

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

DEPT: ^{mp} Aging & Veterans Services

BOARD AGENDA # *B-1

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE May 12, 2015

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. 2015-203

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa

and approved by the following vote,

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

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: Mr. Belmiro Goulart (Riverbank)

Supervisorial District 2: Ms Myrna Wachs (Turlock)

Supervisorial District 3: Mr. Jim Cairns (Modesto)

Supervisorial District 4: Mr. Richard Anderson (Modesto)

Supervisorial District 5: Mr. James Coverick (Ceres)

The Board of Supervisors presentation of the Senior Commendations 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 BELMIRO GOULART AS AN OUTSTANDING
SENIOR CITIZEN OF DISTRICT 1, STANISLAUS COUNTY

WHEREAS, Mr. Belmiro Goulart and his family have an ongoing Volunteer project where Care packages are assembled and mailed to troops overseas, and they have been doing this for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Goulart has been a Volunteer for the American Legion Post 3199 (Modesto) for 9 years, cooking for, and loaning equipment for all their events. He has also provided food for other Veterans events (grand openings, etc.). He himself is not a Veteran, but does all this Volunteer work for Veterans in honor of his son, who joined the Army on September 9, 2011, in response to the attack on the Twin Towers in New York City; and

WHEREAS, Belmiro and his family have an ongoing Volunteer project holding a BBQ and feeding the homeless at Beard Brook Park four times a year, and they have been doing this for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, he and his family have an ongoing Volunteer project where baskets of food are prepared and delivered to needy families in the West Hatch Road area every Thanksgiving and Christmas for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Belmiro Goulart has Volunteered as the cook for the local Portuguese Celebrations for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Goulart is very active with the Knights of Columbus at St. Joseph's Church; and

WHEREAS, Belmiro's desire to help others with his overwhelming generosity, whether they are Veterans or the less fortunate, is truly heartwarming and makes a positive impact on the lives of many people; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize Mr. Belmiro Goulart as an outstanding senior citizen and thanks him for his very special contributions to the entire communities of Riverbank and Modesto, and to Stanislaus County.

IN RE: RECOGNIZING MYRNA WACHS 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, Ms Myrna Wachs has been providing transportation for senior residents of a Turlock Senior Community to medical appointments, shopping, and social activities, etc. for 5 years; and

WHEREAS, Ms Wachs has been an active Volunteer for 3 years in her Synagogue, Congregation Beth Shalom:

- She provides transportation for seniors who are visually impaired and unable to drive
- She serves as Chair of the Chesset Committee, whose members visit the sick and dying members of the Synagogue
- She bakes and donates food items for Synagogue events
- She serves as the Chair of the Bake Sale for Café Shalom; and

WHEREAS, Myrna has been active in the Turlock Democrat Club's projects for 2 years:

- She participates during the winter months cooking and helping with monthly dinners at the Homeless Shelter 'We Care'
- She helps register voters at the Turlock Farmers' Markets
- She also donates food, and helps package food for the Homeless; and

WHEREAS, she has served this past year on a Committee that educates politicians as to domestic violence legislation bills, as part of the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA): Congressman Jeff Denham co-sponsored a bipartisan bill in response to her efforts; and

WHEREAS, Ms Myrna Wachs has been a Volunteer at the Senior Law Project for the past year, donating 15 hours per week helping seniors who are seeking legal help. 'The Senior Law Project provides free legal services to residents of Stanislaus County age 60 or older, and there are no income requirements'. She also helps train the Volunteers and staff at the Senior Law Project.; and

WHEREAS, Ms Wachs has recently started a new Volunteer project helping seniors 'de-clutter' their homes in preparation of moving into a senior facility; and

WHEREAS, Myrna was a Volunteer for 5 years at a Women's Shelter in Los Angeles, helping the women with clothing, and helping them get jobs; and

WHEREAS, she was a Volunteer for 5 years at a Battered Women's Shelter doing administrative work; and

WHEREAS, Ms Wachs Volunteered 3 years as a Cub Scout Den Mother when her children were small; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize Ms Myrna Wachs 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 JIM CAIRNS 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. Jim Cairns has been a Volunteer with the Ombudsman Program at Catholic Charities for 6 years, donating 55+ hours per month. "The Ombudsman Program advocates for the rights and quality of life for residents of skilled nursing facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, and those who attend adult day health care program." As an Ombudsman Volunteer, Jim Cairns is responsible for twelve assisted living facilities and five skilled nursing facilities, routinely visiting each facility once a month to ensure everything is going well for the residents, and making visits to a facility in response to any complaint against it; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cairns has been a Volunteer with HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) for 5 years, donating two days a week in the HICAP office (he donated over 900 hours in 2014), and participating in outreach forums around the County to educate the public about Medicare issues. HICAP "provides free and objective information and counseling about Medicare. Volunteer counselors can help you understand your specific rights and health care options." As a Volunteer HICAP Counselor, Jim has provided unbiased information to help hundreds of Medicare beneficiaries make the best choices for their individual health care needs, as well as helping many of them apply for a low income program that allowed them to save money and improve their quality of life. His Supervisor notes that he is always willing and able to assist with whatever is needed, and is highly motivated to learn new things, and to be well informed. He is sensitive to the needs of others and works well with the senior, disabled, and homeless populations. Many of his clients tell her they know he truly cares for them, and most of all, he gives them respect, which they really appreciate; and

