

**RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION
FOR SENIOR DEPUTY BOBBY JOE FORTIER,
DEPUTY CHRIS NELSON, DEPUTY MIKE MCNEIL
AND DEPUTY TODD HENSLIN**

WHEREAS, In the early morning hours of September 28, 2004, Sheriff's Emergency Dispatch received a call of hostages being held at gun point in an Orcutt residence; and

WHEREAS, deputies assigned to the Santa Maria Sheriff's Substation started their response, led by Senior Deputy Bobby Joe Fortier, who began to formulate a plan; and

WHEREAS, the hostage taker was soon identified as the estranged boyfriend of one of the victims whose brother had escaped the residence, who was able to alert the Sheriff's Department of the severity of the situation inside his home in the Foxenwoods neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, of most concern to the responding deputies, including Deputies Chris Nelson, Mike McNeil and Todd Henslin, was the information that the family members inside the house were bound and the suspect was threatening to shoot his ex-girlfriend with his gun; and

WHEREAS, immediate intervention was deemed critical by our deputies so they deployed quickly, and after their entry into the home, while in a narrow hallway leading to the bedroom where the suspect and victims were believed to be, Deputies Fortier and Nelson were instantly confronted and fired upon by the suspect; and

WHEREAS, in the ensuing seconds, Deputies Fortier and Nelson were engaged in a fierce gun battle, and although shot once by the suspect, Deputy Fortier along with Deputy Nelson fired back at the shooter and over thirty rounds were soon exchanged; and

WHEREAS, as the shooting stopped, it was immediately apparent that in their return fire, Deputies Fortier and Nelson had hit their target multiple times; and

WHEREAS, it was then clear that Deputy Fortier had been shot, hit once by a 40 caliber round, and was transported to Marian Medical Center and later underwent surgery for his wounds; and

WHEREAS, in the law enforcement profession members are occasionally called upon to face like threatening challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors hereby issues proclamations that in recognition of their cohesive teamwork under great duress Senior Deputy Bobby Joe Fortier, Deputy Chris Nelson, Deputy Mike McNeil, and Deputy Todd Henslin are recognized for their live saving actions in the face of danger. They are examples of the finest law enforcement has to offer in this noble profession, and they are true heroes.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 17th Day of May, 2005 by a unanimous vote of all members present.