"Over my 30 years of public service, I've worked to foster the critical role travel and tourism plays in local economies across this country. On the Central Coast, the travel and tourism industry is second only to the agriculture industry in economic impact. The kind of historical preservation promoted by the new Preserve America program has the dual benefit of preserving our cultural monuments and history while encouraging economic development. I'm proud to see Monterey recognized today in this very first round of Preserve America grants," said Congressman Farr.

Monterey plans to use their Preserve America grant to add Cannery Row and historic military and church property to the Path of History trail which is currently confined to the downtown area. The city will create maps and more comprehensive signs about local historic sites so visitors will be able to conduct their own self-guided tours.

The Preserve America program is a White House initiative created in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of Interior that aims to assist communities in finding self-sustaining ways to promote their cultural resources through heritage tourism. Monterey was designated as one of the nation's 220 Preserve America Communities last year, making the city eligible for this matching-grant program.

For more information on the Preserve America program, please visit www.preserveamerica.gov .

Congressman Farr, First Lady Laura Bush, Monterey City Manager Fred Meurer and Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton at the Preserve America Grant Award Ceremony.