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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Eldridge, California, -The California Memorial Project (CMP) presents the 7th Annual Remembrance Day Ceremony at Sonoma Developmental Center from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Butler Gazebo on Monday September 21, 2009.

The California Memorial Project is a collaboration by the California Network of Mental Health Clients, People First of California, and Disability Rights California to honor people who have lived and died at state institutions.

The third Monday in September was established as Remembrance Day by the California Memorial Project, who will host simultaneous events in Ukiah, Stockton, and Manteca as well as Developmental Centers and State Hospitals throughout California.

Each event is open to the public and will feature remembrances, poems, songs, and refreshments. Those in attendance will observe a Moment of Silence at 1:55 p.m. to show respect for people with developmental or mental disabilities who have died.

Speakers at the Sonoma event include James E. Rogers, Executive Director of Sonoma Developmental Center; Sharon Schmidt of Disability Rights California; and the facility's Catholic and Protestant Chaplains, Father Patrick Leslie and Reverend Thomas Kugler. Many of the residents at the Center have created a colorful array of paper doves that will be on display at the Butler Gazebo during the ceremony in honor of the individuals being remembered.

For more information about the California Memorial Project, contact Alicia Mendoza, CMP Representative from Disability Rights California, at (916) 488-7787.

Sonoma Developmental Center, located in the heart of the wine country, is the largest facility in California established specifically for serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and is one of five developmental centers operated by the Department of Developmental Services. Services to these individuals are provided through contracts with twenty-one non-profit regional centers that are geographically situated with defined "catchment" areas. The Department also operates two state-operated community residential facilities.

For More Information Contact:
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