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# The Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, California

In the Matter of the Retirement of  
Silvano B. Marchesi, County Counsel

RESOLUTION NO. 2009/951

WHEREAS Silvano B. Marchesi will retire from his position as County Counsel of Contra Costa County on December 31, 2009 after 40 years of County service and so it is appropriate at this time to acknowledge his many achievements and to publicly recognize his professional and civic leadership; and  
WHEREAS Silvano graduated from University of San Francisco Law School in 1968 and joined the Contra Costa County Counsel's Office as an attorney in the fall of 1969.

WHEREAS, while attending college and law school, Silvano worked a variety of jobs, including shoe salesman, cannery worker, radio announcer and producer, college tutor, mail carrier, and shipping clerk, and after securing employment as a Deputy County Counsel I with the County in 1969 at a monthly salary of \$860, he married his wife Gerarda in January 1970; and

WHEREAS Silvano progressed through the ranks of the County Counsel's Office, being promoted to Assistant County Counsel in August 1984, Chief Assistant County Counsel in January 1999 and, ultimately, to County Counsel - the third in County history - by the Board of Supervisors in February 2001, after 31 years with the office; and

WHEREAS Silvano's long and illustrious career is distinguished by his negotiation of construction and purchase agreements for the two major recycled water facilities in Pittsburg, role as lead counsel in the condemnation trial that resulted in the Pine Creek Detention Basin and in the lawsuit that defeated constitutional and environmental challenges to building the Martinez Detention Facility, and as in-house counsel in the Acme Fill litigation that ultimately allowed the County to close the landfill in Martinez and recover the costs of the closure clean-up from the County's insurance carriers; and

WHEREAS Silvano's stature in the legal community is exemplified by his membership on the Executive Committee of the Public Law Section of the State Bar and on the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, and his active participation in the City Attorney's Association and in the County Counsels' Association, of which he served as the president in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Silvano completed 38 years as a member of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve, retiring at the rank of Colonel, and, as such, set high professional and ethical conduct standards for the office that extended to office attire; and

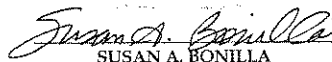
WHEREAS in a departure from his professional music career, Silvano famously lent his musical talents as a bassoonist to the County's "Not Ready for Prime Time" players, which entertained at County functions; and

WHEREAS Silvano is the exemplar of a dedicated public agency attorney and serves as an inspiration to all who know him for his legacy of hard work, team spirit, quick intellect, moral fortitude, and unwavering dedication to Contra Costa County government and its citizens throughout his 40 years of public service to the County, providing leadership, thoughtful guidance and mentoring, and the demonstrated ability to find solutions, work creatively, and ascribe to a high level of professional ethics; and

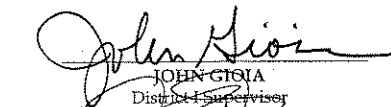
WHEREAS Silvano is a consummate gentleman, even-tempered and good-natured, patient down to his fingertips - the sort who never would, never could, let an insulting remark escape his lips;

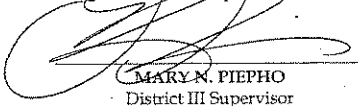
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board takes great pleasure in congratulating Silvano B. Marchesi on his valuable service to County government and his profession, and wishes him many wonderful, exciting, and fulfilling years of retirement.

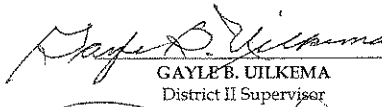
PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 15th day of December, 2009.

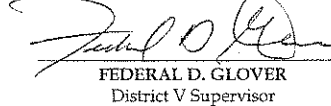
  
SUSAN A. BONILLA

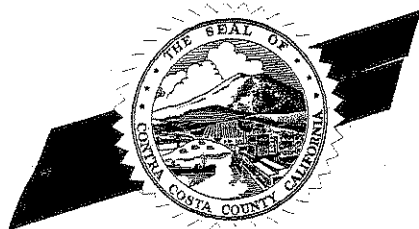
Chair  
District IV Supervisor

  
JOHN GIOIA  
District I Supervisor

  
MARY M. PIEPHO  
District III Supervisor

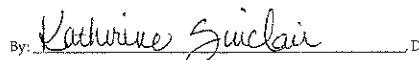
  
GAYLE B. UILKEMA  
District II Supervisor

  
FEDERAL D. GLOVER  
District V Supervisor



Witness my hand and the Seal of the Board of Supervisors affix  
this 15th Day of December, 2009

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator.

By:  Katherine Guichard, District