

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

DEPT: ^{WR} Aging & Veterans Services

BOARD AGENDA # *B-1

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE May 5, 2009

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Commendations for Stanislaus County Outstanding Senior Citizens in celebration of Older Americans Month in May

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve Commendations for Stanislaus County Outstanding Senior Citizens of the Year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2009-289

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Grover, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The month of May is officially recognized as ‘Older Americans Month’ throughout the nation, and senior citizens around the nation are recognized for their contributions to our country. In Stanislaus County, five outstanding senior citizens, one from each Supervisorial District, are selected for their volunteer work in any of the following areas: community service, humanitarianism, leadership, political advocacy, or being a good neighbor. Seniors were nominated from the community at large, and the five ‘Senior Award Winners’ who were selected by the Senior Award committee, have made invaluable contributions to the growth and prosperity of our community. These seniors are:

- Supervisorial District 1: Ms Yevonne Ball (Modesto)
- Supervisorial District 2: Ms Janet Atanous (Turlock)
- Supervisorial District 3: Mr. Bob Schmal (Modesto)
- Supervisorial District 4: Ms Loretta Foster (Modesto)
- Supervisorial District 5: Ms Violet Threet (Patterson)

The Board of Supervisors presentation of the Senior Awards to their respective constituents is very meaningful to the Senior Award winners.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board of Supervisors in recognizing the importance of senior residents in Stanislaus County and the contributions they make to the county’s quality of life, promotes the Board of Supervisors’ priority of A Healthy Community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

**IN RE: RECOGNIZING YEVONNE BALL AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 1, STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ball has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society for over 29 years, volunteering in the office and being very involved in its three main fundraising events: (1) Daffodil Days - served as Chairperson as well as committee member for this project, working in all aspects of the project from making presentations to various businesses, arranging for and supervising vase painting at various schools, the Mistlin Gallery and for several Girl Scout Troops for the Gift of Hope program, organizing volunteers, putting together and delivering daffodil orders, as well as organizing and planting daffodil bulbs at Memorial and Doctors Medical Centers for the Seeds of Hope program, (2) Cattle Barons Ball - served on this committee for several years, as well as volunteering for set-up and decorating at the Mapes Ranch for the event and volunteering at the event, and (3) Relay for Life - has been a Team Member for many years, involved in setting up team displays, participating in the walk itself, and volunteering in the cash booth; and

WHEREAS, Yevonne has been a Stanislaus Civitan member for over 25 years, volunteering in the following community service programs: Easter Egg Hunt for special needs children at John F. Kennedy school in Ceres, Special Olympics for special needs children at Modesto Junior College, Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Candy Box project, Fruitcake project, and various other fundraisers: Golf Tournament / Hole in One, fireworks booth sales, crab feeds, and pancake breakfasts; and

WHEREAS, she has been involved in MICL (Modesto Institute for Continued Learning) programs for many years. She served as Hospitality Chair for the MICL Board, Vice

President of membership for the 'Talk It Out' Toastmasters class, and represented Modesto in an out-of-town contest. She and her husband were the 'Silver Slipper' award winners when they first started attending MICL for their enthusiasm in encouraging others to get involved; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ball has been a committee member for the Healthy Aging Summit the past few years, also serving as 'Volunteer' Chairperson, involved in organizing all of the volunteers to insure that all areas of the Summit were covered; and

WHEREAS, Yevonne has been a supporter of the Modesto YES Company, and the Modesto Performing Arts, strongly encouraging others to support these programs as well

WHEREAS, she is a volunteer for the Gallo Center for the Arts; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize YEVONNE BALL as an outstanding senior citizen and thanks her for her very special contributions to the entire community of Modesto, and to Stanislaus County.

**IN RE: RECOGNIZING JANET ATANOUS AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 2, STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Atanous currently serves as Vice President of the Assyrian National Council of Stanislaus County; and

WHEREAS Janet was instrumental in holding the first health fair (2004) at the Assyrian Evangelical Church in Turlock; and

WHEREAS, she began holding classes for persons wishing to become US citizens in January 2007: as of March 2009, 875 of her students have become US citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Atanous is a volunteer at the INS (Immigration & Naturalization Services) office in Fresno, helping with the monthly Swearing In ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Janet is a very active community volunteer: she teaches the elderly to read, drives seniors to various appointments (doctor, Social Security Office, Department of Motor Vehicles, the INS Office in Fresno, etc.), and helps seniors fill out various paperwork; and

WHEREAS, she serves as a Mentor and encourager for a large group of volunteers who assist in the community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Atanous voluntarily organizes and promotes fundraisers to help the poor and the ill: [example] funds were raised to provide healthcare for a child cancer patient whose parents could not afford healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Janet voluntarily coordinated a community health clinic for the elderly and poor where 1,000 seniors received flu shots; and

WHEREAS, she was involved in the PTA for six years, serving as President for a time when her children were young; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize

JANET ATANOUS as an outstanding senior citizen and thanks her for her very special contributions to the entire community of Turlock, and to Stanislaus County.

