

BOARD COMMENTS
August 25, 2009
Adjourn in the Memory Of:

Colleagues, I would like to adjourn today's meeting in memory of Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson. Supervisor Wilson was first elected to represent the 4th District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and was reelected to a fourth term in March 2006. For the past fifteen years, he has represented the largest district in Riverside County. His district stretched from the Palm Springs area south to the Salton Sea and east to the Colorado River and the California/Arizona border.

Before joining the Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Wilson served as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Palm Desert for three years, and as a member of the Palm Desert City Council for 17.5 years.

While representing the 4th District and Palm Desert City, Supervisor Wilson's civic duties also included 22 years as a governing board member for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, where he most recently served as Vice Chairman, 24 years on the Riverside County

Transportation Commission, and 14 years on the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District. He also served as a past President of the Salton Sea Authority and was a past Chairman of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the SunLine Transit Agency, and the Riverside County Transportation Commission.

Before entering public office, Supervisor Wilson spent more than 33 years in higher education as an administrator and professor at California State University, Stanislaus and College of the Desert. His educational background and his teaching focused on journalism; a field he was passionate about.

He was active in several professional journalism organizations. He has served as President of the California/Arizona Journalism Association of Community Colleges, President of the national Community College Journalism Association, and in 1995 was inducted into the Community College Journalism Association's Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C. He also co-authored the textbook Mass Media/Mass Culture, which was used throughout the United States and in Canada.

Supervisor Wilson passed away on August 26. He will be missed. I asked that you keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

—ADJOURNMENT—
Leonard Schwendeman

Colleagues, I ask that we adjourn today's meeting in memory of Leonard Schwendeman. Mr. Schwendeman passed away September 5, at the age of 91.

Leonard was born in 1918 in a small house on Irvine Ranch where his father worked. As a small child he wrapped and packaged oranges at the packing house at Bryan and Redhill. He attended the old Tustin Grammar School, and then Tustin High School where he met the love of his life Evelyn. They were married in January of 1940 in his parents home across from the little schoolhouse in Trabuco Canyon where he lived his entire life since 1928.

During World War II Leonard had his own business cutting tree roots along orchards to protect the citrus crops and food supplies, and cut hundreds of ditches at the old El Toro Marine Base so the military could install electrical infrastructure. Leonard was well liked by the pilots, and they would often buzz him from the air to say hello.

At a party last month Leonard spoke of his early days in the "Wild Country." He spoke of hunting and horseback riding, he recalled the grand opening of O'Neil Park where he was in charge of the ceremonial BBQ, and recounted his experiences during the Great Flood of 1961.

—ADJOURNMENT—
Leonard Schwendeman

Leonard loved all kinds of engines and spent his life operating them. He built roads, hauled water, moved dirt, helped build Mission Viejo's water tanks many years ago, and helped his neighbors out during the many floods and fires. In addition he was the Trabuco fire chief beginning in the 1940s at the canyon fire station his father started.

He was a passionate gardener, sharing the fruits of his labor with the people he loved. He was also a very good cook.

He will be buried at the old El Toro Cemetery, a cemetery that was expanded by him with his tractor work many years ago. He will be buried next to his wife, Evelyn, this Friday, September 18th. After the ceremony, everyone is invited to the church on the top of the hill in Trabuco Canyon to share their stories of Leonard because Leonard loved telling the stories of his life to everyone.

He was preceded in death by his wife Evelyn, and is survived by their daughter Cathy. Please keep them in your prayers.

—ADJOURNMENT—
Benita Lucille Nichols

Colleagues, I ask that we adjourn today's meeting in memory of Benita Lucille Nichols. She was 79 years of age.

Benita was born in a farmhouse in Huntington, Ohio before moving to the City of Fountain Valley. Her passion of square dancing began when she was 9 years old when she began as a caller and an instructor. For the next 70 years she became quite an accomplished dancer, and with her husband Glen and participated in the: Golden West College Square Dance Program, the Royal T's, the Chevrons, the Buttons and Bows, and the Keystone square dance club.

In all that she did Benita loved her family. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Glen Edward Nichols, her children, Steve, Kathleen, Karen, and Mark Nichols, General Manager of the Association of Orange County Deputy Sheriffs. In addition she has 11 grand children, and one great-grandchild. Her services were held this past Saturday, September the 12 at Westminster Memorial Park. Please keep Benita and the entire Nichols family in your thoughts and prayers.