

**SPECIAL MEMORIAL SESSION
September 11, 2006**

The Board of Supervisors of Maricopa County Arizona convened in a Special September 11th Memorial Session at 9:30 a.m., September 11, 2006, in the Board of Supervisors' Auditorium 205 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Don Stapley, Chairman, District 2; Andrew Kunasek, District 3, Max W. Wilson, District 4 and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Absent: Fulton Brock, Vice Chairman, District 1. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Shirley Million, Administrative Coordinator; David Smith, County Manager; Terry Eckhardt, Deputy County Attorney. Votes of the Members will be recorded as follows: aye-nay-absent-abstain.

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S COLOR GUARD

The Colors were presented by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Color Guard and the Supervisors led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL FOR A MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Stapley introduced the Supervisors and then called for a moment of silence to remember and commemorate the memory of those who died and those who sacrificed so much in so many different ways during the 2001 terrorist attacks against America and the free world. He said that acts of heroism are personal responses to those moments when a person or a group is suddenly plunged into a morally or physically perilous situation. He cited two photos that symbolize this for Americans, the Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima during World War II and the firefighters raising the American flag on the rubble of the two tallest buildings in the world that were rammed and subsequently collapsed, entombing thousands of innocent lives. He spoke of the unity that both of these acts rallied in the hearts of all Americans as they determined to find and destroy their enemy. He also spoke of the disunion in the hearts of politicians and others today that is especially being felt during the current election cycle. Chairman Stapley asked everyone to remember the vows they took on September 11, 2001, and if they disagreed, to disagree "agreeably." He stated that the United States of America stands for freedom throughout the world and no matter how many sneak attacks are brought against her, she will always symbolize freedom to the masses and warned that those freedoms must be guarded and maintained.

Supervisor Wilson spoke of how the world and all lives were changed by cowardly Al Qaeda terrorists when they hijacked three commercial airplanes and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing 2,933 innocent people. A fourth hijacked plane, Flight 93, is believed to have been directed towards the Capitol in Washington when 40 heroic passengers tried to regain control but unfortunately the plane crashed in Pennsylvania. He spoke of Arizona Congressman Bob Stump, a WW II veteran, who refused to evacuate the Capitol after the Pentagon was hit and government was being moved out of danger. Congressman Stump, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, was soon joined by two of his subcommitteemen, Congressman Jim Saxton of New Jersey and Congressman Duncan Hunter of California. Mr. Wilson explained that in an act of defiance towards terrorism the three of them remained in that government office and contacted other members of the committee by phone. "And while smoke was still pouring from the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, they started to work on redesigning our military to meet the new threats of our new world." He stated that at least in one part of the Capitol that day the 'People's business' carried on unabated.

Supervisor Wilcox remembered the phone caller that told her to turn-on the TV news five years ago and the resulting shock and unity that pervaded the masses for the following year as Americans reeled from the shock and then set firmly about to remedy the situation. She visited the destruction while it was still smoking and in memory recited, "The American's Creed."

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"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people. Those whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy and a republic, a sovereign nation of many sovereign states. A perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon the principals of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies."

Lt. Donna Hudson said that she and ten other Valley members of the Sheriff's Critical Incidence Response Team were sent to the WTC after air travel had been restored. They set to work assisting and relieving police officers and other workers, some of whom had been digging through the rubble for 30 straight days with no relief to go home and see their families. She said it had been an honor and a privilege to go to Ground Zero and she met some wonderful people and had many good memories along with the bad ones. She related the tale of one inconsolable police officer who had lost his partner and best friend in the thick dust and smoke when he had turned right and his partner had turned left and his partner was never seen again. She advised people to leave nothing unsaid to their loved ones because there is no way of knowing when you leave them if you will ever see them again.

Division Chief Ron Jamison and Captain Mark DeLima of the Phoenix Fire Department are FEMA representatives in Phoenix and both knew when the plane hit the second tower that it was an act of terrorism and they would be deployed to Ground Zero. They flew into New York a week after the tragedy to help the 50,000 local enforcement officers and those who had arrived earlier after driving from nearby states. Chief Jamison said their first shift started at night and he described the eerie sensations as they moved over the tons of destruction that was backlit and still smoking, looking almost like a movie set. He said they started digging down to find steel for workers to cut apart for easier removal. They found human remains, parts of aircraft, clothes without bodies and pieces of bodies, which were collected for DNA testing to help bring closure to families. He said they worked very hard for long, exhausting hours and then found it impossible to get any good sleep. He spoke of the then unknown dangers from breathing the smoky chemical-filled air, especially for those arriving early and staying late at the site. He said the original death toll had increased due to exposure to hazardous chemicals and that some firefighters had since died of related lung diseases. Chief Jamison said he has not watched any of the documentaries or seen any of the movies made about 9/11. His life changing memories are enough.

Captain DiLima remembered the overwhelming outpouring of community at the site and all through the U.S. as donations poured in and relief articles were transported to the scene. He remarked at the many changes this act had brought to the world, to himself, and to the fire department he captains. He said they now look at everything in a new light; that earlier a report of unknown white powder had been just that and now it had to be viewed as a possible terrorist act. He asked all to be vigilant because terror comes unannounced.

A short video presentation was shown and the memorial ended with all those present singing "God Bless America." (ADM650)

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK

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MEETING ADJOURNED

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

ATTEST:

Don Stapley, Chairman of the Board

Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board