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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**25<sup>th</sup> HUMANITARIAN ADDED TO REMEMBER THEM: CHAMPIONS FOR HUMANITY© MONUMENT; FIRST FULL SIZE FIGURE UNVEILED**



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## Monument-2

On Monday, November 14, 1960, federal marshals drove Ruby Bridges to the William Frantz Elementary School and escorted her through an enraged mob to her first grade classroom. At the age of six, Ruby was the first black student to attend an all white school. Her phenomenal courage earned her a place in history. Now that courage will be immortalized with the likes of Martin Luther King Jr., Maya Angelou and many other extraordinary humanitarians on the *Remember Them: Champions for Humanity*© monument.

The addition of a child as the 25<sup>th</sup> humanitarian on the Monument also highlights the expansion of the *Remember Them: Champions for Humanity*© educational initiative. In partnership with the Martin Luther King Institute, based at Stanford University, the educational curriculum has been expanded to include materials with special emphasis placed upon educating middle and elementary school students. The new, broader reaching curricula will feature lesson plans designed to inspire and educate younger students and to promote interactive learning through field trips and online resources.

Monument creator Mario Chiodo announced the expanded curricula and the addition of Ruby Bridges to the pantheon of humanitarians and leaders enshrined on the monument at a major Remember Them event Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. Held at the Chiodo Art Development studio, the event also marked the unveiling of the first full scale monument figure, an impressive 12 ft. high foam statue of former president Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Mr. Chiodo said of Roosevelt, “He is one of the most inspiring humanitarians on this monument. He overcame a tremendous physical disability to become one of our nation’s most revered leaders. He made his handicap an insignificant limitation; his strength is inspiring.”

### Monument-3

The reception drew a broad range of guests, with over one hundred people in attendance including representatives from major Bay Area companies, including Kaiser Permanente and Chevron. Also in attendance were several politicians and public officials, ranging from Jean Quan of the Oakland City Council to Dick Spees, former Oakland City Councilman of 27 years. Commenting on the pivotal educational component of the monument, Dr. Ruth Love, former superintendent of Chicago and Oakland school districts, said, “The humanitarian concepts that go with these individuals who have contributed enormously to our country and our world will enliven history to the point that it will be tremendously engaging for students.” Musicians Abel Sanchez and Jorge Santana also donated their creative talents to the event, performing music from their DVD tribute to monument honoree Cesar Chavez.

The Chiodo Studio also hosted a smaller event the previous week for teachers from across the Bay Area. They toured the studios and viewed the scale monument model first hand. Elementary school teacher Susan Giannotti said of the project, “This is an amazing opportunity for our youth to see what is possible! This project will inspire young and old.” The teachers’ enthusiastic response reflects the monument’s great potential to benefit public education in the Bay Area and positively impact youth.

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