**Sheriff’s Memorial Dedication**

If you are driving along Natividad Road some evening and see the soft glow of lights by the Sheriff’s Public Safety Building, you are welcome to turn in and enjoy the new Monterey County Sheriff’s Memorial.

In a moving ceremony attended by more than 200 local dignitaries, law enforcement and family members of fallen deputies, the Monterey County Sheriff’s Memorial was dedicated on Friday, October 24th. During this special service, the roll call of the names of the eight fallen deputies was read, a riderless horse - symbol of a fallen warrior - was led through the crowd, a 21-gun salute was given and taps were played.

The Memorial, a concrete arc located in front of the Sheriff’s complex on Natividad Road, is open for all to visit at any time. It is the culmination of nearly two years of
effort by a diverse committee of both sworn personnel, retired officers and community leaders, all dedicated to fundraising and building the memorial. This project, which has a value of more than $200,000, was funded entirely by community donations.

Sheriff Scott Miller was among those who spoke at the dedication, thanking all those who have supported the effort.

“Law enforcement is an occupation filled with dangers and perils for both the deputies working patrol and those assigned to our correctional facility,” says Miller. “This Memorial will be a constant reminder of the importance of the duties of a Sheriff’s Deputy and the dangers they face serving our communities.”

Donna Myers, who does Organizational Development for the Sheriff’s Office, was the project manager and says both the Deputy Sheriff's Association and the Deputies Benefit Association supported the project, and architectural and construction work was donated by Peter Kasavan and Don Chapin, respectively. Myers says the committee and memorial supporters were relentless in their fundraising efforts, and found that many locals liked the idea of a permanent way of honoring those who lost their lives in the line of duty. But Myers says the surviving family members were the most deeply touched by the memorial project.

“The family members are so appreciative of this project and were truly touched by not only the beautiful memorial to their loved ones but by the fact that their loved ones are not forgotten,” says Myers.

The Friday dedication was preceded by a Thursday evening candlelight vigil to honor both the fallen and those family members. A local pastor led the service which included harp music, singing and a special address from retired Deputy Sheriff Neil Shaw, brother of fallen Deputy Robert J. Shaw IV.
The legacy of these fallen deputies will take on a new role now that the memorial is complete. Starting next year, it will become part of the new employee training program at the department as well as an educational program to improve communications between law enforcement and the schools.

New Assistant District Attorneys Appointed

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo has appointed Deputy District Attorney Jeannine Pacioni and Deputy District Attorney Rolando Mazariegos to the position of Assistant District Attorney.

“Ms. Pacioni and Mr. Mazariegos are extremely dedicated and professional prosecutors with an inexhaustible work ethic,” says Flippo. “They are a welcome addition to our current attorney management team of recently appointed Chief Assistant District Attorney Berkley Brannon, Assistant District Attorney Annie Michaels, Managing District Attorneys Ed Hazel and Chuck Olvis, and Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Hulsey, who in January of next year will assume her new position as a Monterey County Superior Court Judge.”

Ms. Pacioni received her Bachelor of Science degree from Northern Arizona University. She joined the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office in 1992 as a Deputy District Attorney II. In 2002, she took an eight-year sabbatical, during which time she served as a grand juror on the Monterey County Civil Grand Jury, President of the Junior League of Monterey County and currently serves as President of the National Charity League, Monterey Bay.

Some of the highlights of Ms. Pacioni’s work in the DA’s Office include spearheading implementation of the county-wide Sexual Assault Response Team and successfully prosecuting the high profile case of People v. Jacobo Ruelas. Ruelas was convicted by a jury of
first-degree murder with special circumstances and other charges for the murder of 17-year-old Kristopher Olinger in 1997. On October 30, 2013, Ruelas was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Mr. Mazariegos received his Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Santa Barbara and attended the University of La Verne College of Law, receiving his Juris Doctorate in 2001. He joined the District Attorney’s Office in 2002, taking 17 months off in 2006-2007 to pursue training as a police officer.

Some of the highlights of Mr. Mazariegos’ work include People v. David Guzman, the 2005 case of a Los Angeles police officer who was driving his boat while under the influence on Lake San Antonio and collided with a youth on a personal watercraft. After hitting the victim, Guzman drove the boat away and attempted to avoid contact with law enforcement. The defendant was later convicted of all charges and sentenced to five years in state prison.

Most recently, Mr. Mazariegos was the lead prosecutor in the 2013 Operation Snake Eyes, a multi-agency effort in Monterey County focusing on the suppression of street gang terrorism, resulting in the convictions of over 20 gang members.

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**Latino Network Luncheon Serves Up Anniversary Event**

A 25th anniversary is something to celebrate, and to celebrate its silver anniversary, the Latino Network made sure it would be an event to remember.

Topping the list of special moments at the anniversary gathering last month, Luis Valdez of Teatro Campesino, who was the speaker at the group’s inaugural event in 1989, came back to celebrate with the group. Wowing the crowd of more than 300 people were presentations of traditional mariachi music and dance.

The origins of the Latino Network came from county staffers who saw a need and created a way to improve services. In 1989, staff from various county departments believed it would be a good idea for those who served the Latino community to meet and discuss experiences, needs and create a support system for one another. They felt a monthly meeting would be just right. Founders won support from county department heads for the idea, and the Latino Network was born. Twenty five (25) years
later, this group still meets monthly and is now one of the largest Latino professional organizations in the county.

At the anniversary event, members paid tribute to the founders of the group and the department heads who supported their determination. Past and current leaders from Health, Social Services and Probation Departments were honored.

Dance group Danza Mexhica dazzled the crowd at the Latino Network event.