

RUSTY DUPRAY.....DISTRICT I
HELEN K. BAUMANN.....DISTRICT II
JAMES R. SWEENEY.....DISTRICT III
RON BRIGGS.....DISTRICT IV
NORMA SANTIAGO.....DISTRICT V

CINDY KECK.....CLERK OF THE BOARD

330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667
TELEPHONE (530) 621-5390
FAX NO. (530) 622-3645



July 30, 2008

TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Board of Supervisors
FR: Supervisor Norma Santiago, District V, Lake Tahoe

RE: Volunteer Recognition for August 12, 2008

Dear Board Members:

It is always a difficult task choosing one person or organization each year to honor as our Volunteers of the Year when I am exposed to such greatness given by volunteers in every aspect of community service. This year was no exception.

As it would happen, two people and an organization share this award for their vision, dedication and service to our community in one of the greatest times of need.

Pamela Bettencourt and Russ Wilson worked as Co-Chairs, along with the **Loyal Order of Moose Lodge**, to put together a **Community Care Center** at South Lake Tahoe after the Angora Fire swept through neighborhoods, devastating lives and property in its wake, and robbing families of lifelong possessions.

Russ and Pamela worked as a resilient team staying an uneasy course to coordinate the teams, find the building, facilitate the legal and financial issues, direct the donations, funnel the volunteers, and distribute the furniture, food, clothing, toiletries, linens and the most basic but underestimated items for these survivors who arrived at the center in shock and sadness.

Donations were arriving by the truck loads from around the state and nation. Local, county and regional businesses and community service organizations were anxious to help and offer food, furniture and money.

There was no immediate structure by which to receive all of these goods. Pamm and Russ organized and implemented what can now be used as a template for other communities in disaster; a program that can quickly accommodate an influx of needed commodities.

The Community Care Center operated daily with the help of Moose Lodge members, other volunteers and fire survivors, as well, for three months. There was a huge celebration for the survivors, law enforcement and fire agencies in December, and every bit of the donations, down to the coat hangers, was utilized by those in need.

What they accomplished was nothing less than miraculous, looking back on it now. A great community thank you goes out to Pamela Bettencourt, Russ Wilson and the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, District Five's Volunteers of the Year.