

June 22, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**REMEMBER THEM: CHAMPIONS FOR HUMANITY© PROJECT IS MET  
WITH ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FROM NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS  
RIGOBERTA MENCHU TUM, SHIRIN EBADI AND POET LAUREATE DR.  
MAYA ANGELOU**



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OAKLAND, CA - The *Remember Them: Champions for Humanity*© monument was conceptualized as a tribute to the activists and leaders who, over the course of two hundred years, have espoused the virtues of equality and tolerance in the face of oppression. Over the past month, Chiodo Art Development (CAD) has had the privilege of presenting the *Remember Them* concept and model to several of the living honorees.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at the International Governments and Peace Conference, hosted by Wayne State University and sponsored by the Shirin Ebadi Foundation, *Remember Them* project manager Francine Agapoff met with Rigoberta Menchu Tum and Shirin Ebadi, two of the six Nobel laureates commemorated on the monument. Both humanitarians expressed excitement over their inclusion in the *Remember Them* monument and hoped that the project would bring recognition to the multitude of causes that call for peace and equality around the world. Rigoberta Menchu Tum articulated her wish that the monument would draw attention to the “the story of indigenous peoples throughout the Americas.” The enthusiasm of these two social activists reflects the remarkable potential for education and awareness that the monument will bring to local and national communities.

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2006, marked another significant milestone for the *Remember Them* project as Chiodo Art Development welcomed Dr. Maya Angelou to the Oakland studio housing the *Remember Them: Champions for Humanity*© scale model. Dr. Angelou and her son Guy Johnson, a distinguished poet and writer in his own right, met with sculptor Mario Chiodo for several hours as they discussed the artistic concept and broader vision behind the monument. During her tour of the studio, Dr. Angelou was moved by the model, tearfully remarking, “The humanitarians on this monument are the people I think

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about when I write”. Angelou’s enthusiastic and emotional response to the monument has been a terrific encouragement to the *Remember Them* staff. Mr. Chiodo said of Angelou’s visit, “She is the number one inspiration for my work, for my goal to serve humanity through art.”

CAD is also pleased to announce that the *Remember Them: Champions for Humanity*© website went live on June 1<sup>st</sup> with an educational component in development with Dr. Clay Carson of the Martin Luther King Jr. Institute based at Stanford University. The website is part of a larger strategy, in cooperation with the MLK Institute, to encourage educational opportunities for high school students focusing on the contributions, writings, and accomplishments of these 24 and other humanitarians. It is artist Mario Chiodo’s vision that one day the *Remember Them* monument will challenge students to take up causes of their own and inspire a passion for justice in a positive way.

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