WHEREAS, Jim has Volunteered as the Assistant to the Chair of the St. Stanislaus School's Fall Festival Committee for 4 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jim Cairns was a Volunteer Marriage Counselor for the local Catholic Charities office for 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cairns served as a Volunteer Outreach Counselor for Gays and Lesbians for 6 months for an independent organization in the Fresno area; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize Mr. Jim Cairns 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 RICHARD ANDERSON 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, Mr. Richard Anderson was a co-creator of the 'Science Colloquium' at Modesto Junior College 20 years ago, and has been actively involved with it ever since. The "Science Colloquium is an outreach effort of the college to the community". Mr. Anderson organizes the weekly 'one-hour' lecture series, recruits the speakers (scientists), prints the posters for each lecture, video records the program and posts it online; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson Volunteered for over 10 years as a 'Science Educator' for Salida Elementary School and 'Videographer' for the school field trips. He volunteered anywhere from 10 - 20 hours a month, teaching hands-on life, physical, and earth science lessons to 1st to 5th graders, as well as training Volunteers to help with the Science Field Trips along local rivers. He also participated in Family Science Nights, Back to School Nights, and School Open Houses, and he challenged the students in a recycling event, matching the funds they raised for the school's Butterfly Garden. He generously donated numerous pieces of science equipment to the school for the benefit of the students, as well as paying for the bus for several of their field trips; and

WHEREAS, Richard has served as a Volunteer 'Science Educator' and videographer for the Tuolumne River Trust for 10 years. He has helped as an activity facilitator and videographer / photographer for river education field trips for children. He has created several educational outreach videos such as 'Trekking the Tuolumne', 'Urban Drainage', 'Incredible Journey' (life cycle of the salmon), and 'River Safety'; and

WHEREAS, he has served as a Committee member and videographer for MAPS (Modesto Area Partners in Science) for 10 years. MAPS provides free science education for the public (youth and adults), "bringing educators and local citizens into contact with scientists and mind-expanding ideas."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richard Anderson collaborated with neighbors and friends 4 years ago to organize the 'Solar Everywhere' group that provides information to local homeowners about the solar energy applications available in their area. This group organized two Solar Fairs in the Modesto area which resulted in many residents installing solar panels to reduce their use of electricity. In addition, 2 years ago this group began making solar energy presentations at the annual Earth Day celebrations and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson has video-documented local poets for 4 years, capturing an oral history of the visual and literary arts unique to our community. These videos are available on Vimeo and UTube to use as an educational resource, or just to view for pleasure; and

WHEREAS, Richard has been involved with the State Theater's 'Science on Screen' program for 2 years. This program pairs popular, feature-length movies with lectures by prominent scientists, etc.; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, he created a 'Homeless in Modesto' documentary using his videographer and editing skills. This documentary gives a voice and a face to the homeless, and an opportunity for them to participate in a solution to homelessness in our community. Many of the homeless have been connected to services due to their increased visibility, and some have even transitioned out of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Richard Anderson was requested to help develop a science program for Turlock schools, and he worked with them to connect with the Limpets Program (Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and currently, four schools in Turlock are engaged in this program, taking 60-80 students to the ocean in the Fall or Spring. Their success led to a Modesto elementary school becoming involved in this program as well; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson's energy and dedication is an inspiration to others to become Volunteers, and he serves as a great example for them to emulate. Even though he is a College Professor, he voluntarily invests in grammar school age children to expose them to the wonders of science at an early age, and to instill in them that we are all responsible for making our community a better place; now therefore be it

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. James Coverick served our Country in the U.S. Army for 3 years during the Vietnam War as a medical evacuation helicopter crew member; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coverick has been a member of the Ceres Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10293 for 5 years, and currently serves as Commander. He has been actively involved in many aspects of the Post since first becoming a member:

- He has spearheaded, implemented, and served as the Chair for the Post's various fundraisers, and continues to do so. A recent crab feed fundraiser raised nearly \$9,000, and the proceeds benefited the Wounded Warriors Program, and local Ceres sports teams
- He helps promote the Ladies Auxiliary fundraisers, and helps sell tickets to their events
- He provides transportation for other Post members to medical appointments, etc.
- He serves as the liaison to the City of Ceres, and to Ceres City Schools, promoting the Post-sponsored 'Essay Contest' to Ceres schools students
- He is a member of the 'Military Order of the Cooties', a group that raises funds to purchase Christmas goodies to deliver to Veterans living in the Veterans Nursing Home in Livermore. This group also provides a BBQ and a Bingo activity to those residents every-other-month.
- He became a member of the Honor Guard 4 years ago, and currently serves as the Captain of the Honor Guard. He does the organizing and recruiting for new members, as well as the refurbishing and maintenance of the guns used during the Honor Guard Ceremony. In 2014, this Honor Guard rendered 57 Military Funeral Honors; and

WHEREAS, James Volunteered with the Royal Rangers Program at the Ceres Assembly of God Church, and helped with the church's feeding the homeless program; now therefore be it

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