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May 3, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors retiring Hillsboro Police Chief Ron Louie with humanitarian award

Chief Ron Louie of the Hillsboro Police Department (HPD) will be honored with the *Vollum Ecumenical Humanitarian Award* on May 10, 2007, at the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner. Named for the late Howard Vollum and his wife Jean, the award recognizes “outstanding commitment to humanitarian responsibility that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for all.” Retiring in June, Louie’s career-long dedication to humanitarian responsibility is evident in his ongoing innovative community policing strategies and strong commitment to multi-culturalism.

Louie’s innovative initiatives include the community Mediation Program, which utilizes police staff and volunteers to resolve quality of life issues such as disputing neighbors, and the Truancy Mediation Program to “get kids back in school, try to find out what the problems are that are keeping them away from school, and support them at home as well.”

Louie has addressed the problem of racial profiling head on, collecting data to identify bias, training police officers and engaging the community and media in conversation on the issue. His efforts were recognized by Governor Kulongoski when he was appointed to the Law Enforcement Contacts Committee to study and make recommendations to eliminate racial profiling and bias policing in Oregon. Louie has promoted organizational diversity by removing the “glass ceilings” from hiring and promotion, increasing the number of women officers on the HPD, including the first woman Deputy Chief of Police, Lila Ashenbrenner.

Louie and his staff have devoted time and resources to better understand the mentally ill and emotionally distraught, including a unique 30 hours of officer training with local mental health providers and clients. When asked at the end of the training what he had learned, Louie remarked, “Individuals diagnosed with mental illness face innumerable challenges. Law enforcement personnel need to understand these challenges—from the perspective of those who are experiencing emotional trauma—and attempt to truly communicate and try to actively listen first before taking action!”

On the global stage, Louie and the HPD have been a participating partner with the Pacific Institute for Ethics and Social Policy, taking on such controversial topics as immigration reform; the balance between safety, security and civil liberties; fears and reactions to 9-11 and global terrorism; and balancing the requirements of homeland security with the cherished values and protections of the Constitution.

MEMBER DENOMINATIONS

African Methodist Episcopal Church ■ African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church ■ American Baptist Churches ■ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ■ Christian Methodist Episcopal Church ■ Church of the Brethren
Community of Christ ■ Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon ■ Episcopal Diocese of Oregon ■ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ■ Greek Orthodox Church ■ Presbyterian Church (USA)
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) ■ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland ■ United Church of Christ ■ United Methodist Church ■ Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

The son of a classic Chinese opera actor, Louie was born and raised in San Francisco's Chinatown. He dropped out of high school at age 16, joining the U.S. Marines, and served in Vietnam and Okinawa before returning to the United States to attend college on the G. I. Bill. Prior to joining law enforcement, he was an Anthropology teacher at San Francisco State University and the College of San Mateo.

Louie served five years as the Chief of the Astoria, Ore., Police Department, and 13 years with the Palo Alto, Calif., Police Department before becoming Chief of the Hillsboro Police Department in 1992. A graduate of both the FBI National Academy and FBI Law Enforcement Executive Leadership Academy in Quantico, Va., and the Oregon Command College, he holds a Masters of Public Administration from Hayward State University, MA degree in Anthropology from San Francisco State University, and a BA degree in Social Science from Hayward State University. Chief Louie served a full term on the United States Civil Rights Commission, Oregon Committee, and is also a founding member of the Human Rights Council of Washington County.

Louie has been honored with many awards during his distinguished career. This year alone, he received the *American Legion Officer of the Year Award*, the *Top Administrator Award* from the Oregon Crime Prevention Association, as well as the *Sanidad Award for Community Healing*.

The EMO Annual Community Awards & Celebration Dinner will be held at The Hilton Hotel, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland. For more information, call Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054 or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox bodies—congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.