

The Jacob Journal

A Newsletter from Supervisor Dianne Jacob

October 2001

Serving the Cities of:
El Cajon
La Mesa
Lemon Grove
Poway
Santee

Serving the communities of:
Agua Caliente
Allied Gardens
Alpine
Barrett
Blossom Valley
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Eucalyptus Hills
Fernbrook
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Granite Hills
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Guatay
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Jacumba
Jamul
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Lakeside
Mount Helix
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Ramona
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Patriotism Shining Bright in East County

After last month's terrorist attacks on America, I had the opportunity to speak at several memorials including programs in Mt. Helix, Ramona and El Cajon. Here are some of the thoughts I shared with East County residents.

On Sept. 12, 2001 as I watched the firemen in New York City raise the American flag over the rubble of the World Trade Center, over the fallen bodies of their fellow firemen, I welled up with pride. It reminded me of a similar flag raising—when the Marines raised the stars and stripes over the island of Iwo Jima during World War II. I will always cherish those images because they show the triumph of the American spirit.

We learned after Pearl Harbor during World War II. We learned after the Oklahoma City Bombing. And, we learned after the two high school shootings in our own East County that Americans shine the brightest in the darkest of times.

The gruesome attacks in New York and in our Nation's capitol last week were unthinkable. The reasons incomprehensible. The pain of the victims and their families is excruciating just to contemplate.

Those airplanes may have crashed into buildings that are three thousand miles away from our East County, but they crashed right into our living rooms and directly into the hearts of every American.

I want to take a moment to turn our thoughts to the police, firefighters and military personnel in New York City, Washington D.C., and beyond. I want to thank them for the tremendous courage they have exhibited for the rest of the



Supervisor Jacob discusses the importance of patriotism atop Mount Helix.

Nation.

There are enormous decisions to be made by our President in the coming days. I believe that the most important thing we can do as Americans at this moment is to support our Country and stand by our President.

President Bush has promised to hunt down and punish those responsible for killing thousands of innocent Americans and those who aid and abet them. Citizens from 80 countries also lost their lives. We must pray that God will guide President Bush and pray that God will help America bring about justice in the name of a greater, global peace.



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East County gathers for a candlelight memorial at the base of the Mount Helix Cross.

Patriotism

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I do not know the next move America will make, but I am certain that unity is our most powerful tool right now—unity of all Americans and unity of nations who stand for freedom and democracy. In the words of our President, “If you’re not with us, you’re with the terrorists.”

On our one dollar bill, there appears a phrase held in the mouth of the American eagle. In Latin, it reads, “E Pluribus Unum.” In English, it means, “Out of many, one.” The planes that crashed into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon took with them victims of many faiths and many ethnicities. Americans are of many faiths and ethnicities around the world and are uniting as one.

When I was a little girl, I remember the air raid sirens during World War II. San Diego had, and still has, the

largest concentration of military installations in the nation. San Diego was at great risk. At night, we had to go into our homes and turn out our lights while police officers walked the streets checking to make sure that all was dark to avoid an attack by enemy planes. I remember the ration lines and buying U.S. Savings Bonds at school. I remember putting my rubber toys in a wagon and contributing them to the war effort because the rubber from my toys was needed on the front lines.

Americans made sacrifices during World War II and we will need to make sacrifices again. It may take years. It will take lives. And, it will require extraordinary efforts on the part of everyday Americans. Are we prepared? Judging from the tremendous acts of heroism on the East Coast, I know we are ready.

We are ready because we love America. We can worship the way we choose to worship, speak our minds, raise our voices, travel, learn and succeed. Of all the nations in the world, ours is the most celebrated for her freedom and her opportunity.

On Sept. 11, 2001 symbols of our freedom were destroyed. Those symbols are now rubble but I can see by the flags in San Diego windows, and I can see by the vigils across the Nation, America’s spirit of freedom has become more powerful than ever. This resurgence of patriotism must not fade. Each and every one of us can do our part to keep it strong.

Display your American flag in your home, on your car and on your person. As you display the flag, do so with pride. Our Country gives us the freedom to show our pride.

