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Nelson Mandela condolence books collect Bay Area signatures

By Matt O'Brien

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A trio of Bay Area funeral homes and San Francisco City Hall are collecting signatures and condolence notes in honor of the late South African leader Nelson Mandela.

San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee opened a condolence book that can be signed until the end of the week inside his City Hall office.

Funeral homes in Oakland, Hayward and San Mateo are also collecting signatures all month for a memorial book that will be sent to the Mandela family in January.

The Bay Area was a hub for the anti-apartheid movement that Mandela championed for decades before his watershed election as South Africa's first black president in 1994. Mandela appreciated the support, thanking Bay Area residents in a speech to a crowded Oakland Coliseum in June 1990, just months after he was released from 27 years in prison as a political dissident.

Mandela died on Dec. 5 at his home in Johannesburg. He was 95. Among the official American delegation attending his memorial service Tuesday is U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland.

Memorial books can be signed at the following locations during regular business hours:

Oakland Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., in Oakland. Call 510-455-4004 for times.

Hayward Chapel of the Chimes, 32992 Mission Blvd., in Hayward. Call 866-475-9407 for times.

Skylawn Funeral Home and Memorial Park, State Highway 92 and Skyline Boulevard, in San Mateo. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 31. Call 650-288-0559.

San Francisco City Hall, Mayor's Office, Room 200, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. through Friday.

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