

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

DEPT: ^{mp} Aging & Veterans Services

BOARD AGENDA # *A-4

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE May 13, 2014

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

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. 2014-226

On motion of Supervisor Withrow, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman De Martini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:



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 Jean Tomlinson (Oakdale)

Supervisorial District 2: Mr. Abe Rojas (Turlock)

Supervisorial District 3: Mr. Jerry Rhine (Modesto)

Supervisorial District 4: Ms Billie Taylor (Modesto)

Supervisorial District 5: Ms Virginia Vaz (Newman)

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 request.

CONTACT PERSON:

Margie Palomino, Director. Telephone: (209) 525-4601

IN RE: RECOGNIZING JEAN TOMLINSON AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 1, STANISLAUS COUNTY

WHEREAS, she has been a member of Stroke Resources, Inc. for 24 years and has volunteered in several different capacities over that time:

- she started out as a hostess at the monthly meetings, and continues to volunteer in the office with mailings, etc.
- she became a Board member in 1991.
- she became the Recording Secretary in 1991, and served in that position for 21 years.
- she was a volunteer Aquatics Instructor, providing water therapy for stroke victims at the YMCA for 18 years (until the YMCA closed down).
- since 1997, she has been organizing / facilitating stroke caregiver support groups, providing emotional and educational informational to caregivers about strokes and their effects on family functioning. She inspires others by being a positive role model and exemplifying positive self-care in times of role conflicts and crisis. She works with stroke victims so positively and faithfully with encouragement, they work very hard to get better: some eventually become volunteers for the organization, and a few have even become Board members.
- she helps plan Stroke Conferences, as well as solicit advertisements for them, and works the registration tables at the conferences; and

WHEREAS, she has been a member of Saint Mary's Church in Oakdale for 4 years, and has volunteered in many different ways:

- she has been a Team Member for RICA (Rite of Christian Instruction for Adults) for 3 years.
- she has served as a Eucharist Minister for 2 years.
- she is actively involved in 'sewing' projects for the Church, making an Altar Cloth, baptismal garments, banners, and various Easter projects; and

WHEREAS, she has volunteered one afternoon a week for 3 years in a 4th Grade class at Cloverland School in Oakdale; and

WHEREAS, she has been a volunteer for Oakdale's Community Thanksgiving Dinner for 2 years; now therefore be it

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

IN RE: RECOGNIZING ABE ROJAS 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, Mr. Abe Rojas has been a volunteer for 40+ years with the Athletic Program at CSUS (California State University, Stanislaus):

- he has volunteered for both men's basketball and women's softball programs, and he has been officiating for Girls' Softball for 40 years for the NCOA (Northern California Official's Association).
- In 2011, he received the honor of being inducted into the CSUS Hall of Fame for 40 years of philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rojas has 'announced' the Home football games for 40+ years: first at Turlock High School, and now at Pitman High School. He was also a volunteer coach, umpire, and referee for softball, baseball, basketball, and football at both high schools. He was awarded a 'Lifetime Pass' for his unwavering volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, Abe has been a volunteer for the Turlock Chamber of Commerce since its inception 25+ years ago, and was honored as the '1994 Citizen of the Year' by the Chamber; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abe Rojas has been a member of the Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) Board for 19 years:

- he has served for 12 years as a member of the 'TRIO Student Support Services' Advisory Committee for underprivileged students. This federally funded program through the Department of Education is designed to promote student success and improve academic performance for Modesto Junior College students and prepare them to transfer to a four- year school.
- he has served for 10 years on the Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Advisory Committee that helps adults returning to school, as well as preparing them to transfer to a four-year school.
- he serves on the VIP JPA (Valley Insurance Program Joint Powers Agency) that verifies the schools' insurances meets the standard 'above and beyond' the limits for liability, workers compensation, etc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rojas has served on The Salvation Army Advisory Committee for 15 years, helping with the Kettle Kick-Off and other fundraisers. He was honored by The Salvation Army in 2007 as their 'Volunteer of the Year'; and

