



PRESS RELEASE

Jeff Griffin to Receive Civic Leader of the Year Award at Chair's Luncheon of Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce on January 13

www.RenoSparksChamber.org

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For Immediate Release (01-04-2010) – The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the recipient of the [2010 Raymond I. Smith Civic Leader of the Year Award](#) is Jeff Griffin. Mr. Griffin's various efforts have improved our quality of life here in the Truckee Meadows and have made an impact in finding and implementing solutions to local challenges.

Mr. Griffin will be honored at the Chamber's Annual Chair's Luncheon, Wednesday, January 13 at 11:30 a.m. at the Eldorado Resort and Casino.

The Chamber has presented the Raymond I. Smith Civic Leader of the Year Award annually since 1965. The recipient is selected each year by a panel of past winners and Chamber Chairs. The luncheon will also introduce Mary Simmons (NV Energy), the Chamber's Chair for 2010. Tables or individual tickets may be purchased by calling 775-337-3030 ext. 0 or [online](#).

Jeff Griffin and his wife Marna moved to Reno in 1975 to start Mountain Air Delivery, which is known today as Griffin Transport Services, the largest international transportation services company in the State of Nevada. Besides employing a large number of Reno and Sparks residents, Jeff worked to successfully set up a Foreign Trade Zone in the Truckee Meadows, helped form the Center for Logistics Management at the University of Nevada and served on the College of Business Advisory Board there.

Mr. Griffin was elected Mayor of Reno in 1995 and re-elected in 1998. During his term as mayor, Jeff set the wheels in motion for the ReTRAC train trench project, the Mapes hotel demolition, the downtown movie theater, and ensured that road repairs became a priority throughout the city. While Mayor, Jeff served as the Chairman of the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA), a

board member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, was named Public Official of the Year in 2001 by the Nevada League of Cities, and served on the Crime Prevention Policy Committee for the National League of Cities. After his second term ended in 2002, Mr. Griffin was appointed director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX office, where he was responsible for operations in four U.S. states and five territories. This service included directing the response and recovery of America's largest public disaster in 2002—a Category 5 typhoon in Guam.

In addition to honoring Griffin and welcoming Mary Simmons as the 2010 Chair, Ralph Hartmann (Hartmann and Associates) will be honored for his service as the 2009 Chair and Billy Vassiliadis, CEO of R&R Partners, will deliver the keynote address.

The Reno Sparks Chamber of Commerce, with nearly 1,500 members, is northern Nevada's largest business organization. It offers a powerful combination of business leads, access to business and political leaders, pro-business advocacy, savings opportunities and programs targeted to members' interests.

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