

**SPECIAL SESSION
September 27, 2007**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County Arizona convened in Special Session at 9:00 a.m., September 27, 2007, at the Maricopa County Workforce Connections' West Valley Career Center, 1840 N. 95th Avenue, Ste. 160, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Andrew Kunasek, Vice Chairman, District 3, Max W. Wilson, District 4 and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Also present: Lupe Lerma, Assistant Deputy Clerk of the Board and David Smith, County Manager. Absent: Fulton Brock, Chairman, District 1 and Don Stapley, District 2.

GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY OF THE MARICOPA COUNTY WORKFROCE CONNECTIONS' WEST VALLEY CAREER CENTER

Al Macias, Maricopa County Communications Officer, welcomed everyone to the event which commenced with the Luke Air Force Base Honor Guard, Pledge of Allegiance led by Eddie Lopez, Maricopa County Human Services, and the National Anthem sang by Jackie Gill, Maricopa County Community Colleges. (ADM2512)

Supervisor Wilcox commented that the reality of this new center would not have been possible without the support of County leadership and community partners. The 33,000 sq. ft. facility provides the youth and military veterans a full menu of comprehensive employment-related services. The center was designed to assist in the transition from military to civilian life and will serve as a one-stop delivery system that not only assists job seekers find employment but that also helps businesses with recruiting and referral services, as well as hosting job fairs and lay-off prevention services.

Other distinguished speakers included Rochelle Webb, Program Administrator, Arizona Department of Economic Security; Richmond Vincent, Chairman, Maricopa Workforce Connections Board; Barbara Broderick, Maricopa County Chief Probation Officer; and Brigadier General Timothy S. Phillips, Arizona National Guard and Chief Engineer of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

Several speakers commented that the center is a tremendous accomplishment made possible through partnerships with various agencies that collectively recognized the growth and the needs of the community. These agency partnerships include the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Job.com, Phoenix Workforce Connection, and the Maricopa County Community Colleges District.

Supervisor Wilson noted that the Elijah Wong Veterans' Services Center is appropriately named in honor of Mr. Elijah Tai Wah Wong, a Maricopa County Probation Officer who died in Sanjar, Iraq, on February 9, 2004. Mr. Wong is survived by his wife, Liz, and their three children. He was the first Maricopa County employee to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Ms. Broderick, Chief Probation Officer, spoke of Elijah Wong who not only served Maricopa County as a probation officer but served his country as an Arizona National Guardsman. She remembered him he as a humorous, thoughtful, quiet man dedicated to his family, his work, and the military.

Brig. General Phillips noted that Sgt. Wong was no stranger to conflict. He never hesitated to perform his duty for his country. Veterans will knowingly and unknowingly use this facility that is named after a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country.

The program ended with Mrs. Wong being presented a beautiful plaque in honor of her husband. This was followed by a ribbon cutting, at the front entrance, to officially open the Maricopa County Workforce Connections' West Valley Career Center.

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

**SPECIAL SESSION
September 27, 2007**

Tours of the facility were offered to the public.

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

ATTEST:

Andrew Kunasek, Vice Chairman of the Board

Lupe Lerma, Assistant Deputy Clerk of the Board