

SANTA BAR RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER 2006 **CALIFORNIA**

AS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE MONTH

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common progressive type of dementia, characterized by cognitive deficits including impairment of memory, language, judgment and other brain functions; and there are currently 4.5 million Americans diagnosed with the disease with the number expected to grow to over 16 million as the population ages; and

WHEREAS, November was designated as National Alzheimer's Disease Month in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan, who died from the disease nearly 20 years later; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's California Central Coast Chapter stands ready to offer home and in office assessment, professional referrals, group support, respite care and education to the 8,250 Santa Barbara County residents who have the disease, and to their families and caregivers who deal with the emotional, physical and economic impact of Alzheimer's on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the toll of Alzheimer's is measured not only in lives impaired and futures lost, but in economic impact as well. In 2002, American business lost more that \$61 billion due to absenteeism by caregivers, productivity and employee replacement costs...an equivalent of the net profits of the top ten Fortune 500 companies; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association and its local chapters promote the progress made in treatment and in care, including over 50 new compounds currently being tested; advocate for funding from state and federal sources for research to end this disease and from local and county sources for funds to support individual families and clients; participate in the Safe Return program to assist those clients who wander or become disoriented; and encourage brain health through the national "Maintain Your Brain" program for those unaffected by Alzheimer's in hopes of preventing or slowing the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors proclaims November 2006 as "Alzheimer's Disease Month" in Santa Barbara County.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 7th day of November, 2006 by unanimous vote of all members present.

Supervisor - 5th District