sanchez was the first Latino president of the CTA with a strong record of accomplishments during his 27 years in the teaching profession including being named one of 80 Latino "leaders of the Future" in California.

Others taking part included **David Brinkman**, CEO of the Deserts AIDS Project; the **Rev. Dr. Amanda Burr**, United Methodist Church; **John O'Connor**, Executive Director of The LGBT Community Center of the Desert; **George Zander** from Equality California Palm Springs, **Palm Springs Gay Veterans/American Veterans for Equal Rights**, and **Caballeros: The Gay Men's Chorus of Palm Springs; Desert Winds Freedom Band**, and **Jimmy James**, who provided musical entertainment.

Proceeds from the Breakfast went toward funding anti-bullying efforts in the Coachella Valley by supporting local Gay Straight Alliances in the local schools.



David A. Sanchez of Rancho Mirage, Center, and former President of the California Teachers Association, receiving the 1st *Harvey B. Milk Leadership Award of the Coachella Valley*.

He is pictured with **George Zander** from Equality California, left, and **Ron deHarte**, Executive Director of Greater Palm Springs Pride, right.

Bruce Howell Photo