

Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg, *Chair*  
Senator Christine Kehoe  
Senator Sheila James Kuehl  
Senator Carole Migden  
Assemblymember John Laird  
Assemblymember Mark Leno



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## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, & TRANSGENDER (LGBT) CAUCUS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Monday, August 14, 2006**

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### **LGBT CAUCUS HONORS SIX OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUALS WITH THE FIRST-EVER LGBT PRIDE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Legislative Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Caucus today presented the first-ever LGBT Pride Recognition Awards to six outstanding individuals at a ceremony during the California State Assembly floor session. These awards were conferred to six openly-gay and lesbian individuals in recognition of their extraordinary accomplishments and leadership in their respective fields of endeavors.

The honorees were:

- Faith, Community Activism, Health & Human Services: **Bishop Dr. Yvette A. Flunder**, Senior Pastor, City of Refuge United Church of Christ (
- Public Service, Business, and Philanthropy: **The Honorable James Hormel**, former U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg
- Fashion, Film, and Television: **Ms. Honey Labrador**, filmmaker, model, TV host: Bravo's Queer Eye for the Straight Girl
- Business, Community Activism, and Philanthropy: **Ms. Kathy Levinson**, former E\*Trade Chief Operating Officer and President, consultant
- Military Service, Film, and Television: **Mr. Reichen Lehmkuhl**, former U.S. Air Force captain, graduate of the Air Force Academy, model / actor
- Sports, Music, and Theatre: **Mr. Esera Tuaolo**, former NFL defensive lineman, Atlanta Falcons, Minnesota Vikings, Green Bay Packers

“We are thrilled to honor these wonderful representatives of the LGBT community,” said Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg, Chair of the Legislative LGBT Caucus. “Not only are the honorees outstanding role models for our community, they demonstrate all the wonderful things that are possible when strength, conviction, and dignity overcome stereotype, homophobia, and discrimination,” added Goldberg.

Attached are the individual biographies of today's honorees.

The California Legislative LGBT Caucus was originally formed in June 2002. The members include Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg, Caucus Chair, Senators Christine Kehoe, Sheila Kuehl, and Carole Migden, and Assemblymembers John Laird and Mark Leno. The caucus' role is to present a forum for the California Legislature to discuss issues that affect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Californians and to further the goal of equality and justice for all Californians. The LGBT Caucus' formation made California the first state in the country to recognize an official caucus of openly-LGBT state legislators.

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## **CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE LGBT CAUCUS 2006 LGBT Pride Recognition Awards Honorees**

California State Assembly Floor Session, Monday, August 14, 2006, 1 p.m.

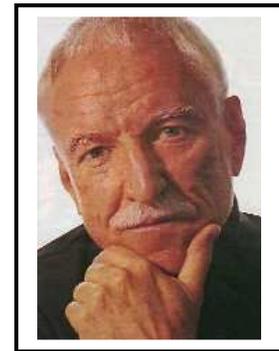
### **BISHOP DR. YVETTE A. FLUNDER**



Bishop Flunder is being honored in recognition of her remarkable achievements and leadership in faith, community activism, and health and human services. Bishop Flunder is the Senior Pastor at the City of Refuge United Church of Christ in San Francisco, which she founded in 1991 in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. A native San Franciscan, Bishop Flunder is a third generation preacher. With roots in the Church of God in Christ she went into Christian ministry and is now a Bishop, delivering powerful sermons and making a difference. She is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ and a graduate of the Ministry Studies and Master of Arts programs at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. She received a Doctorate of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary. In June 2003, Reverend Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of Refuge Ministries/Fellowship 2000, a multi-denominational fellowship of 50+ primarily African American Christian leaders and laity representing churches and faith-based organizations from all parts of the country and Africa. To help the dialogue in the non-punitive discourse of human sexuality in church, Bishop Flunder has written "Where the Edge Gathers: Building a Community of Radical Inclusion." Another example of her leadership is her dedicated response to the AIDS epidemic. Bishop Flunder and her staff opened Hazard-Ashley House and Walker House in Oakland, and Restoration House in San Francisco through the Ark of Refuge, Inc., a non-profit agency which provides housing, direct services, education and training for persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area, throughout the USA and in three countries in Africa. Rev. Flunder is much in demand as a preacher, educator, conference speaker and singer. She has been invited to minister and serve throughout the nation and abroad.

### **AMBASSADOR JAMES C. HORMEL**

Ambassador Hormel is being honored in recognition of his extraordinary achievements in public service, business, and philanthropy. He served as United States Ambassador to Luxembourg from June 1999 to December 2000, alternate representative of the U.S. delegation to the 51<sup>st</sup> United Nations General Assembly in 1996 and a member of the U.S. delegation to the 51<sup>st</sup> U.N. Human Rights Commission in early 1995. Mr. Hormel is the founder and Chairman of Equidex, Inc. a San-Francisco-based firm that manages his family's philanthropic investments. He graduated from Swarthmore College and received his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he subsequently was Assistant Dean and Dean of Students. For more than 30 years Mr. Hormel has worked with the top business, government, and academic leaders to create and fund major programs addressing social justice and basic human rights. He serves on the board of major local, state, and national organizations including the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Foundation, People



## Bios of LGBT Pride Recognition Awards Honorees

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for the American Way, the Commonwealth Club of California, and the Grace Cathedral. He was a member of the board of the American Foundation for AIDS Research and the Human Right Campaign Foundation. Mr. Hormel has five children, fourteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He lives in San Francisco with his partner, Timothy C. Wu.

