National award for Alamedan Doug Siden

Doug Siden, Alameda resident and East Bay Regional Park District board chair, was honored recently with an Individual Citation of Merit. Siden, who retired in 1992 to serve on the park district board and has been re-elected four times, was recognized for his long-term service and contributions to environmental education.

The Individual Citation of Merit is a national honor that is awarded each year to one individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the park, recreation and conservation movement. Siden was nominated by East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Pat O'Brian. In his nomination, O'Brian highlighted Siden's involvement in numerous community events, his work with the Nature Conservancy, and his leadership as chair of the Measure W campaign, which raised $300 million to fund the acquisition of open space.

"Doug would be the last to tell you about his accomplishments and the first to compliment others. He never failed to thank the volunteers and staff that make things happen on a day-to-day basis, but he forever admits just how fortunate he feels to be able to bring people together to achieve great things," said O'Brian. "That is a true sign of leadership and why he earned this prestige merit award."

Before his retirement in 1998, Siden was executive director of a successful program to provide environmental education and recreational experiences to youth, children, families, and adults for more than 20 years. He has a bachelor of arts and master's degree.

He also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from the American Baptist Seminary of the West for his leadership.

He is president of the Alameda County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association, past chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center in Oakland, vice chair of the Waterfront Action and chair of the Alameda Rotary Club's Community Grants Committee. Previously he served as an advisory commissioner for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Point Reyes National Seashore.