

Adjournment in Memory of Pat Markley

Colleagues, I ask that we adjourn today's meeting in memory of Pat Markley, a resident of Irvine and a valued member of our County family.

Pat was born on December 3, 1944 in Galveston, Texas, and passed away January 14 at the age of 66 after a valiant fight against cancer.

Pat graduated from high school in Bakersfield and received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology from California State University, Long Beach. She worked as an Administrative Director for the Bowers Museum Foundation in Santa Ana from 1983 to 1985 before embarking on a 24-year career with the County of Orange.

Pat started her County career in 1985 as an extra help employee of the then-newly established Office of Protocol. Pat was actively involved in coordinating countless events for foreign delegations and had the unique "honor" of fundraising her own salary.

In 1991, she became the first Public Information Officer for John Wayne Airport and during her tenure there she initiated the airport's first passenger survey, was involved in the creation of its first website and redesigned the information booths in the Thomas F. Riley Terminal.

Pat heeded the call of duty in the mid 1990's and served in the County Executive Office on a special assignment during the County's bankruptcy, helping to convey vitally important information about the County's finances to constituents and the media.

Following this important assignment, Pat returned to J-W-A, where she worked until joining the Health Care Agency staff in 1999. There, she served as the lead Agency spokesperson and provided strategic direction on a number of high profile issues including beach closures, Mad Cow disease, West Nile Virus and an influenza vaccine shortage.

In 2005, Pat returned to the County Executive Office as Manager of Community and Media Relations, where she professionally articulated the County's Strategic Focus efforts, provided information about the County's most recent financial challenges and implemented enhanced communications efforts via new forms of technology.

Pat was the County's longest serving specialized Public Information Officer and her cool, professional manner served the County well through numerous events and incidents. She was accredited in Public Relations through the Public Relations Society of America, continued her interest in archeology by serving as a past-president of the Pacific Coast Archeological Society and was involved in a number of organizations associated with the arts and the travel industry.

Away from work, Pat enjoyed spending time with her family, traveling, gardening, reading and savoring a glass of fine wine.

She is survived by her husband, David; two daughters (Donna Hammon and Teresa Arnold); five grandsons (Paul Amudsen, Paul Arnold, Kyle Arnold, Robert Fuller and Garrett Heitzman); a brother (Guy Jennett); and two sisters (Geri Duarte and Christine Maxwell).

I ask that you keep Pat and her family in your thoughts and prayers.