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**SELMA MONES, FOUNDING MEMBER OF
PFLAG-QUEENS PASSES AWAY**

Jackson Heights, NY, July 28, 2010 -- Selma Mones, one of the founding members of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays/Queens Chapter (PFLAG) died today at the age of 79. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, education, and advocacy.

"Selma had a huge presence in the LGBT communities in Queens and was very instrumental in our movement forward," said New York City Council Member Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights). "She was our dearly loved PFLAG mom and she will be sorely missed."

Selma and her husband Morris "Mark" Mones came to PFLAG in 1993 distraught after finding out about her son Glen's homosexuality. Having learned that her younger son was gay, she sought support because she feared the discrimination he might face in life. She also has an older son named Eric Mones.

Selma cried at her first PFLAG meeting, but her tears were soon turned into activism. At that meeting she complained that she didn't want her son to be gay. Selma laughed when another mother in the group told her that she always wanted to be blond and blue eyed. That mother was brunette with brown eyes.

Selma knew that her son was a good person who deserved equal rights and an equal opportunity at having a happy life. She became more involved in the group; initiating its hotline where she spoke at all hours of the day and night to other parents who had experienced the coming out of their children.

Eventually, Selma became involved in advocating for LGBT rights and attended many gay pride celebrations in Queens and around the city. Selma was also involved in the Manhattan chapter of PFLAG.

"Her message was simple," Dromm said. "She would say, 'Never stop loving your children. Be there to support them no matter what.'"

"Selma Mones was a living example of unconditional love," Dromm continued. "Through her love for her children, she managed to change the way many people in Queens thought about the LGBT community."

Selma Mones is survived by her husband Morris "Mark" Mones, her two sons and her daughter-in-law, Theresa.

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