

MARIPOSA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA  
ACTION FORM

DATE: June 9, 1992  
AGENDA ITEM NO.: CA19

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors BY: Baggett

PHONE: 966-6242

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (Policy Item: Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_)

Resolution Honoring the Firefighters Killed and Critically Injured in the Timber Lodge Fire of 1962

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

After adoption, this resolution will be presented at the dedication ceremony on June 13 in Midpines. The Board of Supervisors frequently recognizes citizens who have done outstanding deeds.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If not adopted, these firefighters will have no official Board recognition.

COSTS: (X) Not Applicable	
A. Budgeted current FY	\$ _____
B. Total anticipated costs	\$ _____
C. Required additional funding	\$ _____
D. Internal transfers	\$ _____
SOURCE: ( ) 4/5ths Vote Required	
A. Unanticipated revenues	\$ _____
B. Reserve for contingencies	\$ _____
C. Source description:	_____
Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ _____	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:  
List the attachments and number the pages consecutively:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CLERK'S USE ONLY:  
Res. No.: 92-306 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Abstained: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_\_  
Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:  
This item on agenda as:

Recommended

Not Recommended

For Policy Determination

Submitted with Comment

Returned for Further Action

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
County of Mariposa, State of California  
By: Deputy \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
A.O. Initials: 

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 92-306

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS KILLED  
AND CRITICALLY INJURED IN THE TIMBER LODGE FIRE OF 1962

WHEREAS, on August 2, 1962, a fire broke out in Midpines and moved in a northerly direction along Bear Creek and Highway 140, beginning a slight northeasterly shift at Carstens Road; and

WHEREAS, the day was very hot with very low humidity and a generally southwesterly wind; flanking attack on the fire was made along Carstens Road on the western edge of the fire; and

WHEREAS, at the point where Carstens Road met the old Ponderosa Way, several firetrucks and a bulldozer lined up with the intent of holding the fire at this point along the eastern edge of the fire which had crossed Carstens Road farther back; and

WHEREAS, as the vehicles and crews were organizing to begin line construction, a spot fire occurred on the east side of Ponderosa Way; in an attempt to catch the spot fire, the Jerseydale Fire Crew moved out well ahead of the other crews; and

WHEREAS, at this same time, west of and below Ponderosa Way, there occurred what is known in forest fires as "area ignition" or "blow-up," which occurs when, due to extreme heat held in by surrounding hills and protected from the wind, an area is super-heated to the point where it will catch fire similar to what an open tub of gasoline might do; and

WHEREAS, this blow-up, accompanied by a westerly shift of the wind, caught the entire Jerseydale crew and their truck in the center of the fire, resulting in the deaths of THOMAS W. FOLEY, Foreman, MARTIN F. GIORGI, JOHN VAUN RASCH, and RAYMOND ST. PIERRE; and the critical injury of KENT STOEL and ROY CHAPIN; and

WHEREAS, this entire event occurred in less than two or three minutes, with the blow-up itself lasting only a few seconds; and

WHEREAS, over the past 30 years, Father Francis Walsh of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Mariposa has lobbied for a monument to these men; and

WHEREAS, on June 13, 1992, a monument will be dedicated in Midpines approximately one mile west of the firestorm location, in memory of the U.S. Forest Service firefighters who lost life and health protecting the public lives and property during the "Timber Lodge Fire," August 2, 1962; and

WHEREAS, although Father Walsh died in an auto accident a few months ago, this dedication is a result of his persistence and the efforts of the Midpines Boosters Club.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, that the firefighters killed and critically injured are hereby commended for their sacrifice in protecting the public lives and property during the "Timber Lodge Fire" of August, 1962; and the Midpines Boosters Club is hereby commended for its efforts toward the dedication of the monument memorializing these firefighters.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 9th day of June, 1992, by unanimous vote.

ARTHUR G. BAGGETT, JR., District I

GEORGE P. RADANOVICH, District IV

SALLY S. PUNTE, District II

GERTRUDE R. TABER, District V

ERIC J. ERICKSON, District III