

# Sharon Garrett Honored by California Legislature



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**O**n March 5, Sharon Garrett, procurement technician and special emphasis coordinator for Defense Contract Management Agency Los Angeles, was honored by California State Assembly Member Richard Alarcón, D-Panorama City, as “District 39 Woman of the Year” during a ceremony held at the state capitol.

and she has spearheaded its rebuilding and rejuvenation. Within the past 18 months, the San Fernando Valley Branch, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, has reached out to communities throughout the San Fernando Valley, Antelope Valley and Ventura County.

Born in St. Louis, Garrett moved with her family to Pacoima, Calif., in December 1960, and she has lived in the northeast San Fernando Valley ever since. While working for the Los Angeles Unified School District as a community representative, she began volunteering for the Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Department, providing religious services, counseling, teaching and mentoring for young inmates. She has continued her work with the inmates for the past 26 years.

Garrett’s volunteer work also includes teaching cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes with the Red Cross, coordinating the annual Pacoima Pride Day Parade (which brings out thousands of community members), participating in voter registration drives and serving as an election day poll worker.

In addition to Garrett’s community pursuits, she has a history of making great contributions to DCMA Los Angeles. In 1980 she managed

In celebration of Women’s History Month, each member of the state’s Assembly honored one woman for her contributions to her family, community and state. The ceremony is an annual bipartisan tradition founded in 1987 by former Assembly Members Bev Hansen, R-Santa Rosa, and Sally Tanner, D-El Monte.

Garrett was selected for her work as a community activist. She “exemplifies the spirit behind the ‘Woman of the Year’ award,” said Assembly member Alarcón. “Her

commitment to improving our community is inspiring and serves as a model for those around her.” Garrett is a longtime activist in the community and current president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People’s San Fernando Valley Branch,

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**(Background)** The California Capitol building in Sacramento, Calif. (Photo by Jonathan Lenz)

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— *Richard Alarcón*



to resuscitate an employee prior to the paramedics’ arrival on the scene. In 1987 she was appointed equal employment opportunity counselor for the former Defense Contract Administration Services Management Area Van Nuys, Calif., office. Garrett has also worked as a special emphasis program manager and played a major role in securing Willard Pugh, the actor who played the role of Harpo in the film “The Color Purple,” to speak to employees at DCASMA Van Nuys just after the 1992 Los Angeles race riots.

In 1995, Garrett played a key role in presenting the international traveling program “Dare to Dream,” a Lockheed Corporation project for inner city and under-privileged youth. Five years later, she spearheaded the first joint Diversity Day “Ball at the Mall” with the City of Los Angeles, a festive event that attracted many famous celebrities. Garrett was acknowledged by Los Angeles city hall for her ability to coordinate an exciting Diversity Day event.

In the last few years, Garrett was a joint coordinator with the Greater Los Angeles Veterans Administration, which held the first Veterans’ Recognition Day at its Sepulveda location. Garrett also initiated a sign language program at DCMA Los Angeles for 32 employees who volunteered to be trained in

order to communicate with hearing-impaired coworkers. In addition, Garrett implemented a sexual harassment presentation training program and programs for cultural awareness and sensitivity, all of which have helped DCMA Los Angeles to be EEO complaint-free for the past five years.

“I am so grateful to the special emphasis managers (Reggie Collier, Claudia Dawkins, Viola Eaton, Kathy Mastos, David Smith and Regina Turski) who have been consistent with me throughout the years of service to DCMA Los Angeles,” said Garrett. “We are honored to be supported by a command, support staff and awesome coworkers who yield to unseen visions and promised outcomes. We are privileged to be entrusted with the responsibility of providing direction of fairness, unity and progress.”

Garrett also expressed appreciation to DCMA Los Angeles for its contributions to and enrichment of her life. 

**(Above)** Sharon Garrett, DCMA Los Angeles procurement technician and special emphasis coordinator, was named “District 39 Woman of the Year” at a ceremony at California’s Capitol.