



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

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Photo Attached

NEWS RELEASE

**WARREN CHRISTOPHER TO ACCEPT
LA AREA CHAMBER'S FIRST CIVIC MEDAL OF HONOR
AT 2003 INAUGURAL DINNER**

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce announced today that former United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher will be awarded the first Civic Medal of Honor at the Chamber's 114th Annual Inaugural Dinner on Jan. 30, 2003, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The Civic Medal of Honor is being established by the Chamber to recognize a lifetime of extraordinary civic leadership and public service.

"The Chamber created the Civic Medal of Honor to recognize distinguished individuals who, through their commitment to public endeavors, serve as a model for us all. There is no one in Los Angeles who more exemplifies the values of civic leadership and public service than Warren Christopher," said George Kieffer, incoming Chairman of the Board of the Chamber. A partner with the Los Angeles law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, Kieffer will be sworn in at the Chamber's Inaugural Dinner where Christopher will accept this prestigious Medal.

"The Chamber, as a principal steward of the quality of life and future prosperity of the region, recognizes the importance of developing civic leadership. By presenting Warren Christopher with our first Civic Medal of Honor, we honor his service and set a standard of excellence to which we should all strive," added Kieffer.

Christopher, former Secretary of State, is best known locally as the former chairman of the Independent Commission of the Los Angeles Police Department. The commission later became known as the Christopher Commission, which proposed significant reforms for the LAPD in the aftermath of the Rodney King incident. Prior to that he was vice chairman of the Governor's Commission that investigated the Los Angeles riots in 1965-66. He also served as president of the Los Angeles Bar Association.

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On the national front Christopher served as Deputy Attorney General under President Johnson, Deputy Secretary of State under President Carter, and United States Secretary of State under President Clinton. His public service also includes: Board of Trustees of Stanford University; President of the Board of Trustees of Stanford University; Chairman, Carnegie Corporation of the New York Board of Trustees; Director and Vice Chairman, Council on Foreign Relations; President Coordinating Council for Higher Education in the State of California; and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

“Warren Christopher’s contributions to the nation and to Los Angeles epitomize what the Chamber’s Civic Medal of Honor aims to recognize,” said Rusty Hammer, president & CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.

The nominating committee for the Civic Medal included Rusty Hammer, president and CEO of the LA Area Chamber; David Fleming, partner at Latham & Watkins, LLP; John Puerner, publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*; USC President Steve Sample; Matt Toledo, publisher of the *Los Angeles Business Journal*; Katrina Dewey, editor of the *Daily Journal*; Bob Graziano, president of the Los Angeles Dodgers; and George Kieffer, partner with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

L.A. Mayor Jim Hahn and L.A. County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke are honorary co-chairs for the Jan. 30 dinner. Event committee co-chairs include Ed Avila, Rick Caruso, David Fleming, Jeffrey L. Glassman, Maria Hummer, John Mack, Charles Manatt, Liam McGee, David C. Nichols, Jane Pisano, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Maria Shriver, Robert Tuttle, Andrea Van de Kamp, Danny Villeneuve, William Wardlaw and Charles Woo.

The Chamber looks forward to unveiling the first Civic Medal of Honor on Jan. 30, 2003, and its Board is honored that Warren Christopher has agreed to attend and accept the invitation to receive this Civic Medal.

To register for the event, go to the Chamber Web site at www.lachamber.org.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, with 1,300 members, represents the interests of business in LA. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region.

