

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA# *A-5

Urgent _____ Routine X

AGENDA DATE April 10, 2001

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES X NO _____
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES _____ NO X

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF COMMENDATION FOR CARLOS BADGER UPON HIS 99TH
BIRTHDAY

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. APPROVE COMMENDATION FOR CARLOS BADGER UPON HIS 99TH
BIRTHDAY

FISCAL IMPACT:

NONE

No. 2001-240

On motion of Supervisor Blom, Seconded by Supervisor Caruso

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

Motion:

4 NON-SEQUITUR

April 2001



A TRIBUTE TO CARLOS BADGER

By Charles K. Brunn
Nan Cohan Jacobs

Carlos Badger is the oldest practicing attorney in Stanislaus County. He was born on April 14, 1902, the oldest of 12 children. Five of his siblings are still alive today.

Carlos graduated from high school at the age of 15 and moved to Annapolis, Maryland, when he enrolled in Bucks War College, a cram course for the entrance examinations for the Naval Academy. He celebrated his 16th birthday the day before taking the exam, just barely satisfying the minimum age requirement of 16. Of the 3000 applicants taking the exam, only 1000 made the grade. Carlos enrolled in the Naval Academy on July 13, 1918. He graduated on June 6, 1922, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Steam Engineering. Admiral Hyman Rickover, father of the nuclear submarine, was the most famous member of the 540 graduates in the class of 1922.

After graduation, Carlos went to sea on the Battleship California where he served under Richmond Kelly Turner, who became the admiral in charge of amphibious operations in the Pacific in World War II. He also served in the Bremerton naval yard and on the Truxton. The Truxton was a World War I four stack flush deck destroyer. The Truxton was part of the Asiatic Fleet. In 1928 he retired from the Navy due to tuberculosis.

Upon his return to his home state of Utah, Carlos entered law school at the University of Utah. After completing his first year, he transferred to Stanford Law School, graduating in 1931. He returned to Utah where he practiced with his father's law firm until the outbreak of World War II. He returned to active duty in the Navy, serving as a lieutenant junior grade and later a lieutenant commander. He was the officer in charge of the radar school, stationed in San Francisco. While still in the Navy, he took the California bar exam. After his discharge from the Navy in 1945, Carlos went to work for the San Francisco law firm of Dinkelspiel & Dinkelspiel, specializing in collection cases. He worked

there for one year. He next worked for famous attorney Melvin Belli but lasted for only one day. Carlos reports that after one deposition, he "had enough." He landed next in Modesto, working for Vernon Gant, after responding to a job listing with the Stanford Law School placement office. After seven years with Vernon Gant he finally struck out on his own. Prior to his death in 1959 Vernon Gant was considered as one of Modesto's finest attorneys.

Carlos has practiced with several Modesto attorneys over the years, including Pat Mower, Dave Dunford, and Judge Eugene Azevedo. He is still actively practicing today, emphasizing collections and social security.

The highlight of Carlos' remarkable legal career was arguing before the United States Supreme Court in 1949. In *Wiesner v. Wiesner* (1950) 338 U.S. 655, Carlos successfully argued that an insured under a National Service Life Insurance policy could name a principal beneficiary other than his spouse even though the premiums were paid with community property earnings during the insured's lifetime.

Turning to Carlos' personal life, he married Emma Lou Robbins in 1928. They had two daughters. Tragically, Emma died in 1937 when their youngest daughter was born. He remarried in 1938. His second wife, Frances, died in 1989. Carlos and Emma had one daughter, Ann, with whom he lives today.

In his spare time, Carlos enjoys playing chess and bridge and watching football. He has been an active member of the Modesto Kiwanis Club since 1952, serving as president in 1954.

Carlos was the only member of his class at Annapolis to attend the 75th reunion.

On Friday, April 6th, the Stanislaus County Bar Association will present a tribute to Carlos Badger in honor of his 99th birthday. Please send your reservations to join us at Hazel's Elegant Dining to salute this remarkable man.

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