### MS. HONEY LABRADOR



Ms. Labrador is being recognized for her outstanding achievements and leadership in fashion, film and television. Ms. Labrador's successful international modeling career spanned over 16 years with work in New York, Paris, London, and Milan. She has graced the pages of fashion industry magazines such as Elle, Mademoiselle, Marie Claire, Harper's Bazaar, British and Italian Vogues. In 1994 she began her career as an independent producer. Her film credits include "The Bug In My Ear," "Off Side," "Little Black Boot," "Prom-troversy," "Hung," and the feature film "April's Shower." In 2005 Ms. Labrador starred as the first lesbian Queer Eye in Bravo Network's "Queer Eye for the Straight Girl." Later, in the fall of 2005 Ms. Labrador embarked on two projects for the Q Television Network – both as a Producer and Co-host: "Xcess/Access" was a 13 episode one-hour original series, giving the viewer a back stage pass to L.A. Fashion Week. "BRUNCH" was the first live LGBT morning daily talk show. Ms. Labrador resides in Los Angeles with her daughter and two dogs.

### MS. KATHY LEVINSON

Ms. Levinson is being honored in recognition of her exceptional achievements and leadership in business, community activism, and philanthropy. Ms. Levinson was president of E\*TRADE Securities from 1996-2000 and President and Chief Operating Officer of E\*TRADE Group from 1999-2000. Prior to service at E\*TRADE, she spent thirteen years with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc., in San Francisco, having held several senior executive positions. In 2000, Ms. Levinson left corporate life and founded the Lesbian Equity Foundation, which encourages full participation, equal rights, and leadership opportunities for LGBT

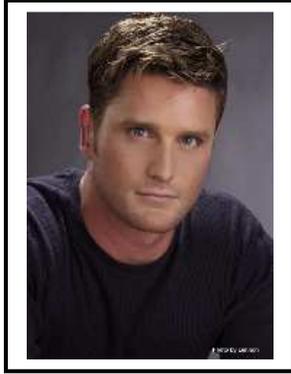


individuals, Jews and women by supporting initiatives that lead to social change. She received a BA in economics from Stanford in 1977 and graduated from Harvard Business School's Program for Management Development in 1988. Her board work includes a variety of organizations including the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School, National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, Albert L Schultz Jewish Community Center, Stanford Alumni Association and Athletic Board, Equality California, American Leadership Forum – Silicon Valley. Ms. Levinson is the mother of two daughters, Parker and Reade. Along with her partner, Naomi Fine, and her two daughters, she is currently launching a new Jewish spiritual community and renewal synagogue, Mishkan HaLev, on the Peninsula.

## Bios of LGBT Pride Recognition Awards Honorees

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### MR. REICHEN LEHMKUHL



Mr. Lehmkuhl is being honored in recognition of his wonderful achievements and leadership in military service, film and television. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and at the end of his Air Force commitment, held the rank of Captain. After his Air Force career, Mr. Lehmkuhl moved to Los Angeles to begin the next chapter of his life. He and his partner were cast to be a part of CBS' "The Amazing Race 4." Mr. Lehmkuhl's military training, teamwork, and discipline helped them win the show's million dollar prize. Since the Amazing Race, Mr. Lehmkuhl has appeared in television shows including Frasier, the Drew Carey Show, Days of Our Lives, and the Young & the Restless. His film credits include "Ethan Greene," "Partners," and the "Scorned. He is also an entrepreneur, spearheading his own company dealing with aviation, real estate, and his modeling career. On top of all these, Mr. Lehmkuhl has taken his determination to write a new book, "Here's What We'll Say," chronicling his experience of hiding his sexual orientation while completing the rigorous curriculum at the U.S. Air Force Academy. The book will be on shelves in hard-cover by October 2006.

### MR. ESERA TUAOLO

Mr. Tuaolo is being honored in recognition of his great achievements and leadership in sports, music, and theatre. For 10 years, he played professional football in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, Minnesota Vikings, Jacksonville Jaguars, Atlanta Falcons, and Carolina Panthers. Mr. Tuaolo played in the 1999 Super Bowl XXXIII with the Atlanta Falcons and contributed 17 tackles and a fumble recovery. After 10 years in professional football, he retired to pursue a career in acting and singing. He has appeared in various theatrical productions here in California and Minnesota. He was featured in a national television commercial for Chili's restaurant. Mr. Tuaolo was born and raised in Oahu, Hawaii. He attended school in Oahu up through the first two years of high school. He then went to live with relatives and finished high school at Don Antonio Lugo in Chino, California. During his senior year, he received an athletic scholarship to Oregon State University for football. He retired from the NFL in 2002 and now lives with his partner Mitchell Wherley and their twin children Matio Mitchell and Michele Mainaivasa. Mr. Tuaolo is the third former NFL player to come out, after David Kopay and Roy Simmons. He has since worked with the NFL to combat homophobia. His autobiography "Alone in the Trenches: My Life as a Gay Man in the NFL" was released this spring.



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