Wingo and McHoney Honored for Decades of County Service

The County said goodbye this month to two staff members with more than half a century of service to the community combined.

This week, Sheriff Steve Bernal presented a resolution to Commander Keith Wingo, who is retiring after 27 years in the Department. Bernal recalled that...
Wingo was one of the first to welcome him to the Sheriff’s Office 20 years ago and that Wingo has served five County Sheriffs since he joined the department in 1992.

Wingo has risen through the ranks, achieving his current rank as Commander of the Professional Standards and Training Division.

Through the years he was a member of the Correctional Search Team, SWAT Team, Mobile Field Force Squad Leader, Hostage Negotiator Team Leader and Lead Explorer Advisor.

Wingo received an Outstanding Service Award in 1994 for his work as a member of the Correctional Search Team and an Award of Valor in 2004 for his actions to stop a riot in the Monterey County Jail.

Supervisor Luis Alejo was among the board members who complimented Wingo on his work, recalling community gatherings when residents came to talk about Immigration enforcement at the jail and how Wingo treated residents with compassion and respect. Supervisor Chris Lopez recalled Wingo’s fire briefings during the Chimney Fire and how he reassured anxious residents.

Earlier this month, the Board also presented a resolution to Alma McHoney. Supervisor John Phillips noted McHoney’s advocacy and enthusiasm which she brought to her nearly quarter of a century service to the County, first with Behavioral Health then with Office of Employment Training.

“Mental health has my soul,” said McHoney as she received her resolution. “I have made a lasting difference in people’s lives and lasting friendships. It has been a great opportunity to work for Monterey County.”

“Alma is the longest serving member of the Behavioral Health Commission,” said Amie Miller, Behavior Health Director. “She has seen sweeping changes to the system during her time of service. We are grateful for her commitment to helping the community members we serve.”

During her time on the commission, McHoney helped develop the “Fiesta of Hope” event and the Monterey County Veteran’s Collaborative and plans to remain a volunteer with the Behavioral Health Commission in her retirement.
During her 16 years working with the Office of Employment Training, McHoney helped develop a reentry employment services program called “New Beginnings” for those returning from incarceration to provide job training, support and employment.

Congratulations Alma and Keith - many happy days ahead!

Library Staff Earn Outstanding Women Award

The City of Greenfield loves its library and it seems library staff as well.

Four members of the County Library staff were among those honored as Outstanding Women of Greenfield late last month.

The City hosted its second annual Tea Party during which it honors outstanding women of Greenfield. Ten women received award trophies, State Assembly Certificates thanks to Assembly member Robert Rivas and the City of Greenfield made a proclamation in their honor.

Honored as Outstanding Women were Ashley Hubbard, Library Assistant II; Jessica Melgoza, Library Assistant III; former Library Director Jayanti Addleman and Dawn Vest, Librarian II.

Joining other honorees for the City of Greenfield’s Outstanding Women awards are Ashley Hubbard (second from the left), Jessica Melgoza (second from the right) and Dawn Vest (front row, far right).
Marking Denim Day Around the County

Denim Day, April 24th, has become an international event and county staff put their best denim-clad leg forward to mark the occasion.

Denim Day is wearing jeans ‘with a purpose.’ The day has become a symbolic event protesting sexual assault as well as a time to support survivors.

The event grew out of an Italian Supreme Court Case more than 20 years ago which overturned a rape conviction because the victim wore tight jeans. Enraged by the verdict, women in the Italian Parliament launched into action and protested by wearing jeans to work. The action caught on around the world.

Employees, both men and women, in departments around the County showed their solidarity with survivors and support for education about sexual violence. If you’d like to find out more about Denim Day, its origins and goals, go to https://www.denimdayinfo.org/

Denim Day participants: County Government Center (top) and Department of Social Services Human Resources Branch (bottom).
More Images
From Denim Day

Thanks to all who took part, check out more submitted photos from (clockwise) the Health Department, Health Department Public Health Division, Sheriff's Office and County Counsel.

Monterey County Administrative Office