

Good morning!

It is truly an honor to stand before you, to stand with you and with the Honorable Marian Bergeson – former Senator, Secretary of Education and most importantly, 5th District Supervisor, who has administered the Oath of Office, as I officially take the helm as the newest County Supervisor, representing the fabulous 5th District and its many communities in south Orange County.

After a long campaign that lasted nearly 14 months, I am ready to turn my attention to representing **you**. I am very excited to begin working with my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, the various boards and commissions upon which I will serve, and with the mayors, city councilmembers, many local elected officials and community leaders who also represent the citizens of Orange County.

We will find ways to come together to solve problems, collaborate on long-term planning, and ensure that your county government delivers the core services you, the taxpayers, fund and expect in the most efficient and effective ways possible.

As I traveled across the 5th District, day in and day out, making my case to the voters and humbly asking for their vote, your vote, to represent them and you on the Orange County Board of Supervisors, I reflected on the county's mission statement, which is:

"Making Orange County a safe, healthy, and fulfilling place to live, work, and play, today and for generations to come, by providing outstanding, cost-effective regional public services."

Its vision for business and cultural values include four important pillars:

Excellence, Leadership, Stewardship, and Innovation.

And, most importantly, promoting a service-oriented culture that models the core values of Respect, Integrity, Caring, Trust and Excellence in everything we do.

As I join a new Board of Supervisors, who will lead the county government in the coming years, it is important to reflect on this mission and these values. They are solid ideals to be used as a guide for approaching the many decisions, often challenging, that will come before us.

Orange County is a special oasis in a very large and diverse State. No doubt there are many wonderful places in which to live, work, or travel through. Maybe I am biased, and maybe you agree with my bias, but there is no place where you can do all of those things quite like Orange County... no place as unique and special as the place so many of us call home.

What the Board of Supervisors accomplishes on your behalf in the coming years must always keep that in mind. So many of you, your families and your businesses, have been a part of a movement in this county – a movement that has contributed for so many years to the development of Orange County.

Many of those people may be your family members or even ancestors, who were farmers, small business owners, peace officers, firefighters, healthcare professionals, and perhaps workers from dozens of trades and crafts.

Along the campaign trail, I met so many wonderful people, who care deeply about the future of their community and what will be left behind for their children and families. I will work hard, achieve results, and not disappoint the residents that I serve.

I know I have some big shoes to fill after some very respected and passionate public servants who have held this seat before me... former Supervisors Tom Riley, Marian Bergeson, Tom Wilson, and Patricia Bates, who now represents us in the State Senate, just to name a few.

Senator Bates and those before her worked hard to leave the 5th District even better than when they began representing it. I will strive every day to do the same. I know my peers, who I join at the dais today, feel exactly the same way.

We have just under a decade to take on bold initiatives and work to accomplish great things that will profoundly impact the people of Orange County, improve the quality of life we cherish, and protect this rare gem that makes up 42 miles of southern California's premier coastline for generations to come.

Orange County just celebrated its 125th year as a county. I am honored to be elected to serve this great county, and also honored to be the very first Japanese-American elected to the Board of Supervisors.

We have a rich history as a county and much promise for a magnificent future, but it will take a lot of hard work to achieve our goals and objectives. I hope that you will join me and my colleagues on the Board to work together to make Orange County, America's 6th largest county, a place we can truly be proud of!

I appreciate your unwavering support and dedication to help elect me into office. I look forward to working with all of you, and I am honored and humbled to represent the Fabulous 5th District!

THANK YOU!