

Good Afternoon Distinguished Guests, Friends and Family of [Shari Freidenrich](#)  
Welcome to Shari's Swearing-in Ceremony for Orange County Treasurer!

My name is [Francisco Barragán](#), and I am the Commander for UMAVA (the [United Mexican-American Veterans Association](#))

UMAVA consists primarily of American veterans of Latino; Hispanic and Mexican descent. UMAVA's motto is: Honoring the Past; Appreciating the Present; and Inspiring the Future through Education and Advocacy. We are volunteers and Advocate for ALL American Veterans.

It is my deepest Honor and Privilege to perform this Invocation for such a uniquely qualified, talented, ethical, and spiritual person as Shari.

In a moment I will Share with you how I met Shari, and Why her victory is really a victory for our Great County and our Citizens.

First let me begin with a few well known words from the **PROMISE** enshrined in our Declaration of Independence which was then **FULFILLED** in our Constitution of the United States of America, and through the selfless service and sacrifice of many dedicated and brave men and women, and PLEASE indulge my slight revisions.

***"... We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [AND WOMEN] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights [AND TALENTS] and that among these [RIGHTS] are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness..."***

I mention this because when I first met Shari, this past July at an Independence Day celebration in which UMAVA's Color Guard posted the colors, I was IMMEDIATELY struck by Shari's Talents, as demonstrated by Shari's Extensive Professional Experience, her High Energy, her Passion for Service, and Shari's strong ethical value system rooted in her FAITH! . . .

**Shari YOU had me at Hello!!! . . .**

And the fact that Shari was a member of [The Inst. of Internal Auditors](#), were I was President, was Icing on the Cake!

**[PAUSE]**

NOW IF OUR COUNTY WAS A PERSON, our County's name would be JOB. For Orange County HAS been tried.

If you recall, JOB is described as a blessed man who lived righteously. Satan challenged Job's integrity, proposing to God that Job serves him simply because God protects him. God removes Job's protection, allowing Satan to take his wealth, his children, and his physical health in order to tempt Job to curse God. Despite his difficult circumstances, he does not curse God.

Thus, a critical trait of any elected or appointed official is not only technical competence, but also unwavering Ethics, and if this is rooted in Unwavering Faith, in my opinion, so much the better!

When I found out Shari was running for OC Treasurer, I thought what a GREAT but LOOONG name Shari has. Now, mind you, as a Mexican-American, I thought my name was long – Francisco Javier Barragán Ortiz Alvarez – and of course my nickname is “Paco”.

But in Shari's name, **HERS** is a name very appropriate for this office.

Freid-en-Rich: We will be “**Freed**” from Worry, **and** “**Rich**” by this!

Also, her full name is:

Shari Freidenrich

**Certified** Public Accountant,

**Certified** [California Municipal Treasurer](#),

**Certified** Public Finance Administrator,

**Certified** Public Funds Investment Manager and

**Certified** Cash Handler.

Shari, I HOPE YOU CORNER the market on some investments, as you have Cornered the market on professional licenses!

## [PAUSE]

America is a great and exceptional country . . .and we are most blessed because of the hard fought political freedoms we enjoy. These **FREE**doms were **NOT** FREE and were **purchased** for us by the sacrifice of our Founding Fathers and other dedicated and brave Americans, from all walks of Life.

But our political freedoms require Economic Prosperity.

And Economic Prosperity requires a UNIQUE individual to be the steward of our County's valuable assets!

Shari, I am happy to know that YOU ARE that unique individual!

This is your purpose and calling. YOU ARE the Right person, with the Right skills, the Right experience, the Right temperament and the Right Value system!

It is because of your Calling and VOCATION that we are here today performing this INVOCATION!

## [PAUSE]

On Shari's behalf, I would like to take a few moments to thank a few people!

- First of all, PLEASE give yourselves a strong round of applause for supporting Shari!
- Let us thank the other OC Treasurer candidates, in particular Mr. Keith Rodenhuis, Deputy Treasurer – It is worth noting that we were not voting against someone but for something!
- Also, let's thank Clive – Shari's Husband. Clive was tireless in his support of Shari. You know, they say that BEHIND every successful man, there is a very strong, supportive and successful woman....
- Well I think Shari is REDEFINING this because now we will say that NEXT TO every successful Woman is a successful Man; AND IN FRONT OF every successful County, is a very talented and successful Woman!
- **Thank you Shari for being such a great Role Model and Inspiration – and thank you for your family and friends for letting us BORROW you for our Treasury dept!**

- I want to also thank a local and well known pastor for his recent gift of a Book which crystallized my words in a few subsequent quotes – the book is entitled “America’s God and Country”

And without sounding like a Mexican-American Oprah - I hope you read it !

[ PAUSE ]

[ PRAYER ]

**IN CONCLUSION, Will you all Please Stand for this portion.**

- On January 27, 1793 **President George Washington** exclaimed:  
“We have abundant reason to rejoice that in THIS Land, the light of truth and reason has triumphed . . . and that every person may here worship **God** according to the dictates of his own heart”.
- And in 1980 **President Ronald Reagan** said, “The time has come to turn to God and reassert our trust in Him for the Healing of America...our country is in need of and ready for a spiritual renewal!”

**Will you all please bow your heads – and men please remove your hats.**

Let us begin:

- Lord, in the various names we have for you,
- King of Kings
- All Knowing; All Merciful;
- Dios;
- Great Spirit, Holy Spirit;
- Father;

We lift up to heaven, our Thoughts; Our Hearts; Our Voices in Prayer to thank you, and to ask that you protect and bless our brave men and women who serve for our freedoms, and that you welcome the Spirit of our fallen brothers and sisters.

Lord we recognize that this is a bittersweet moment for Shari, because her own father recently passed to a Better Life! Our faith comforts us because we know that because of your grace and salvation he smiles down in pride of Shari's accomplishments, and because she walks in Your path of Light and Truth!

Lord we also ask that you receive our WWII military Brothers and Sisters of the Greatest Generation that continue to pass to a better Life, and we also pray that you welcome our own brother **Eusebio Perez, WWII Silver Star Recipient** who passed this Sunday – Eusebio would have been 95 years young this February. It is fitting that Eusebio passed this Sunday which in Russian is **Vaskreshenya** – which means Resurrection!

This reminds us of the gift of eternal resurrection that we believe awaits us because of your grace and salvation.

Father, we thank You for Shari's gifts and talents.  
And we ask that You continue to grant her the community's support and that you bless Shari's efforts.

For as President Reagan declared, "there are times when I'm in church, I think God might recognize the magnitude of my RESPONSIBILITY and give me an EXTRA portion of His Grace...and I don't feel guilty for feeling that way".

And to reflect the diversity of our brotherhood in this World, in this Nation, in this Community we say,

Thank you – Gracias – Grazie, Obrigado, Danke, Mercie, Spasiba, Shukran, Motshakerram, Shie Shie, **Cám ơn**

We also pray that you guide all of our leaders in their efforts, and that we may always be able to freely declare – God Bless these Great United States of America!

Amen!