



Neighborhood activist Opal Strong (right) receives a Spirit of Portland award from City Commissioner Amanda Fritz.

# Activist Earns Award

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After receiving her award from Fritz last week, she told the crowd at the East Portland Community Center, "What a wonderful day when I see all of my friends here, people who worked with me, people who put up with me, people who loved me."

She added, "Young people need to get involved. Teach them the way." She paid tribute to her late husband who "didn't work as hard as I did, but ensured that I had gas money."

One of Strong's children, the Rev. Mark Strong, also received a Spirit award, this one chosen by Mayor Sam Adams, as part of the Mobilizing the Church for Community Action Committee. This group has generated some 360 volunteers to donate 45 minutes a week each to

work on projects in coordination with the mayor, the Portland Police Bureau, and public agencies.

In addition to Strong, the group includes the Rev. Marcus Pollard, Dr. W.G. Hardy, Pastor George Merriweather, Bishop Steven Holt, Rev. C.T. Wells, and Pastor Franklin A. Alvey.

Another of Fritz's Spirit of Portland selections was former State Sen. Bob Boyer, a local African-American whose activities have included chairing the Concordia Neighborhood Association, serving on the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, serving as executive director of the King Neighborhood Facility, and work on behalf of the Longshoreman's Union.

"I humbly accept this award," Boyer said. "If there's anything I can do to make Portland a better

place, I'm here to serve."

Sgt. Willie Halliburton of north-east Precinct received an award for his help with the non-profits Better People and Big Brother/Big Sister, the Shop with a Cop program, and for his time spent with injured children at the Emanuel Hospital Burns unit.

In accepting his award from Commissioner Dan Saltzman Halliburton dedicated it to "every police officer in Portland." He paid special tribute to Captain Kevin Modica, who he called "an inspiration and a friend," and to officer Blaine Tyler.

Jackeline Luna received an award for her work on behalf of the Latino Network.

## In Loving Memory

### Virginia L. Smith

Virginia L. Smith, 82, passed away on Oct. 30, 2011. She was born in Ohio and moved to Portland about six years ago with her sister.

She is survived by her only son Robert Smith and daughter-in-law Shirlee Smith; two grandchildren Nicole Smith, and Lloyd Smith; one sister, one sister-in-law and several nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her husband Lloyd J. Smith, one sister and a brother. No services will be held as those were her wishes.

## Memorial Service Set

### Ruth Jackson

A memorial service for Ruth Jackson, who was born on June 8, 1924, and passed away on Oct. 29, 2011, will be held Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. at Billy Webb Elks Lodge, 6 N. Tillamook St.

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# Bound for the Army All-American Bowl

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Army Strong Soldiers.

As a result of Balducci being selected to the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, his head coach Steve Pyne is invited to travel to San Antonio and attend the U.S. Army Coaches Academy, an elite three-day learning experience featuring NFL and NCAA coaches, as well as participation in game-week activities.

For more than 11 years, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl has been the nation's premier high school football game, serving as the preeminent launching pad for America's future college and NFL stars.

Adrian Peterson, Mark Sanchez, Tim Tebow, Ndamukong Suh, Marcus Lattimore, and Andrew Luck all made their national debuts as U.S. Army All-Americans.

The 2011 U.S. Army All-American Bowl drew a crowd of nearly 38,000 to the Alamodome and was the most-watched sporting event on television the weekend of the game, excluding the NFL playoffs.

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