

**COMMENDING  
RICK RACICH  
FIRE APPARATUS ENGINEER  
MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Marin County Board of Supervisors is committed to commending acts of courage and recognizing the importance of individuals helping each other, especially where there is imminent danger; and

**WHEREAS**, "Valor" is defined as the qualities of a hero which enable someone to face great danger with boldness, exceptional courage, determination and personal bravery; and

**WHEREAS**, very few people would choose to test the Pacific Ocean at nine in the morning during a storm with winds, rain, limited visibility and waves; and

**WHEREAS**, upon arrival at Rodeo Beach on November 7, 2010, off-duty Fire Apparatus Engineer Rick Racich and a friend saw a small boat in the surf and realized that the waves were more than the two fishermen in it could handle; and

**WHEREAS**, with a 6 foot wind chop from the south on top of a 10 foot northwest swell combined with pounding south winds, the fishing boat was quickly drifting into the rocks at the north end of the beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the fishing boat came perilously close to the cliffs and rocks, cushioned only by the foam created by the backwash of the incoming waves; and

**WHEREAS**, without hesitation, Fire Apparatus Engineer Rick Racich and his friend grabbed their surf boards and left the safety of the shore; and

**WHEREAS**, even though the "combers" had pushed his buddy back to shore, Fire Apparatus Engineer Rick Racich was able to paddle to the boat in distress; and

**WHEREAS**, with waves hitting the fishing boat every 10 seconds, Rick was able to coax the two fishermen onto his surfboard and paddled them all to the Coast Guard rescue boat just as it arrived on the scene; and

**WHEREAS**, moments after the fishermen were safely on the Coast Guard boat and Rick was safely on shore, the boat slammed into the rocks, splintering on impact; and

**WHEREAS**, it was with true valor and selflessness that Rick risked his personal safety to rescue two strangers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin recognizes the character and the personal strength that Fire Apparatus Engineer Rick Racich demonstrates both on and off-duty to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens, residents and visitors of Marin County and commend him for his act of valor on November 7, 2010, without which two lives may have been lost.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 30th day of November 2010.