

**COMMENDING
DEBORAH SANTANA
2007 HONOREE OF THE MARIN WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME**

WHEREAS, in 1987, a group of women founded the Marin Women's Hall of Fame with the mission to discover and honor women in our varied community who serve as role models and demonstrate excellence in a wide range of endeavors. Since then, the Marin Women's Hall of Fame has sought to recognize the achievements and contributions made by such Marin County women to the overall well-being of our county and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Deborah may be easily recognized in association with her famous husband, music icon Carlos Santana, for 32 years she has shined as an independent biracial woman. Deborah’s father, an African American musician and her mother, an English/Irish bookkeeper were married in the early 40’s, a time when in some states it was still illegal to marry across races; and

WHEREAS, Deborah experienced the ugly roar of racism firsthand and she has developed a core strength and fortitude of character and conviction that she is dedicated to share. Through her memoir Space Between the Stars she shares how she overcame the obstacles of life and how she found that her voice, sharing and revealing her vulnerabilities and personal experiences, could give others the strength and the example that she did not have; and

WHEREAS, Deborah established and continues to oversee the Milagro Foundation, she has worked to lessen barriers for thousands of underserved children, youth and women by granting funds to outstanding non-profit organizations making a difference in communities in Marin County, the Bay Area, throughout the United States and around the world. The Milagro Foundation has already given over \$2.3 million to non-profits in 35 states and 30 countries; and

WHEREAS, Deborah has influenced the Santana Band company headquarters, through her position as Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, acting to convert their company to a solar-energy powered facility to underscore a commitment to renewable energy and sustainable living practices; and

WHEREAS, Deborah, along with her husband, has also been recognized for her long term, significant work and contributions in support of Artists for a New South Africa (ANSA) and for their efforts battling the AIDS crisis in South Africa and at-risk communities in the U.S., inspiring the family’s donation of 100% of the proceeds from the U.S. Santana tour to fight AIDS in South Africa

WHEREAS, Deborah’s employees and friends were asked to describe her qualities and they described her as: keeping the joy in everything that she does, always interested in learning more, encouraging growth, a forward thinker, has vision, selfless service to humanity, a risk taker, passionate, wonderful mother, full of integrity and truth, generous and gracious, incredibly humble and calm, believes in all children, encourages people to follow their passions; and

WHEREAS, Deborah is committed to ‘leveling the field’ for underrepresented people, she has a level of understanding that gives her great wisdom and passion and she has a commitment to express her voice and her influence for those who may not have the courage or the opportunity to do so themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marin County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes Deborah Santana upon her induction into the 2007 Marin Women’s Hall of Fame.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 13th day of March 2007.

Susan L. Adams – Supervisor, District 1

Judy Arnold – Supervisor, District 5

Steve Kinsey – President

Clerk