

# Fresno Business Council - Weekly Bulletin

## Monday, July 3, 2000

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### Message from the President—Dick Johanson

This is our great Holiday for patriotism--Parades--"The Stars and Stripes Forever" (Thanks Mr. Souza!!)--Fireworks--The band concerts in the park"--hotdogs and hamburgers--baseball. For this we can thank our forefathers for creating a government of, by, and for the people. It is only when those in office misinterpret this system to mean a government to the people that we seem to wobble a bit. You can feel the excitement for progressive change in the air led by an increasing alliance between the public and private sectors. More and more we are marching together. The Fresno Business Council is in this parade with pride....

### Remembering the Sacrifices Others Made to Secure Our Freedom

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr, noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste, he found his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. *They had security, but they valued liberty more.* Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't fight just the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government! Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

### All America City Celebration Scheduled for Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup> from 5-10 p.m. Downtown

There will be live entertainment and a formal presentation by **Mayor Jim Patterson** at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate Fresno's winning the All America City Award on July 7th. The event will take place on "M" Street between Inyo and Ventura. This is a family, community-wide event. Everyone is invited. The Radisson Hotel is offering a special rate for the weekend—ask for the AAC rate. For more information call 495-4814.

### State Investment In CART Still Pending—Senator Poochigian & Community Have Done Their Part

As the remarkable CART vision is slowly coming to fruition, more and more people have been drawn into the support team. Thank you all for the deluge of support letters sent to the Governor. With the potential to transform secondary education, not just in our community, but in the United States, CART is the symbol of what a powerful public/private partnership can produce to improve the economic prospects of our children. Our two largest school districts joined forces to create something neither of them could do alone. The private sector, nationally and locally, has provided immeasurable resources and expertise. **Congressman George Radanovich** convinced Congress to invest \$1 million dollars. And **Senator Chuck Poochigian**, has worked tenaciously to include CART funding in the budget, secure its passage by the legislature and, hopefully, receive the Governor's signature. **Representative Mike Briggs** has also worked tirelessly to bring the story of CART to the legislature and the Governor's attention. And Central Valley liaison, **Chad Condit**, has spent countless hours getting the needs of the Central Valley on the radar screen of state lawmakers and **Governor Gray Davis**. The wait continues for the final outcome. Many deserve thanks and a community-wide celebration.

### Upcoming Activities & Events

Thursday, July 6 at 4:00 p.m.—Executive Committee (Deloitte & Touche)

Tuesday, July 11 at 7:30 a.m.—Joint Education & Public Affairs Committee meeting (McCormick Barstow)

Thursday, July 13—Board of Directors (Location to be announced)