

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



FROM: Marion Ashley, County Supervisor
Serving the Fifth District

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 22, 2014

SUBJECT: Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine of the Year Recognition Program

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors directs:

1. The County Executive Officer to establish a program at the County that recognizes the Outstanding Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine of the Year from our surrounding military installations, bases, posts, or armories;
2. That the program recognizes these outstanding individuals from all branches of the armed forces including the National Guard and federal and state reserve forces; and
3. That the said program be implemented within the 2014 calendar year and that an appropriate award be developed for presentation by members of the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Officer, Chief Assistant CEO, Assistant CEOs, Commissioner of the Office Military and Defense Services-EDA, and/or designees.

BACKGROUND: Each branch of the armed forces recognizes its Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine of the Year in formal ceremonies. This rigorous completion denotes the service member's outstanding service to country, branch of the service, and the individual unit of assignment. Riverside County is the host to a Naval Installation, Armed Forces Reserve Center, National Guard Armories, Readiness Center, and March Air Reserve Base. Numerous residents of our County also serve at Camp Pendleton, 29 Palms, and Fort Irwin in adjacent counties. These recognition programs address the devotion to duty, the performance of the member's official duties, and the character of one's service. Enlisted members, noncommissioned officers, warrant officers, and company grade officers are all eligible for these prestigious awards.

(Continued)

Marion Ashley, County Supervisor
Vice Chairman of the Board
Serving the Fifth District

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 5/5

Agenda Number:

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FORM 11: Soldier, Sailor, Airman, and Marine of the Year Recognition Program

DATE: April 22, 2014

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BACKGROUND: (Continued)

Establishing our own companion award program allows us to honor the exceptional service of those individuals who are honored by their branch of service for outstanding devotion to duty. Such presentations may be made at the Board of Supervisors meetings or at formal recognition ceremonies hosted by that branch of the armed forces. It is also noted that these awards ceremonies are often attended by hundreds of service members, community leaders, and dignitaries. All these ceremonies contribute to our regional economy when such events are hosted in our County. Our hospitality industry benefits greatly when these events are held in our County. Military leaders and economists estimate that our local military installations contribute over \$1.5 billion dollars annually in payroll in the region and create thousands of direct jobs. Cost of this program on an annual basis shall not exceed \$2,000 and shall be from the budget of the Office of Military and Defense Services-EDA.