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Royce Pollard named Clark County's First Citizen

Vancouver, WA – April 29, 2010. The Community Foundation for Southwest Washington announced today that former six-term Mayor Royce Pollard has been selected as Clark County's First Citizen for 2010. The First Citizen Award recognizes a Clark County resident who has modeled exemplary citizenship through their actions and service to the community. The honor will be awarded on Thursday, June 3, 2010, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hilton Vancouver Washington.

Under Royce Pollard's leadership, the City of Vancouver grew from the 11th to the fourth largest city in the State of Washington. The city's identity and national reputation grew as well, branded by Pollard as "America's Vancouver." In addition to serving for seven years on City Council and 14 years a mayor, Pollard has held positions with 22 organizations in Clark County.

During more than 20 years of public service, Pollard championed a number of city developments to increase the quality of life in Vancouver, including:

- **Major downtown development**, including the complete renovation of Esther Short Park and the Propstra Square addition downtown.
- The **Fort Vancouver National Trust**, preserving historic Officers Row and turning it into a one-of-a-kind business and residential area.

- An **expansion of Vancouver’s community parks and recreation facilities**, including the Firstenberg Community Center.
- **Successfully advocating against the closing of the Veteran’s Administration Hospital**, ensuring our veterans have access to critical benefits.
- **Tremendous growth in the library system**, including the passing of a bond measure for new Cascade Park and main libraries.
- **Extending both the east and west portion of Mill Plain Boulevard** to decrease congestion and enhance the quality of our neighborhoods.
- **Exceptional growth of neighborhood associations**. As more and more citizens invested in their neighborhoods, the number of associations tripled.

Pollard also championed the following projects, which when completed will have a transformational effect on the City of Vancouver:

- The **Boise Cascade Waterfront Development**, which will turn an industrial waterfront into a destination for citizens and families.
- **The Columbia River Crossing Project** to reduce congestion and update the I-5 bridge crossing.

Below is a sampling of supporters’ comments in letters of endorsement.

“Today, Vancouver has an identity of its own – it is no longer a suburb of Portland, nor is it a town in British Columbia. Royce not only helped shape your city’s present, but he has also laid a solid foundation for continued growth. His fingerprints will forever remain on ‘America’s Vancouver,’” said Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington.

“I remember a lecture by a major city planner who told us, ‘Look at the picture of VJ Day, Times Square in New York, Pershing Square in Los Angeles, Union Square in San Francisco. Now look at your own city. Where would you go on your city’s VJ Day? That is the heart of your city.’ On September 11, the town gathered at Esther Short Park. Royce gave us a heart,” said Pat Jollota, former City Council Member.

“Royce’ list of accomplishments is long, but I believe his greatest accomplishment was giving our community a stronger sense of self. He is extremely proud of “America’s Vancouver” and he believes every man, woman and child should burst with the same kind of pride. In many ways, he woke us up and opened our eyes to our potential and possibilities,” said Pat McDonnell, City Manager.

“Royce singlehandedly changed the office of Vancouver mayor from part-time to essentially a full-time position. He gave thousands of hours of personal time to represent the City to almost every group that requested him. Whether he was asked to say a few words, cut a ribbon or welcome a visitor, he always did it,” said Dave Smith, a retired Air Force pilot and friend of Pollard.

About the First Citizen Award

Recipients of the First Citizen Award, presented since 1939, are selected by a volunteer committee of community leaders and past award recipients. Recipients are chosen for their accomplishments and contributions to the community in a number of areas, including effectiveness in leadership roles, raising community standards and expectations, strengthening community identity and civic pride, and exemplary giving of time, self and resources. For a full listing of criteria or to view past recipients, visit our website at www.cfsww.org/events/firstcitizenaward/.

About the First Citizen Awards Event:

The event will begin at 4 p.m. with a reception in Royce Pollard’s honor. The formal awards program will be held at 5 p.m. Regents Bank is the presenting sponsor in partnership with The Community Foundation and *The Columbian*. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and beverages will be served. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be reserved by contacting the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce at 360-694-2588 or online at www.vancouverusa.com

About the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington:

The Community Foundation helps a broad cross section of citizens build stronger communities through effective philanthropy. One of the nation’s 700 community foundations, it is a tax-exempt, public charity that primarily serves southwest Washington. The Foundation

holds more than 250 distinct Funds, ranging in size from \$10,000 to more than \$3 million, that are pooled, managed and invested to generate growth and income for granting and inflation purposes. Governed by a volunteer Board of local leaders, the Foundation offers services to donors and nonprofit organizations and a wide range of benefits to the community. In total, the Community Foundation has infused more than \$87 million into the community since it was established in 1984.

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