

# PRESS RELEASE

## Larry Lee, Publisher of the Sacramento Observer, to Receive 2024 Robert T Matsui Community Service Honor

**Sacramento, California, December 1, 2023:** The Robert T Matsui Community Service Honor for 2024 is set to be bestowed upon Mr. Larry Lee, owner and publisher of The Sacramento Observer, the leading African-American newspaper in America headquartered in Sacramento. This recognition is a testament to Mr. Lee's outstanding commitment to community service and his significant contributions to making the Sacramento region a better place for all.

Vince Miles, Chair of the MLK Committee, spoke highly of Larry Lee's deserving of the prestigious award, saying, "Larry Lee's unwavering commitment to community service, coupled with his tireless efforts to foster positive change, embodies the spirit of the Robert T Matsui Award. He has become a pillar in our community, and his impact is felt far and wide. Larry is truly deserving of this honor."

The Robert T Matsui Community Service Award is an annual accolade presented to individuals who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to improve the quality of life in the Sacramento community. Established in honor of the late congressman Robert T. Matsui, a respected public servant, the award has become synonymous with excellence in service to the community.

The award ceremony will take place at the 25th Annual MLK Celebration Sacramento event, scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Sacramento State University. In memory of her late husband, Congresswoman Doris Matsui will present the award to Larry Lee in recognition of his remarkable achievements.

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Larry Lee's dedication to community service is deeply rooted in his family's legacy. His father, Dr. William Lee, the founder and publisher of the Observer Newspapers, was the second recipient of the Robert T Matsui Award. This family connection adds a poignant layer to Larry Lee's recognition, highlighting the enduring commitment of the Lee family to the betterment of the Sacramento region.

The MLK Celebration event, now in its 25th year, remains a cornerstone of the Sacramento community calendar. Vince Miles emphasized the importance of the event, stating, "The MLK Celebration Sacramento event is a crucial moment for our community to come together, reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., and celebrate individuals like Larry Lee who continue to carry that torch of justice and equality. It serves as a powerful reminder of the strength and unity within our diverse community."

Open to the public, the celebration will feature a diverse array of activities and presentations in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy. The award ceremony for Larry Lee is sure to be a highlight of this milestone event.

Sponsorship opportunities and tickets for the 25th Annual MLK Celebration Sacramento can be purchased at [www.mlkcelebrationsacramento.org](http://www.mlkcelebrationsacramento.org). Organizations and individuals interested in supporting this impactful event are encouraged to reach out and contribute to the continued success of this longstanding tradition.

For more information, visit [mlkcelebrationsacramento.org](http://mlkcelebrationsacramento.org)

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### **About MLK Celebration Sacramento**

In 2000, Sacramentans Dr. Dorothy Enomoto, a classmate and close friend of Dr. King, and her husband, Jerry Enomoto co-founded the greater Sacramento region's annual tribute event to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With Congressman Robert T. Matsui serving as honorary co-chair in the early years; the MLK Celebration event has brought together thousands of elected officials, community and business leaders, law enforcement, nonprofit groups, clergy from all denominations, community members, educators, students to remember and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King. Although the founders have since passed away, the MLK Celebration committee continues in their memory with the dream that one day, there will be no more hate, injustice, and equality for everyone.