WHEREAS, Abe served on the Board of Trustees for the Turlock Joint Union School District for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abe Rojas volunteered as a Coach for Little League and Senior League baseball for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rojas volunteered to spearhead the athletic park project that after 6+ years became the Pedretti Sports Complex in Turlock. He not only put together a team to work on this project, he also supervised fundraising activities as well as wrote grants, successfully securing three State grants for a well, a sprinkler system, and lights for the facility. In 2007, one of the ballfields at the complex was officially designated as the 'Abe Rojas Ballfield'; and

WHEREAS, Abe served on the Girl Scouts Muir Trail Advisory Council for 5 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abe Rojas has served on the CSUS President's Advisory Council for 4 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rojas has served for 2 years on the Oversight Boards of the Successor Agencies to the Cities of Hughson *and* Turlock Redevelopment Agencies; and

WHEREAS, Abe has volunteered for 2 years with the Youth Group at Turlock's Sacred Heart Catholic Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abe Rojas mentored youth in all facets for decades, and received the 'Bell Award' from Stanislaus County for his Outstanding Service to Education; the Area Council Community Service Award from the Turlock PTA; and the Community Service Award from Turlock's Osborn Elementary School PTA; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rojas was honored by the Turlock JayCees with a variety of awards over the years: 'Outstanding Young Man', 'Community Physical Fitness Leadership Award', and 'Distinguished Service Award'; and

WHEREAS, Abe has also volunteered with the senior population, having helped develop the Turlock Senior Center. Mr. Rojas calls himself a 'Community Advocate' as he is always willing to help anyone in any way he can; now therefore be it

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

IN RE: RECOGNIZING JERRY RHINE 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. Jerry Rhine is an active volunteer for the Stanislaus Academic Decathlon, having served for 20+ years; he also volunteers for the Stanislaus Academic Pentathlon (4 years), and for the State Academic Decathlon (4 years); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhine is a former member of the United Way of Stanislaus County, having served 18 years on the Board: 12 of those years as the Chair of the 'Income Crisis to Stability' Committee; and

WHEREAS, Jerry is a volunteer advocate for CASA of Stanislaus County ('Court Appointed Special Advocates' for children) and has been since its inception in 2002 (12 years).

- he is known to take on the most heart-wrenching, difficult cases, and works to make sure the children involved have the best possible outcomes with all the necessary supports.
- many of the children have special educational, and significant emotional issues, and he spends countless hours, and has traveled 100s of miles to attend meetings that are relevant to meeting the needs of these children.
- his compassion for those children who come from families who have 'thrown' them away, or have parents who are mentally unable to care for them properly, compels him to not only see that their tangible needs are met, but he makes them feel safe, protected, loved, and valued.
- he literally 'saved' a child in the hospital emergency room from dying from an overdose because of his deep compassion and care: that 'child' now, six years later, still testifies to the difference Jerry made in his life.
- he helps train new Volunteers for CASA, sharing from his own experiences; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Rhine has been a member of the musical group 'Keynote Chorus' for 12 years, and has been the Volunteer Director for the last 10 years. This group performs 25 times a year for senior residential homes and care centers around Stanislaus County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhine served for 10 years on the Doctors Medical Center Foundation Board (DMCF) until it unfortunately dissolved. 'Miller's Place' (Alzheimer's Day Care and Adult Day Health Care Resource Center) opened, and the 'Mom Mobile' (medical outreach) became a reality during his 1-year term as President of the Board. He also served as Vice President for 1 year; and

