



## Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast PRESS RELEASE

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### LEADER, ACTIVIST, FORMER MAYOR & AUTHOR NEIL GIULIANO TO BE FEATURED HARVEY MILK DIVERSITY BREAKFAST SPEAKER



Palm Springs, CA - Greater Palm Springs Pride and Equality California Palm Springs, along with the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast Coalition, is pleased to announce that **Neil Giuliano**, CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and former mayor of Tempe, AZ, will be the keynote speaker at the first **Coachella Valley Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast** on **Monday, May 21, 2012, from 7:30-9:00 AM.**

The breakfast will be held at the Hilton Palm Springs, 400 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, to honor the memory of Harvey Milk, an American hero, and to strengthen coalitions among the many diverse community organizations that work toward equality in the Coachella Valley.

Giuliano made his first political mark as Mayor of Tempe in 1994 as the youngest person ever elected to that post. Two years into his tenure as Mayor, Giuliano came out as a gay man and continued to serve Tempe with distinction, winning re-election three times and surviving an anti-gay recall election with 68% of the vote. After leaving office, Giuliano went on to serve as President of GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation), and currently is CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

In June, Giuliano's new book "**The Campaign Within: A Mayor's Private Journey to Public Leadership**" will debut. Part personal memoir, part behind the scenes political stories and part inspirational social justice call-to-arms, the book very candidly shares his

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private and public journey of a life in politics, activism, philanthropy, and being on the front lines of today's social justice issues and advancement.

During the breakfast the first *Harvey B. Milk Leadership Award of the Coachella Valley* will be awarded to **David Sanchez**, Past President and CEO of the California Teachers Association, and grade school and community college teacher. The first Latino president of the CTA, Sanchez has 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. During his tenure, he advocated for reduced class size reduction, campaigned for three successful statewide school bonds, and other issues on behalf of teachers in California. Sanchez recently retired to Rancho Mirage where he lives with his partner, Keith Pratt.

When he was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, Milk (1930-1978) became one of the first openly gay men to be elected to political office in the United States. On election night, Harvey Milk reminded his supporters: "This is not my victory – it's yours. If a gay man can win, it proves that there is hope for all minorities who are willing to fight." He was assassinated (along with Mayor George Moscone) on November 27, 1978, only 11 months after taking office.

Tickets for the event are \$35, with proceeds benefiting anti-bullying efforts in the Coachella Valley, and can be purchased at <http://Bit.ly/psmilk>. For more information call 760-416-8711 or email [milk@pspride.org](mailto:milk@pspride.org).