

Clark County Health District  
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Las Vegas, NV 89106  
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# Media Alert

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April 5, 2001  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Public Health Heroes Recognized

**WHAT** As part of its annual celebration of National Public Health Week the Clark County Health District recognizes the contributions of organizations and individuals whose efforts have served to better the health and well-being of our community.

**WHO** Public Health Heroes: Richard Bunker, Nevada Resort Association  
John Ellerton, MD, Tobacco Control Advocate  
Dale Martin, Hardin & Sons, Inc.  
Colleen McCarty, KVVU Fox 5 News  
David Mereaux, Street Teens  
Glenda Olsen, Clark County Social Services  
Ben Sasaki, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin  
Barbara Wright, Clark County Social Services

CARE (Clean Air Recognition Effort) Awardees: Construction Industry Coalition  
Yellow Check Star Transportation

(See attached for more details.)

**WHEN** April 6, 2001  
8:30 a.m.

**WHERE** Clark County Health District Auditorium  
625 Shadow Lane, Las Vegas, NV

(more)

## **Public Health Hero Awards**

### **Richard Bunker, Nevada Resort Association**

Mr. Bunker is a valuable asset to the Health District's environmental health staff. He assists with annual preparations for New Year's Eve events, has supported fee increases to fund inspections and staffing, and facilitated cooperative efforts to investigate suspected foodborne illnesses.

### **John Ellerton, MD**

As an oncologist Dr. Ellerton sees first hand the toll of tobacco use. He is a proponent of tobacco control and served as the first chair of Clark County's Anti-Tobacco coalition and was appointed to the Task Force for the Fund for a Healthy Nevada.

### **Dale Martin, Hardin & Sons, Inc.**

As a contractor for individual sewage disposal systems Mr. Martin has proved to be an asset to both the Health District and the clients that he represents. He consistently offers innovative and effective solutions to difficult design and construction problems and has voluntarily delayed project to ensure they are completed properly in order to ensure public safety.

### **Glenda Olsen, Clark County Social Services**

#### **Barbara Wright, Clark County Social Services**

Ms. Olsen and Ms. Wright are caseworkers with Social Services. They are known for the great lengths they go to in order to ensure clients are obtaining the best care and services possible. They go beyond the requirements of their job benefiting not only the clients they serve but also their service partners.

### **Colleen McCarty, Fox 5 News**

Ms. McCarty spent a considerable amount of time on the streets getting to know homeless children and developing a true understanding for the challenges that they face. Her efforts brought recognition to a segment of the homeless population that is often ignored. The result was an increase of public awareness, donations and volunteers for this important cause.

### **David Mereaux, Street Teens**

Mr. Mereaux leads an organization known as Street Teens. He was actively involved with the homeless youth issue in California. Upon retiring and relocating to Las Vegas he soon realized there was a tremendous need for services for homeless youth. In order to meet these needs he founded the Street Teens outreach program. Through Street Teens Mr. Mereaux has worked diligently not only to provide

for their basic needs, but to build trusting relationships with these young people in order to fill a void in their lives as an adult role model and advisor.

**Ben Sasaki, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin**

As a food and beverage director Mr. Sasaki has fostered a positive relationship with health inspectors, utilizing the inspection process to educate his employees. He has been instrumental in developing several new programs that promote food safety education, leading efforts to implement a Food Safety Fair in Laughlin and a distance learning program for foodhandlers.

**CARE Awards (Clean Air Recognition Effort)**

**Construction Industry Coalition** (Represented by Terri Barber)

This organization is recognized for their voluntary contributions to the development of new Health District regulations for dust control. These comprehensive regulations are required as part of the State Implementation Plan for Particulate Matter control in Clark County. Coalition members invested time attending workshops, reviewing drafts of regulations, polling members and road-testing control strategies to help develop the practical, yet thorough, control requirements contained in the new regulations.

**Yellow Checker Star Transportation** (Represented by Jack Owens, General Manager)

Yellow Checker Star has been at the forefront of improving air quality and educating the public about the benefits of alternative fuel. The three cab corporations under Yellow Checker Star all use propane, a clean-burning fuel, for their combined 500 taxis. The entire propane fleet logs more than 50 million miles per year, and saves the Las Vegas Valley from 800 tons of carbon monoxide and 800 tons of particulate matter per year.

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