

City of Bellflower

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

November 9, 2005

City of Bellflower to Salute Local Achievers at Citizen Recognition Ceremony

**Special Tribute to *Dontia Haynes*, Bellflower Native &
Collegiate Tennis Star Killed in Motorcycle Accident**

**U.S. Army Sgt. *Gabriel Bueno* - Home on Leave from Duty in
Iraq - will Deliver Pledge of Allegiance as Guest of Honor**

*Special performances by rising stars **Aysha** and **4 of a Kind***

The public is invited to attend the *Bellflower Honors* citizen recognition ceremony on Thursday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m., Simms Park Auditorium, 16614 S. Clark Avenue. A dozen community members will be honored for outstanding contributions to Bellflower. Admission and parking are free. Awardees include:

Brandon Scott Summers - a member of Boy Scout Troop 181 in Bellflower who joins a select group of young men who have earned the special distinction of Eagle Scout.

Alondra Dental Group - Employees raised nearly \$2,000 to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina and forwarded the funds to the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

St. John Bosco High School - Led by teacher Jesse Rodriguez, student volunteers collected and stored large quantities of supplies to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Hosanna Chapel of Bellflower - Members of the parish collected, stored and delivered thousands of pounds of essentials to hurricane victims in Louisiana.

Robin Snow - As Manager of Whites Funeral Home, an official Red Cross collection site, Robin helped raise more than \$30,000 to directly benefit victims of the hurricanes.

Admiral Pest Control - Owners Jeff and Brian Jones carry on a proud legacy in Bellflower by successfully operating a business that began with a single truck in 1947.

Carrie Vander Zwaag - A science teacher at Valley Christian, Carrie traveled to Mongolia to conduct research as part of the Earthwatch training program for teachers.

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Deirdre Reyes - A fourth-generation educator who utilizes innovative learning techniques to boost student achievement. She is the 2005 BUSD *Teacher of the Year*.

Gary and Kathy Dietz - Theater producers and coordinators of the annual youth talent show whose work at the renovated Bellflower Theater has earned critical acclaim.

Bob Prigmore - A resident since 1938 who founded the Los Cerritos YMCA golf tournament which this year marked its 30th anniversary and raised \$30,000.

Deputy Sal Rios - A patrol deputy in Bellflower for the past year-and-a-half, the busy father of three was chosen as the 2005 City of Bellflower "Deputy of the Quarter."

Dontia Haynes (pronounced Don-tay) - A tennis star at San Diego State University, Dontia brought significant recognition to Bellflower with his outstanding play on the court. He was born in Bellflower in 1982, though his family moved from the City in the early '90s. Tragically, he perished in a motorcycle accident in September. He is remembered as a talented athlete, committed student, beloved son and brother, and genuine friend to all who knew him. Dontia's family will accept a posthumous award of achievement on his behalf.

Staff Sergeant **Gabriel Bueno** of Bellflower, on temporary leave from a tour of duty in Iraq, will attend as a guest of honor to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance.

Musical entertainment will include up-and-coming performers **Aysha**, winner of the 2005 Bellflower Youth Talent Show, and **4 of a Kind**, a quartet that recently performed at the BET Music Awards and MTV Awards.

A light buffet dinner of sandwiches, salads and pastries will be provided as a partial community donation by **Perks Coffeehouse** of Bellflower.

The event, open to all members of the public, will be taped for air on Comcast channel 26 throughout November and December. Admission and parking are free. Details: (562) 804-1424 ext. 2278.

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Note: Photos of winners and participants are available for download at www.bellflower.org.