

Special Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
Meeting Scheduled Start Time: 9:00 AM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Maricopa County, Arizona
(and the Boards of Directors of the Flood Control
District, Library District, Stadium District, Improvement
Districts, and/or Board of Deposit)



"The mission of Maricopa County is to provide regional leadership and fiscally responsible, necessary public services to its residents so they can enjoy living in healthy and safe communities."

Board Members

Max Wilson, District 4, Chairman
Fulton Brock, District 1
Don Stapley, District 2
Andrew Kunasek, District 3
Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5

County Manager

David Smith

Clerk of the Board

Fran McCarroll

Meeting Location

Supervisors' Auditorium
205 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, Arizona

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County, Phoenix, Arizona, convened in Special Session at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium, 205 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Max Wilson, Chairman, District 4; Fulton Brock, District 1; and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Absent: Don Stapley, Vice Chairman, District 2; Andrew Kunasek, District 3. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board and David Smith, County Manager.

1. Veteran's Day Ceremony

Chairman Wilson welcomed those present to honor America's service men and women on the one day in the year that is especially set aside to thank them and pay tribute to their honorable and vigilant service every day to protect America's freedoms, even at the risk of their own lives.

The Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard posted the colors
The Star Spangled Banner was played by the Los County Boyz
The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Wilson
The Invocation was given by Chaplain Chris Melvin, AZARNG

Brigadier General Tim Phillips, AZARNG, Chief Engineer & General Manager of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County acted as Master of Ceremonies. He introduced Elliot Freireich and his father, Burt Freireich. Elliott read a short piece his father had written in remembrance of a number of the comrades he had served with. The reading provided personal glimpses of these men, accounts of their deaths, and words of honor for their service to their country.

Supervisor Brock said his heart was full in thinking of all who have served in any conflict to preserve the freedoms of this country. He commented on his father, who served at Oak Ridge, Tennessee during the development of the atomic bomb – and that bitter/sweet contribution to help end World War II. He also commented on the memorial photos of service men and women, many of whom are connected to Maricopa county as either employees or family members of County employees that are mounted in the halls of the Administration Building in celebration of their patriotic

and unselfish service to this County and to our Country.

Supervisor Wilcox remembered the Veteran Day celebrations in her home town as a time to honor those who have and who are now serving their country. She stated that Americans should remember that the rights we enjoy come with a cost and with sacrifice that most do not personally experience, "And so, we remember those who do."

David Smith commented on why veterans usually don't like to talk about their experiences, most feeling grateful that they survived but also feeling guilty because they do live, while so many of their friends and others either did not survive or returned with such heavy physical or mental losses that the course of their lives are changed forever. It is difficult for veterans to talk about those things, those memories, to people who have never experienced anything remotely similar.

Mr. Smith explained that this may come from a personal viewpoint, but the rest of us owe it to those who served to reflect on and to learn from their sacrifices and to help our veterans learn to live with victory over the issues of conflict and war. He noted that this kind of "character development" comes at a very high price. His hope is for all to learn to handle the post-traumatic syndrome that prevails, to be restored and made whole, and that every American will participate in this restoration process.

Commander Martin Sepulveda, U.S. Naval Reserve, combat veteran of Desert Storm, the Kosovo air campaign and who recently returned from his third combat tour of duty, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), was the keynote speaker. Commander Sepulveda is a 7th generation Arizona native having grown up in Phoenix and can remember the Valley when it was full of citrus orchards and acres of flower farms nurtured by the age-old canals. He introduced his father, brothers and son who have given a combined total of more than 123 years of military service to their country. His father had joined the Air Force Reserves where he and many others joined the paratroopers. Their mission was to parachute into remote areas to rescue downed servicemen. Commander Sepulveda remarked on the sadness for those servicemen returning from their bitter struggles in Viet Nam to a nation that refused to honor them or their sacrifices. He also remembered the sacrifices endured by family members who suffer in their own way when a loved one faces dangers and possible torture or death if captured during any and all of this nation's wars.

Commander Sepulveda asked Americans to rise above politics and honor the patriotism they feel for their country, and "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States" along with those in service who make that promise in taking their oath. He insisted that this is a "set of rules which should be equally applied to all." He asked every American to "keep the faith and support those serving our country today." Commander Sepulveda was thanked and given a plaque with a picture of him with his son.

A video to honor Maricopa County employees who have served the nation was presented.

Brig. General Tim Phillips thanked all who attended this memorial to take part in the County's celebration of those who have or are serving their country and reminded all that every veteran needs the love and support of his family in making such a personal sacrifice.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Max W. Wilson, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board