

September 12-25, 2005 (Office Closed September 14-20.)

Message from the Chair Emeritus-Dick Johanson

Out of the sadness of the events surrounding the recent natural disaster in Louisiana and Mississippi, we are uplifted daily by reports of the goodness of our people in reaching out to those in need. We are constantly being inspired by uncountable demonstrations of personal kindnesses and financial generosity. Despite those who would detract from our heritage of compassion for the unfortunate, we are proving once again that we are a charitable nation. We care about each other. Someone put it this way -

OUR THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"Friends Are Quiet Angels Who Lift Us To Our Feet When Our Wings
Have Trouble Remembering How To Fly"

Public Service Takes Many Forms-A Time to Celebrate Integrity & Leadership

Those who dedicate their lives to public service are the backbone of democracy. This year's Vuich Ethical Leadership Award will be presented to Harry Armstrong who has served the City of Clovis since 1970, making him the longest serving city councilmember in California. Clovis has grown considerably over that time and managed to build upon its strengths and provide its citizens great services. Mr. Armstrong's steadfast leadership has played an important role in development of Clovis. It is when scandal or a crisis strikes, that many leaders are tested. During the events leading up to Operation Rezone, Mr. Armstrong "was one of the two city council members who stood firm against forces of self interest." As was often said of the late Senator Rose Ann Vuich, he would not "play ball."

The Excellence in Public Service Award was created ten years ago to honor bold and innovative leadership in the public sector. Bureaucratic regulations, the culture of the public sector and general inertia make innovation and change particularly difficult. This year the Business Council selected Chief of Police Jerry Dyer as the recipient of the Excellence in Public Service Award. As expressed by Chair Emeritus, Dick Johanson, "As I have gotten to know Chief Dyer over the years, I have watched his reaction to applause as well as criticism. At no time have I ever seen him waver from a position of honesty, integrity, knowledge and faith." CEO, Deborah Nankivell, commented, "Chief Dyer brings to the field of law enforcement a broad understanding of human nature. His ability to reach across systems and disciplines to work with others is the type of innovative and bold leadership we need to address root causes of chronic problems."

On Thursday, October 13 there will be a luncheon honoring the two award winners at the Robert A. Schoettler Conference Center adjacent to the Radisson Hotel. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. and the program will conclude by 1:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$50.00. To acquire registration information, call 559-294-9119 or email mkeppler@csufresno.edu. The Awards Luncheon is sponsored by the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute, The Fresno Bee and the Fresno Business Council.

Eleventh Annual Restorative Justice Conference Scheduled September 23-24

"On July 24, 1998 more than 20 leaders of Fresno County's leading governmental agencies and organizations, including the Probation Department, CAO, Public Defender, District Attorney, Department of Human Services, City and County Schools, Fresno Police Department and the Sheriff's Department, endorsed the development of a community restorative justice plan. In November of that year, approximately 100 private and public sector leaders authorized a group to provide direction for a broad based systemic change based upon restorative justice. The framework developed by this group is on the web at <http://peace.fresno.edu/docs/rjframe0201.pdf> In New Zealand, restorative justice practices have dramatically reduced court hearings and incarceration. For information, call 559-453-3418 or visit www.fresno.edu/pacs/rjp. The conference will be held at Fresno Pacific University.