



Resolution
of
The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County

Proclaiming March 2013

Maggie Erickson Kildee and Susan K. Lacey
Women's History Month

Whereas, Ventura County residents will join women and men around the world during the month of March to celebrate National Women's History Month, observed under the 2013 theme, "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)", which honors generations of women who, throughout American history, have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder, and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions to the STEM fields; and

Whereas, this March, and every March hereafter, Women's History Month will hold a particular significance to Ventura County residents, as the Ventura County Board of Supervisor's have hereby named Women's History Month in Ventura County in honor of two pioneering female politicians, Maggie Erickson Kildee and Susan K. Lacey; and

Whereas, the Ventura County Board of Supervisor's newly titled Women's History Month, pays tribute to Maggie Erickson Kildee and Susan K. Lacey, the first two women elected to the Board. Through their efforts, they have exemplified being leaders not only by securing a "place at the table" in local elected office, but in working tirelessly to create a more fair and just society for all; and

Whereas, former Ventura County Supervisor Maggie Erickson Kildee, a longtime public servant, earned her Master's Degree in Education from California Lutheran University and has resided in Camarillo since 1966. She worked for ten years as a public school teacher and administrator for the Pleasant Valley School District before being voted into office in 1980. Maggie was elected to represent District 3 on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors four consecutive times, and in 1992 served as the first ever women Chair of the Board, before retiring at the end of 1996. Throughout the duration of her sixteen year tenure on the Board, Maggie embodied the role of Supervisor by supporting the advancement of health, welfare, and public safety for all residents. Her legacy is commemorated by her passion for health care. As Chair of the Medical Oversight Committee, Maggie guided the Medical Center from a deficit operation, to an enterprise system serving the mandates of health care for the indigent population. As Supervisor, Maggie also pioneered Health Care Forums, which brought together administrators, providers and advocates. Her strong leadership on the Board also led to the development of the County's Greenbelt Agreements between cities, and the first-in-the-state Agricultural Lands Preservation Program protecting land use and zoning rights; and

Whereas, since leaving office, Maggie has incorporated her enthusiasm for the arts into community service by co-founding Studio Channel Islands Art Center and serving on their Board of Directors. In 2005, an annual gift for art education, "The Maggie Kildee Fund", was established in her honor; and

Whereas, Susan K. Lacey former Ventura County Supervisor and special education teacher, holds a Master's degree in special education from California Lutheran University. In 1973, Susan began her long career in public service when she was voted to serve on the Ventura Unified School District Board. In 1980, Susan was elected to serve on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, representing District 1, and was successfully re-elected to five terms before retiring at the end of 2000. Susan left her mark during her twenty year tenure on the Board, as she was instrumental in obtaining funding and support to open the West Ventura Medical Clinic, located in Ventura's poorest neighborhood. She championed care for the mentally ill by working with State Senator Cathie Wright to make "The Ventura Model" the template for state delivery of mental health services, and she secured medical services for needy teenagers. Susan was also a pioneer in the successful development of Casa Pacifica. Recognizing her leadership on children's issues, she was selected by the State Senate as an inaugural member of the California First Five Commission. Her leadership was key in defeating the effort to build a Weldon Canyon landfill and integral to the adoption of many County land conservation policies, including the Agricultural Zone, greenbelts and consistent support for the Guidelines for Orderly Development; and

Whereas, since leaving office, Susan has continued her legacy by remaining active in the community and supporting programs that strengthen children and families; and

Whereas, Maggie and Susan's public service established a strong precedent for future generations of young women to strive to attain. The County of Ventura is proud to recognize the contributions of exemplary women in our community, and encourages all of our local women's organizations to continue to work towards electing more female representation into public office, retaining and advancing women's rights, and resolving the inequities that women still face today.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Ventura County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims March as "Maggie Erickson Kildee and Susan K. Lacey Women's History Month" in Ventura County, and commends both women for their selfless dedication to serving our county and their invaluable contributions towards the advancement of gender equity.

Presented on this 19th day of March 2013

Chair of the Board of Supervisors
Peter C. Foy, Supervisor 4th District

Steve Bennett, Supervisor 1st District
Linda Parks, Supervisor 2nd District
Kathy Long, Supervisor 3rd District
John C. Zaragoza, Supervisor 5th District