



Bill Horn

SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: May 21, 2002
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: Memorial Day Resolution (Last Monday in May) (District: All)

SUMMARY:

Overview

Every Memorial Day we have the opportunity to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our nation who paid with their lives so that we, their posterity, might enjoy the freedom they so valiantly preserved for us. Many today think of Memorial Day weekend as a day for the races or the beach or just an extra day off from work and have no idea of the history of the day itself. Support of the Memorial Day Resolution will assist citizens throughout San Diego County to understand the true significance of the day.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR HORN:

1. Adopt the Resolution in honor of Memorial Day as it originally was established to honor those who have fallen in service to their country.
2. Direct CAO to draft letter for Chair's signature to be sent with a copy of the Resolution to all San Diego School Districts and Veterans' organizations.

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

Every Memorial Day we have the opportunity to pay tribute to the brave men and women of our nation who paid with their lives so that we, their posterity, might enjoy the freedom they so valiantly preserved for us. Many school children and adults have no idea of the meaning of Memorial Day. They think of it of as a day for the races or the beach or just an extra day off

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from work and having no idea of the history and significance of the day itself. Support of the Memorial Day Resolution will assist citizens and school children throughout San Diego County to understand why we celebrate Memorial Day.

I encourage all of us to take a moment this Memorial Day, May 27, 2002, to pay our respects to those who have given the last full measure to preserve our freedom.

Respectfully submitted,

BILL HORN
Supervisor, Fifth District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written Disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 Required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	[X]N/A

Other Concurrence(s): N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District Five

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The fight for and preservation of freedom has come at a high cost from the Revolutionary War to the present day in the War on International Terrorism. As John Quincy Adams stated, “Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it”; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was originally known and celebrated as Decoration Day when, on May 5, 1866, the townspeople of Waterloo, New York closed their shops and gathered to place wreaths and crosses on the graves of Northern soldiers killed in the Civil War between North and South while General Jonathan Logan led the veterans through town to decorate their comrades graves with flags; and

WHEREAS, The two ceremonies were joined in 1868 when northern states commemorated the day on May 30 with children’s songs and poems; veterans visited the schools wearing their medals and uniforms and all marching through their home towns to the cemetery to decorate the graves and give a rifle salute to their fallen comrades; and

WHEREAS, In 1882, the name was changed to Memorial Day, and soldiers who had died in previous wars were honored as well with the day designated as a legal holiday in the northern states and the southern states commemorating their war dead on different days; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, along with other holidays, President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a national holiday on the last Monday in May when communities all around the United States hold their own ceremonies to pay respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of their country; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day continues to give us an opportunity to express our gratitude for our fallen heroes and it gives us an opportunity to celebrate our freedom secured by their sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Many in America today have forgotten that freedom isn’t free; that with freedom comes great responsibility for each citizen to preserve that freedom so that the fallen are never forgotten

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors declares the last Monday in May as a time to remember all who have served and sacrificed to keep American free and encourage the teaching in our schools the significance of this day as stated by President Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address: “...from here these honored dead, we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion – that we here highly resolve these dead shall not have died in vain...”