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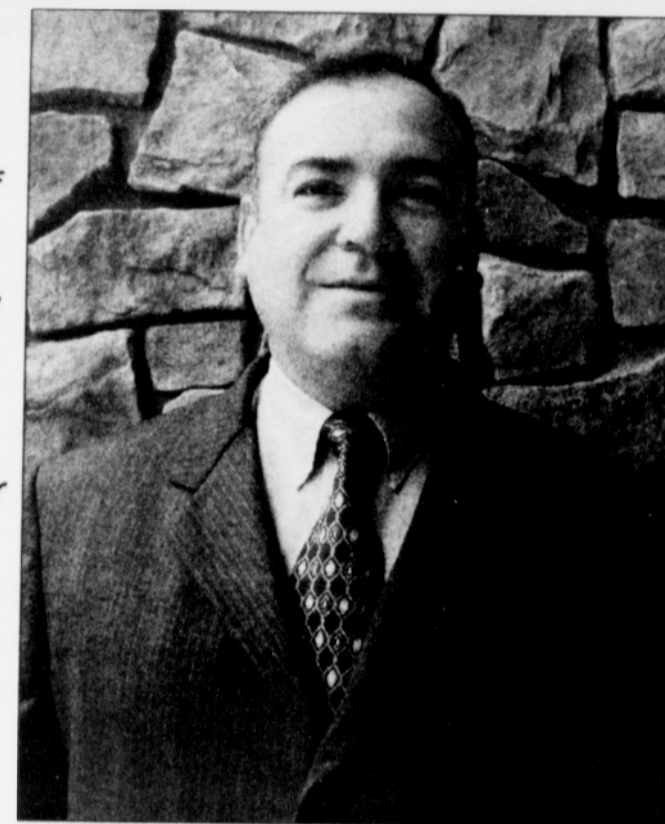
Salutes

Minority Enterprise Week

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Francisco Olivas (above) and Robert Valdez (right), owners of Olivas Valdez, Inc. of La Center, are the Minority Small Business Persons of the Year for 2010 for the Portland District of the Small Business Administration.



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Small Business Persons of the Year

Minority owners create and grow jobs

Francisco Olivas and Robert Valdez, owners of Olivas Valdez, Inc. of La Center, are the Minority Small Business Persons of the Year for 2010 for the Portland District of the Small Business Administration.

The award will be presented at the Business Diversity Institute Minority Enterprise Development Week awards luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

"Francisco and Robert are perfect examples of why minority-owned businesses are growing faster than any other sector in the nation," said SBA District Director Harry DeWolf. "In this challenging recession, Francisco and Robert used their ingenuity and

steadfast dedication to their business to create and sustain jobs that support our economic recovery."

MED Week offers an opportunity to celebrate the positive impact minority small business owners have on their communities across the country.

"We are honoring Olivas Valdez, Inc. for their extraordinary commitment to excellence in providing innovative services to the federal government and commercial markets," said SBA Regional Administrator Calvin Goings. "Their commitment to excellence has helped spur job creation in the small business community and the nation's economy."

Held annually since 1983, MED Week recognizes minority businesses' contributions to the nation's economy. In this year's proclamation, President Obama urged all

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