

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

407A



**FROM:** Department of Veterans' Services

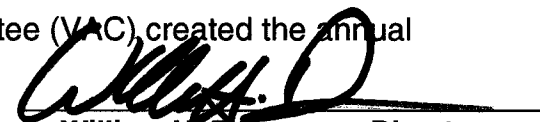
**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
09-18-2007

**SUBJECT:** 2007 David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award Presentations

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors....

1. Accept the recommendation of the Veterans' Advisory Community (VAC) and issue the attached proclamations naming GEORGE EPPERSON and the AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS as the recipients of the 2007 David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award; and,
2. Assisted by the VAC Chairman, Nick and Mike Goldware and the County Veterans Service Officer, present the proclamations to Mr. Epperson and Ira Taken Alive representing Agua Caliente Indians, at a brief ceremony during the Board's regular meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2007.


**BACKGROUND:** In 1999, the Veterans' Advisory Committee (VAC) created the annual (continued)

  
William H. Densmore, Director

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	07/08

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b>	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** APPROVE

BY:   
Elizabeth J. Olson

**County Executive Office Signature**

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dept's Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

**Prev. Agn. Ref.:** | **District:** | **Agenda Number:**

2.37

Departmental Concurrence

## **Board of Supervisors**

**Form 11:**

**Page 2**

**BACKGROUND:** David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award to recognize Riverside County volunteers who distinguish themselves through service to veterans. The award is named after local philanthropist and veterans' activist, David Goldware, a proud Navy veteran whose many years of community service included countless projects benefiting veterans. Former recipients of the award include Michael Goldware (Dave's son), Will Kleindienst (then Mayor of Palm Springs), Alta Marlin, Lee Millett Jr., Jim Ayres (Mayor of San Jacinto), Buck Galbraith and Leo "Marty" Schlocker.

In 2004, the VAC added an additional award category to recognize businesses or groups who go above and beyond their mission statements to serve veterans. Winners in this category have included Stater Bros Markets, MLK Jr. High School's "King High Remembers" program and the Corona Wal-Mart.

The VAC's recommendation for the 2007 individual category winner is LtCol. GEORGE EPPERSON, USAF (Retired). A former member of the VAC, Colonel Epperson served in the USAF from 1942 until his retirement in 1969. In 1982 he began volunteering at the March AFB's Retiree Affairs Office, becoming its director in 1986. He continues to serve in that position, guiding a staff of 22 other volunteers as they counsel Southern California military retirees and annuitants.

The VAC's recommendation for the 2007 business/group category winner is the AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS, the honorable Richard Milanovich Tribal Chairman. The Agua Caliente Indians are being honored for 10 years of sustained support to numerous Coachella Valley veterans' and military organizations. Along with annual donations of approximately \$1.3 million to posts and chapters, the band supports the USO program at the Palm Springs Airport and funds the "Marines' Room Program", providing free hotel rooms to military personnel delayed or facing layovers at the Palm Springs Airport.

At the Board's regular meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the board will be joined by VAC chairman Mike McKelroy, Nike and Mike Goldware and the County Veterans Service Officer to help coordinate the presentations.

Proclaiming  
LTCOL GEORGE M. EPPERSON, USAF (Retired)  
As the Recipient of the 2007  
David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award  
(Individual Category)

**WHEREAS**, the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory committee (VAC) created the David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award to recognize Riverside County Volunteers who distinguish themselves, as did David Goldware, through selfless acts of service to veterans; and,

**WHEREAS**, after carefully reviewing this year's nominees, the VAC recommends that LTCOL GEORGE M. EPPERSON, USAF (Retired) be named the recipient of the 2007 David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award – Individual Category; and,

**WHEREAS**, COLONEL EPPERSON has distinguished himself in service to his country and Riverside County's veterans by

- Serving the USAF from 1942 until his retirement in 1969; and,
- Serving on the volunteer staff of March AFB's Retiree Activities Office (RAO) since 1982, and as its Executive Director since his appointment by the Base Commander in 1986, where he continues to lead a staff of 22 retired officers and enlisted personnel representing all 5 branches of the military; and,
- Being awarded by General James Rubeor the title of "Honorary Colonel" at MARB for his "extraordinary commitment to the mission and the people of March ARB"; and
- Overseeing the provisions of retiree benefits to the 16,000 Air force and 60,000 other military service branch retirees and their dependents living in the local area; and,
- Serving on the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory Committee from 1999 to 2005; and,

**WHEREAS**, COLONEL EPPERSON has waged a non-stop campaign to protect veterans from identity theft though the unnecessary use of Social Security numbers on such documents as military separation forms; and

**WHEREAS**, in his letter of nomination, COLONEL EPPERSON was commended for his "effective, tireless volunteer work serving veterans, promoting veterans' causes, and his lasting contribution to the health and welfare of veterans, their families and survivors for more than a quarter of a century";

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN**, that the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, acting in regular session this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007, does hereby proclaim LTCOL GEORGE M. EPPERSON, USAF (Retired) as the recipient of the 2007 David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award – Individual Category – and extends to him the Board's sincere gratitude for his service to our nation and Riverside county's veterans.

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JOHN F. TAVAGLIONE, CHAIRMAN  
Second District

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BOB BUSTER, SUPERVISOR  
First District

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JEFF STONE, SUPERVISOR  
Third District

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ROY WILSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Fourth District

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MARION ASHLEY, SUPERVISOR  
Fifth District

Proclaiming  
THE AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS  
As the Recipient of the 2007  
David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award  
(Group Category)

**WHEREAS**, the Riverside County Veterans' Advisory committee (VAC) created the David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award to recognize Riverside County Volunteers who distinguish themselves, as did David Goldware, through selfless acts of service to veterans; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2004 the Veterans' Advisory Committee added a new award category – the business or group category – to recognize businesses and groups who go the extra mile to serve veterans in their day-to-day corporate activities; and,

**WHEREAS**, after carefully reviewing this year's nominations, the VAC recommends that the AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS be named the recipient of the 2007 David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award – Group Category; and,

**WHEREAS**, the AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS has distinguished itself in service to veterans by

- Annually donating approximately \$1.3 million to local groups, including veterans service organizations;
- Financially supporting the Desert Veterans Memorial Association which sponsors the annual Veterans' Day and Memorial Day ceremonies at the Palm Springs Cemetery;
- Financially supporting the USO program and facilities at the Palm Springs Airport;
- Fully funding the "Marines' Room Program" which provides free hotel accommodations to all military service personnel who face flight delays or long layovers at the Palm Springs Airport; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the letter of nomination, the AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF CAHUILLA INDIANS was applauded for its generosity and constant support of the Coachella Valley's veterans;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN**, that the Board of Supervisors of Riverside County, acting in regular session this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007, does hereby proclaim the AGUA CALIENTE BAND OF THE CAHUILLA INDIANS as the recipient of the 2007 David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award – Group Category – and extends to its Chairman and all its members the Board's sincere gratitude for the Tribe's service to our nation's veterans.

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JOHN F. TAVAGLIONE, CHAIRMAN  
Second District

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BOB BUSTER, SUPERVISOR  
First District

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JEFF STONE, SUPERVISOR  
Third District

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ROY WILSON, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
Fourth District

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MARION ASHLEY, SUPERVISOR  
Fifth District