

Gaddi H. Vasquez

In Honor of Receiving the Salvation Army Orange County's 2009 Others Award

WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the people of Orange County's Third Supervisorial District, congratulate Gaddi Vasquez for earning the Salvation Army Orange County 2009 Others Award; and

WHEREAS, Gaddi H. Vasquez was born in Carrizo Springs, Texas; he is a Mexican American and the son of migrant workers;

WHEREAS, Gaddi H. Vasquez attended school in the City of Orange; after he graduated from high school, he attended Santa Ana College; he then attended the Los Angeles Police Academy and graduated Valedictorian of his class; he eventually returned to college and earned his Bachelor's degree from the University of Redlands; his is the recipient of three honorary doctorate degrees; he was the first one in his family to graduate from college;

WHEREAS, he served in government for twenty-seven years prior to his appointment as Director of the Peace Corps by President George W. Bush; he began his long, outstanding, and distinguished public service career at the age of nineteen as a Police Officer with the Orange Police Department; during the 1980s, he moved to the state level of government when Governor George Deukmejian hired him to the position of Deputy Appointments Secretary; Mr. Vasquez was elected Supervisor of Orange County's Third District in 1988 and represented the people of the Third District of Orange County through 1994; and

WHEREAS, Gaddi Vasquez gained national prominence during the 1988 Presidential Election; Mr. Vasquez endorsed Republican Presidential Candidate George Herbert Walker Bush for president and was given the high honor of addressing the Republican National Convention; in his speech at the 1988 Republican National Convention, he encouraged Hispanics and Latinos to support George H.W. Bush because his philosophy and policies were ones that truly would better their lives; and

WHEREAS, after he left his post as Orange County Third District Supervisor, he served in the Administrations of Governor Pete Wilson and Governor Gray Davis; after his departure from public service, Mr. Vasquez moved into the private sector; he was hired by Southern California Edison Company to the position of Vice President for Public Affairs;

WHEREAS, Gaddi Vasquez has made a positive, far-reaching, and lasting impact throughout California, across America, and around the world through his public service; during his tenure as Director of the Peace Corps, Mr. Vasquez initiated an ambitious recruitment to increase the number of minorities who serve in the Peace Corps; minorities who serve in the Peace Corps now make up fifteen percent of the organization's volunteers; he saw a need to improve the way that people who are afflicted with AIDS/HIV are served; he created a centralized office within the Peace Corps for AIDS/HIV relief; as a result of his efforts, the Peace Corps is much more effective and successful in providing people suffering from AIDS/HIV with medical care, relief, and other services to enhance their quality of life; furthermore, under Gaddi Vasquez's leadership, the Peace Corps grew to have the highest number of volunteers in three decades; he upgraded the Peace Corps attention to safety and security, and he was a trailblazer in launching an innovative program with Mexico that focuses on science and technology; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush once again called on the talents, abilities, experiences, expertise, and other resources of Gaddi Vasquez by appointing him to serve as United States Ambassador to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, Italy; during his service as United States Ambassador to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, Italy, he was the United States Permanent Representative in Rome and a leading voice in the war against hunger, poverty, and disease; Mr. Vasquez did an outstanding job in marshalling the world's efforts in enhancing people's quality of life; during his reign as United States Ambassador to the United Nations Organizations in Rome, Italy, he ensured that U.S. monies were devoted to eradicating hunger, disease, and poverty; because of Mr. Vasquez's efforts, U.S. and U.N. monies devoted to eliminating hunger, disease, and poverty now reaches and helps more people affected by these scourges; and

WHEREAS, since leaving government at the beginning of this year, Mr. Vasquez has returned to California and he currently serves as the Executive Director of the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands; his duties in this capacity include fostering and studying democracy; because of his background, he plans to continue speaking publicly about the need to end world hunger and poverty; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vasquez's served the community through is participation on the boards and commissions of a myriad of community organizations that included the Orange County Council for the Boy Scouts of America, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation, the KOCE-TV Foundation, and Olive Crest; additionally, he served on the advisory board of the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation and he is a co-founding Chairman of the Orange County Hispanic Education Fund; he also has served as a Trustee Professor at Chapman University; he also had the honor of serving on two Federal Commissions during the Administration of President George H.W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, Gaddi Vasquez is clearly deserving of the Salvation Army Orange County's 2009 Others Award, which is bestowed upon individuals or organizations that exemplify an extraordinary spirit of service to others and exceptional service to their communities; the Others Award is the highest award given to an individual or organization by the Salvation Army;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT SUPERVISOR BILL CAMPBELL does hereby congratulate Gaddi Vasquez for earning the Salvation Army Orange County's 2009 Others Award, commend him for his lifetime work of being a force for good in our nation and world, and offer him his sincere best wishes for continued success in community service and in all of his future endeavors.

May 29, 2009

BILL CAMPBELL
Supervisor, Third District