

Subj: **FW: Hi Sis, this is the email I had sent to your old email address!!!**  
Date: 7/24/2002 11:54:25 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
From:  
To:  
*Sent from the Internet*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Donald Apperson [mailto:dapperson@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2002 12:09 PM  
**To:** Carnice Pickett  
**Subject:** Hi Sis, this is the email I had sent to your old email address!!!

Hi Sis, thought you would like to see this, It was in the Oakland Tribune. (Write once in awhile) Love you) Don

Maudelle Shirek, 91, honored as state's oldest elected official  
By Donna Horowitz  
Staff Writer, Oakland Tribune

Maudelle Shirek, a longtime Berkeley City Councilwoman, got two surprises Tuesday.

The Alameda Board of Supervisors honored her on her 91st birthday, as the oldest elected official in California.

But the bigger surprise came when the longtime progressive received a proclamation from President Bush and his wife, Laura.

"That's a shock," she said during a reception outside the county board's chambers after the meeting.

The idea to honor Shirek, currently the vice mayor and a member of the Berkeley City Council since 1984, was Supervisor Keith Carson's.

"This is a small way of giving back and recognizing Maudelle," Carson said after the meeting.

He credited her with encouraging many people to enter public life, including former Rep. Ron Dellums.

Shirek said Dellums was getting ready to attend Brandeis University when she suggested he seek a seat on the Berkeley City Council.

Shirek is known for her feisty stands, including an arrest in 1990 in front of the same county building where she was honored. She had been protesting AIDS-related budget cuts by the Board of Supervisors.

Shirek entered politics after being forced to retire as director of the West Berkeley Senior Center in 1983 when city officials learned she was 72, two years past the mandatory retirement age.

Soon after she was elected to the council, she was instrumental in ending mandatory retirement for city employees.

During the meeting, Sandre Swanson, chief of staff for Rep. Barbara Lee, said Shirek also was responsible for encouraging Lee to enter politics.

"Thanks for your leadership as the mother of progressive politics in the Bay Area," Swanson said.

Representatives of Assemblywoman Wilma Chan, Assemblywoman Dion Aroner and state Sen. Don Perata as well as five of the nine Berkeley City Council members attended the meeting.

"I'm just overwhelmed," Shirek said. "Thank you so much. I've done the best I could with what little I have. I want you to do that – carry on."

Shirek was late for her honor, scheduled for 10:30 a.m., because she was busy shopping for food for the West Berkeley Senior Center.

"We don't need to have hungry people, homeless people, hopeless people," she said.

Berkeley City Councilman Kriss Worthington said of his colleague: "She's the most dedicated progressive on every subject under the sun."