

**COMMENDING  
RICHARD H. LOPEZ  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

**WHEREAS**, when Rich Lopez chose his career and the path his life would take, professional baseball ran a close second to firefighting. The crack of the bat was replaced by the crackling of a forest fire and Rich helped carry MACO's softball team to the championship as their star short stop; and

**WHEREAS**, the importance of teamwork was driven home during his term as Association President when he led the charge to make sure firefighters were duly compensated for all pay under FLSA guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, Rich Lopez worked tirelessly as project manager of the Tomales Fire Protection Water System to ensure the community, visitors and firefighters could depend on one of the oldest and most critical suppression tools in a firefighter's arsenal -- water; and

**WHEREAS**, after realizing something wasn't quite right during physical training, Rich was diagnosed with a heart condition, which inspired him to maintain a high level of personal fitness and spearhead the Department's Health and Wellness committee to guarantee every MCFD employee would have the equipment, training and opportunity to develop a personal fitness program; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning as a Kentfield Volunteer, the friendships developed throughout his career have been stoked and strengthened by rounds of hard work, long training events, golf, barbecues, laughs, baseball games and all around good times; and

**WHEREAS**, always on the cutting edge of fashion with a fine coif and state of the art shades, Rich was instrumental in developing the first Mutual Threat Zone Plan for the Mount Tamalpais area; helping to secure the safety of the citizens, their homes and Marin's crowning jewel; and

**WHEREAS**, meaning brave ruler and home ruler, Rich has represented his nicknames Rico and Henry very well; and

**WHEREAS**, Rico has never been someone to sit on the sidelines, whether it is leading the MACO football team to victory or successfully managing a large fire as the Operations Chief at home or on Cal Fire's Incident Command Team; and

**WHEREAS**, Rico's enthusiasm for tools and his job never waned, whether it was learning his first hose-lay or mastering the fine art of the iPhone and the world of apps, jumping in with both feet is Rico's MO; and

**WHEREAS**, etched on the very heart and soul of the Marin County Fire Department are Rico's contributions and commitment to its men and women who selflessly serve the people of Marin County and the State of California.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Marin County Board of Supervisors extends its greatest appreciation to Richard Henry Lopez upon his retirement after more than 32 years with the Marin County Fire Department and does hereby commend him for his outstanding service to Marin County. Thanks Rico!

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 13th day of April 2010.