County Takes a Stand, Offers First Internment Apology

In an extraordinary ceremony, the Board of Supervisors this week extended an apology to members of the county’s Japanese American community for internment actions during World War II.

It was an apology 76 years in the making.

During a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the federal executive order of internment, the Board presented resolutions to members of the regional Japanese American community which included a formal apology for the internment and the suffering and losses those families endured.

Members of the Board of Supervisors and Japanese American community leaders stand together with resolutions documenting Monterey County’s apology for World War II internment.
Chair of the Board Luis Alejo says it is the first apology to Japanese American residents by any Central Coast government.

The ceremony began with an explanation of why the formal apology was needed including a special program by local historian Sandy Lydon, who provided a tutorial through the sad history of internment. 3,500 residents from the Monterey Bay region were forced to relocate, losing their liberty, homes and businesses.

Alejo showed the assembled crowd the county’s original resolution which supported internment, known as Executive Order #9066, noting that even those many years ago, the language used to condemn Japanese Americans was hurtful making it painful to read.

While a previous Board of Supervisors rescinded that support, no apology was ever given. Alejo presented representatives with resolutions acknowledging past events and offering apologies for the county’s support of those actions.

Well known community leaders such as Gary Tanimura and Mas Hashimoto shared their and their families’ experiences of the hardships at both the camps and returning to rebuild.

Each member of the Board of Supervisors took a moment to share their feelings and offer a personal apology. Although the apology ceremony was formal, for the recipients of these resolutions, it was deeply meaningful for all.

Mas Hashimoto, a teacher who has seen several current Board members in his schoolroom over the years, says the apology is critical not only for healing old wounds but to learn from mistakes so they are not repeated.
You can watch the Board meeting and the special ceremony online on the Clerk of the Board’s website or the Monterey County Government Channel website which replays Board meetings. You can also watch the county channel on Comcast Cable Channel 28.

NMC Marks Another Milestone in Trauma Care

Natividad Medical Center (NMC) is marking the third anniversary of its Level II Trauma Center designation - and there is a lot to celebrate!

Over the last three years, NMC has made improvements to its facility and equipment and has invested in extensive training and education to elevate trauma care. NMC has also developed prevention and outreach programs to reduce trauma-related injuries in 2017 such as:

- A bi-monthly support group within the CHOICE Program that serves family members of patients who are trauma victims
- Continued collaboration with EMS and local hospitals to improve identification and rapid transport of patients to the trauma center
- Training more than 55 physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners in Advanced Trauma Life Support
- Establishing specialized training for nurses, including Trauma Nursing Core Course certification courses and Trauma Care After Resuscitation education programs
- Continuing outreach and injury prevention programs, including CHOICE (support services for victims of violence), Brain Smart™ (community education on brain injury risks), In One Instant (teen safe driving program) and A Matter of Balance (fall management for older adults)

“Trauma is the leading cause of death in people ages one to 45 and accounts for 41 million emergency department visits each year,” says Dr. Craig Walls, Chief Medical Officer at Natividad. “While we’re the only Trauma Center in the area and honored to provide the best care for our patients, we’re also focusing our efforts on trauma prevention.”

Happy Anniversary Natividad!
Surplus Sales a Win-Win for County, Community

Over the last several months, County surplus sales have gotten a lot of attention from both county departments and the public.

Why? Because of the high quality surplus items in stock.

When the county bought and moved offices into Schilling Place, along with the building came two stories worth of office equipment and furniture. As the building was reconfigured to suit County departments, large amounts of workstation furniture used by the former owners was not needed and became surplus.

That means county departments have lots of high quality items to choose from if needed. The Contracts/Purchasing Division has held two recent, highly successful public sales and plans to hold more public sales every three months.

Warehouse staff is showing off items that are available and more visible now that sales have reduced crowding in the surplus areas including lots of chairs and under the desk three-drawer cabinets. Contact Contracts/Purchasing for information at 755-4990.