

Supervisor Knabe's Motion

Chief Administrative Officer's Memorandum

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

December 2, 2003

On November 7, 2003, California Congressmembers Jane Harman (D-36th District) and Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-50th District) jointly sponsored H.R. 3480 titled “Memorial to Noncitizens Patriots Act.” This measure would require the construction at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia a memorial to noncitizens killed in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

There is a long history of noncitizens serving in the Armed Forces. Noncitizens have been engaged in American battles since the colonial period. According to one recent study, more than 20 percent of the 3,400 members of the Armed Forces that have been awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military honor, were immigrants, though the precise number of noncitizens who received this award is not known. Today, 36,177 members of the Armed Forces are noncitizens, making up about five percent of active duty members. 12,132 members of the Selected Reserve are noncitizens. These men and women proudly wear the uniform of our country and have fought and died for defending our freedoms. Recently, a young Lomita resident

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MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

Cody Prosser was a proud Marine born in Guatemala and was one of the first casualties to die in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

H.R. 3480 would require the Secretary of the Army in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to construct a memorial in an appropriate site in Arlington National Cemetery at a cost not exceeding \$500,000 to pay tribute and salute all noncitizens who have been killed in the line of duty over a two century period while serving in the Armed Forces.

I, THEREFORE MOVE, THAT the Board of Supervisors support the passage of H.R. 3480 and instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to send correspondence to the Los Angeles County Congressional Delegation, to California's two U.S. Senators and President George W. Bush urging their support and early enactment of this important legislation.

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County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

November 26, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**MOTION TO SUPPORT H.R. 3480, MEMORIAL TO NONCITIZEN PATRIOTS ACT
(ITEM NO. 7, AGENDA OF DECEMBER 2, 2003)**

Item No. 7 on the December 2, 2003 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe that the Board support H.R. 3480 (Cunningham, R-CA), the Memorial to Noncitizen Patriots Act, and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to send letters to President Bush, Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and the County's Congressional delegation urging their support and early enactment of the bill.

H.R. 3480 would require the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to construct a memorial marker in the Arlington National Cemetery honoring noncitizens killed in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$500,000 for the design and construction of the memorial marker, and also authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept donations for its construction.

The bill, which is co-sponsored by Representative Harman (D-CA), was introduced on November 7, 2003, and has been referred to the House Veterans Affairs Committee, which has not yet scheduled any action on it. There are no existing Board policies relating to the bill, **and a position on H.R. 3480 is a matter for Board policy determination.**

DEJ:GK
MAL:JF:MT:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Legislative Strategist