Go to work everyday and do your best. No matter what you do, do it faster, better and with conviction. Our Country gives us the opportunity to succeed.

Speak humbly and respectfully about our Nation to others. Our Country gives us the right to express these views.

Make a small but symbolic investment by buying stock in an American company. Our Country gives us economic freedom.

Make a contribution to a group such as the East County Rescue Task Force which donates 100 percent of your contribution directly to the families of victims. Our Country gives us the ability to look out for each other.

Be patient with our Nation’s leaders as they make plans to stop terrorism around the globe.

Keep America traveling by flying in an airplane. Our Country gives us the freedom to travel.

Donate blood to the San Diego Blood Bank. As you give blood remember that throughout our nation’s history, millions of Americans have given their blood for our Country as well.

Lastly, put the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in your heart. Keep them there as symbols of freedom, towers of democracy and, during this trying time for our Nation, use them as pillars of strength.

May God bless you and above all, God Bless America!

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IS TOP

The question isn't comfortable, but it's one that must be answered for the piece of mind of all County residents. Could San Diego County's emergency network handle a massive terrorist attack similar to those in New York City and Washington D.C. last month?

Because San Diego County is home to the finest local law enforcement agencies in the Nation and because the Board of Supervisors considers public safety its number one budget priority, our County remains on the cutting edge of emergency response. Local firefighting agencies are already top notch and over the last three years, the County has provided fire departments with more than \$2 million in equipment and facility upgrades.

When two separate school shootings rocked the campuses of East County high schools last winter, the County's emergency plan unfolded flawlessly and paramedics knew immediately which hospitals were prepared to handle a wide variety of injuries.

Prior to the events in New York City, the County believed itself ready for any disaster. However, the magnitude of the Twin Tower attack has forced us to re-examine our stellar system. While the County's computer system, which tracks patient injuries and hospital availability, is effective, its hardware is 9 years old and has, on occasion, shut down unexpectedly. That's why Chairman Bill Horn and I are taking action to revamp it. Thanks to a \$30,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, the County will conduct a comprehensive review of our region's vulnerability

to attacks. Already, we've learned that our "real time" computer system can be up-graded to avoid periodic shut-downs and its data storage capabilities can be expanded to increase the number of patient records the system can store.

Before the strikes on the East Coast, the County's Office of Disaster Preparedness already was fine-tuning an emergency response plan specific to an act of terrorism. Now, the Board has voted to include terrorism on the list of disasters to be included in that plan.

Most importantly, the County is creating a public education campaign and preparedness check list so residents know what actions to take in the unlikely event of a terrorist attack.

To learn more about disaster preparedness visit the public safety section of the County's official website at:

www.co.san-diego.ca.us



Making Life Easier...

◆ From La Mesa to Alpine, riding the bus just got faster and easier thanks to the introduction of 40 new County Transit System buses to service East County. These cleaner and more reliable buses will be added to busier routes to make certain that East County bus riders reach their destinations on time.

◆ Most heart attacks happen when a victim is in the home, but attacks can strike on golf courses and in shopping malls and airports. That's why the County wants to place life-saving defibrillators in facilities throughout the region. The easy-to-use devices cost about \$2,000. Victims who receive defibrillation within three minutes of a heart attack have a 75 percent survival rate. Compare that to an almost certain death after 10 minutes. Defibrillators are worth every penny when seconds count.

If you or your organization would like more information about this life-saving device contact Donna Batteau at (619) 285-6429.

Join me for Coffee and Conversation...

Friday, October 5, 2001

8:30 a.m.

**Steele Canyon Golf Club,
3199 Stonefield Drive, Jamul**

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We hope to hear from you soon!

Oct-01

DIANNE JACOB

Supervisor, Second District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 531-5522
(800) 852-7322 toll free
(619) 696-7253 fax

e-mail:
Dianne-Jacob@co.san-diego.ca.us

website:
www.diannejacob.com

(619)531-5522

The Second District Staff

Shannan Sorrell

Chief of Staff

Mike Kulis

Deputy Chief of Staff

Teresa Alvarez

Administrative Assistant

Caroline Braun

Field Representative

Jeff Collins

Policy Advisor

Darren Gretler

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