

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION OF COMENDATION FOR THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AERO SQUADRON

WHEREAS, The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Aero Squadron, a group of volunteer pilots that own their own planes and volunteer their time for the County of Santa Barbara was established in September 1941 by Burton Bundy and Jack Crawford, and;

WHEREAS, After Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 many of the Squadron members left and joined the Armed Services. The Aero Squadron itself was assigned to 24 hour guard duty at Goleta Airport and those members who remained carried out that assignment until May 5, 1946 when Sheriff John D. Ross reassigned them to the Sheriff's Department, and;

WHEREAS, Since the Aero Squadron was established, there have been 208 men and women squadron member, 37 of whom have served as Captain during this time, and;

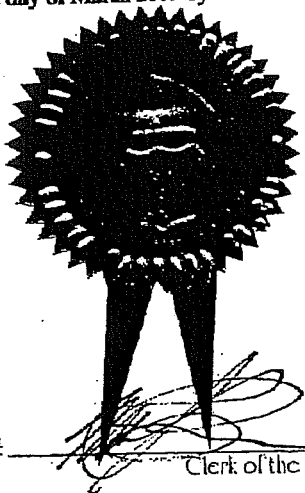
WHEREAS, Today, utilizing their unique knowledge, flying skills and aerial observation, members continue to dedicate their personal time and aircraft in support of vital community services. Aero Squadron pilots may be dispatched to provide search capability for missing persons, overdue and lost hikers, watercraft missing at sea, downed aircraft and assist in suspected drug and automobile surveillance. Other current missions include prisoner transport, administrative flights for federal, state and county government personnel, and;

WHEREAS, During Red Flag Fire Warning periods the Squadron patrols the county watching for telltale signs of smoke. During the 2007 and 2008 fire seasons, the squadron was called out numerous times to assist with patrolling the County and was instrumental in locating potentially threatening fires. During the 2007 Zaca Fire they assisted by flying media representatives over the fire area. The video taken helped educate the public on the severity of the fire and the difficulty in fighting it, and;

WHEREAS, The current Aero Squadron Memberships includes: Luis Beltran, Don Briggs, Bill Brink, Tom Carlyle, Larry Cochran, Lisa Derrick, Bruce Fall, Jim Gaskin, John Grube, Dick Gunst, Terry Harris, Frank Heintz, Richard Hille, Don Jessup, Ted Kenney, Jon Kent, Jim Loda, John Roberts, Elwood Schapansky, Bob Stahl, Mack Stanton, Tom Strelch, Jim Victor, Gregg Weitzman, Dan Wright, and Wayne Zimmerman.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND HEREBY ORDERED that this Board of Supervisors recognizes and commends the men and women of the **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AERO SQUADRON** for their unselfish hard work assisting the Sheriff and Fire Departments in keeping Santa Barbara County and her citizens safe.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 17th day of March 2009 by unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District