

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4

DATE: December 8, 2015

SUBJECT: **COMMENDATION** – Approve a Commendation recognizing Chief Lawrence Bettencourt for his thirty-six year career with the South Placer Fire District.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Commendation recognizing Chief Lawrence Bettencourt for his thirty-six year career with the South Placer Fire District.

**BACKGROUND**

Fire Chief Lawrence Bettencourt was hired as a Resident Firefighter in May 1979 and worked through the ranks from Resident Firefighter to Fire Chief.

Chief Bettencourt earned an Associate of Arts with Honors in Automotive Technology, an Associate of Arts with Honors in Fire Technology at Sierra Community College, in Rocklin, CA, and a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration at Cogswell Polytechnic College in San Jose, CA. Chief Bettencourt's professional certificates include California State Fire Marshal Certifications, Chief Officer, and Fire Officer. Chief Bettencourt also attended six National Fire Academy Courses between January 1999 – January 2002. In 1986, Chief Bettencourt was awarded the California State Fireman's Association Valor Award.

Chief Bettencourt participated in the World Police and Fire Games-Freestyle and Greco Roman Wrestling where he was a Gold Medalist in 1989 and 1991, and a Silver Medalist in 1987, 1989 and 2003. Chief Bettencourt was also a member of Statewide Strike Teams to such notable fires as the Witch Fire, San Diego 2007, the Shasta Lightning Complex 2008, the Telegraph Fire, the Yosemite 2008, the 49er Fire Nevada County 1988, the Cleveland Fire, El Dorado County 1992, and the Gap Fire, Placer County 1991.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**IN THE MATTER OF A COMMENDATION RECOGNIZING CHIEF  
LAWRENCE BETTENCOURT FOR HIS THIRTY-SIX YEAR CAREER  
WITH THE SOUTH PLACER FIRE DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, Fire Chief Lawrence Bettencourt was hired as a Resident Firefighter in May 1979 and worked through the ranks from Resident Firefighter to Fire Chief; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Bettencourt earned an Associate of Arts with Honors in Automotive Technology in 1983 at Sierra Community College, in Rocklin, CA; an Associate of Arts with Honors in Fire Technology in 1993 at Sierra Community College, in Rocklin, CA; and a Bachelor of Science in Fire Administration in 2002 at Cogswell Polytechnic College in San Jose, CA; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Bettencourt's professional certificates include California State Fire Marshal Certifications, Chief Officer, and Fire Officer. Chief Bettencourt also attended six National Fire Academy Courses between January 1999 – January 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Bettencourt was awarded the California State Fireman's Association Valor Award in 1986; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Bettencourt participated in the World Police and Fire Games-Freestyle and Greco Roman Wrestling where he was a Gold Medalist in 1989 and 1991, and a Silver Medalist in 1987, 1989 and 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Bettencourt was a member of Statewide Strike Teams to such notable fires as the Witch Fire, San Diego 2007, the Shasta Lightning Complex 2008, the Telegraph Fire, the Yosemite 2008, the 49er Fire, Nevada County 1988, the Cleveland Fire, El Dorado County 1992, and the Gap Fire, Placer County 1991.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN**, that the above COMMENDATION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, on behalf of the citizens of Placer County at a regular meeting held, on December 8, 2015 to congratulate Chief Bettencourt on a distinguished career with the South Placer Fire District and wish him well in retirement.

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Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 5  
Chairman 2015

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1  
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2  
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3  
Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5