**IN RE: RECOGNIZING BOB SCHMAL AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 3, STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schmal serves as the Vice Chair of the 'Paradise South: Gateway to Change' Weed & Seed effort (a Department of Justice program). Funding from this project has benefited the Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations in West Modesto; and

WHEREAS, Bob is involved in 'Congregations Building Communities', an organization that was responsible for bringing a 'lighting district' into existence, and helped increase the number of registered voters in the neighborhood substantially; and

WHEREAS, he serves as Chairman of the 'Building Strong Neighborhoods' Impact Council for United Way; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schmal serves on Modesto Police Chief Roy Wasden's Citizens Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Bob is actively involved with City and County officials and Habitat for Humanity with regards to the funding that will be coming for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to help with the local foreclosure problem: and

WHEREAS, he co-hosts an annual neighborhood 'National Night Out' potluck on his front lawn; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schmal has served for many years as a very successful liaison between City and County officials: he is trusted by both sides, which has been very important during many times of heated discussion; and

Whereas, Bob was one of the individuals who helped found the Stanislaus Shade Tree Partnership, and he continues to serve on this project (partners in this collaborative effort are the Greater Modesto Tree Foundation, the Modesto Irrigation District, the City of

Modesto, Stanislaus County, Weed and Seed Program, and the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department). The goal is to plant trees in the neighborhoods in southwest Modesto and the Airport District not only for aesthetic purposes, but to help the residents reduce their energy consumption, thereby lowering their energy costs; and

WHEREAS, Bob actively looks for young volunteers to join him in the various community programs in order to mentor them and introduce them to other like-minded individuals; and

WHEREAS, he was involved in the project that brought the '1st Tee' program to West Modesto; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Schmal is a Veteran of the US Army, having served in the European theater for 31 months in the early 1960s; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize BOB SCHMAL as an outstanding senior citizen and thanks him for his very special contributions to the entire community of Modesto, and to Stanislaus County.

**IN RE: RECOGNIZING LORETTA FOSTER AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 4, STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms Foster volunteers in the community by encouraging her peers to become active in the community by helping them become self-sufficient and teaching them how to advocate for themselves, thereby increasing their self-esteem and feeling of self-worth; and

WHEREAS, Loretta visits depressed seniors in skilled nursing facilities and private homes (even out of the area) to encourage them in their rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, she visits peers to teach them how to use their electric wheelchairs, and encourages them to get out into the community using their wheelchairs; and

WHEREAS, Ms Foster formed a group of women who make regular phone calls or visits to seniors who are lonely, depressed, or physically ill; and

WHEREAS, Loretta volunteered with a group of her peers to put together Christmas gift bags to ensure needy seniors would receive a gift during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, she is a Veteran of the US Marine Corp, who was stationed at El Toro in 1964; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize LORETTA FOSTER as an outstanding senior citizen and thanks her for her very special contributions to the entire community of Modesto, and to Stanislaus County.

**IN RE: RECOGNIZING VIOLET THREET AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 5, STANISLAUS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and commitment of senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms Threet serves as a volunteer for the Congregate Senior Meal Program at the Patterson Senior Center, helping set-up, serve, and do clean-up; and

WHEREAS, Violet serves as a volunteer at the Food Bank in Patterson; and

WHEREAS, she provides transportation to seniors to various appointments, to the senior meal site, and to Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms Threet volunteers at her Church (United Methodist Federated Church) for any project that needs to be done; and WHEREAS, Violet is a volunteer at the senior complex where she lives, helping with whatever needs to be done; and

WHEREAS, she provides free hair cuts to those seniors who need one; and

WHEREAS, Ms Threet served as a Cub Scout Den Mother when her two sons were involved in Scouting; and

WHEREAS, Violet served as a Minor (Little) League Baseball Representative, and volunteered many hours for 'snack shack' duty when her sons were active in the sport; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize VIOLET THREET as an outstanding senior citizen and thanks her for her very special contributions to the entire community of Patterson, and to Stanislaus County.