WHEREAS, Jerry has been a member of the McHenry Museum Foundation for 9 years, 6 of them as a Board member. He is the immediate Past-President of the Foundation, and was the Centennial Chair for 1 year, overseeing the 100th anniversary / birthday celebration of the Museum; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Rhine has been a member of the California Retired Teachers Association for 6 years, and has served as the Program Chairman for 6 years. He has served as the President for 2 years and as Vice President for 1 year. The Association advocates for teachers, but it also raises funds that are donated to purchase items for classrooms; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhine has been a volunteer for 5 years at Hutton House, a state licensed temporary shelter for runaway, homeless, and youth in crisis who are ages 13-17, providing Client Supervision; and

WHEREAS, Jerry has been a volunteer for 5 years on the Woodland West Community Neighborhood Watch Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jerry Rhine has been a member of the Stanislaus County Mental Health Board for 2 years, involved with two programs: (1) Children's System of Care, and (2) the Family Justice Center. As a member, he also participates in visiting twelve agencies each year to evaluate their programs, etc.; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize Mr. Jerry Rhine 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 BILLIE TAYLOR 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 Billie Taylor has been a member of the Stanislaus County Commission on Aging (COA) for many years, serving as President for 3 years. The COA serves as an Advisory Council to the Stanislaus County Area Agency on Aging, and in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors. The COA serves as 'eyes and ears' regarding issues affecting the lives of senior citizens in Stanislaus County, and where appropriate, provides advocacy and / or leadership; and

WHEREAS, Ms Taylor has served as Stanislaus County's Assemblyperson for the California Senior Legislature (CSL) for 12 years. The CSL was established by State law, and the mission of the CSL is to help preserve and enhance the quality of life for older Californians and their families. The CSL is comprised of 40 Senior Senators and 80 Senior Assembly Members who are elected by their peers (persons 60 years of age and older) to represent seniors throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Billie volunteered as a Mentor for the Stanislaus County Foster Children's Program for 6 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms Billie Taylor served as the local AARP Community Presence Team Leader for 5 years, and helped educate the public about AARP's services; and

WHEREAS, Ms Taylor served for 4 years on the Modesto Junior College's Measure E Bond Program's 'Citizens Bond Oversight Committee' whose purpose is "to routinely inform the public concerning the expenditure of Yosemite Community College District (YCCD) bond revenues over the life of the District's \$326 million construction project to ensure that bond proceeds are used properly and for its intended purposes."; and

WHEREAS, Billie has served for 3 years as a volunteer for CARA (California Association of Retired Americans), an organization that keeps an eye on health care legislation and its members travel to Sacramento to lobby for same; and

WHEREAS, Ms Billie Taylor was an organizing member of the Committee that worked for mobile home rent stabilization under the direction of then-Modesto City Councilman Will O'Bryant. She served on that Committee until it was dissolved after its goal was achieved (approximately 1 year); and

WHEREAS, Ms Taylor served as the Secretary for the Non-Commissioned Officers Wives Club at Castle Air Force Base for 1 year; and

WHEREAS, Billie volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader for 1 year; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize Ms Billie Taylor 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 VIRGINIA VAZ 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 Virginia Vaz has been a member of the Gustine-Newman Soroptomist Club for 51 years, and for the past 10 years she has been collecting and delivering Christmas gifts to needy families in these two cities for the organization; and

WHEREAS, Ms Vaz has been visiting the residents at San Luis Convalescent Hospital in Newman every Monday for 15 years, helping ease the loneliness of the residents, and praying the rosary with the Catholic residents; and

WHEREAS, Virginia helped deliver food to the homeless and other needy families during the holidays for the Catholic Church for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms Virginia Vaz has been a volunteer for the (Newman-Gustine) Agape Food Pantry for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms Vaz volunteered as a Bell Ringer for The Salvation Army for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, Virginia learned the 'Laubach Method' in order to learn how to teach English to foreign-language speaking persons, which she did for many years; and

WHEREAS, Ms Virginia Vaz, for over 2 years during the 1980's Amnesty Program, translated the required statistical information from Portuguese into English to help the families in the program make the transition; now therefore be it

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