

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2

DATE: November 25, 2008

SUBJECT: COMMENDATIONS - Present Commendations to Chris John, Spencer Mallinger and John Martell Jr. all Firefighters who were injured while fighting a wildfire in the rural area of Lincoln, California on June 11, 2008.

ACTION REQUESTED

Present Commendations to Chris John, Spencer Mallinger and John Martell Jr. all Firefighters who were injured while fighting a wildfire in the rural area of Lincoln, California on June 11, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The Board is being asked to present Commendations to three Firefighters for their heroic work and sacrifice while fighting a fire in the rural area of Lincoln on June 11, 2008.

The wildfire broke out near Nicolaus Road at Dowd Road in Lincoln and quickly spread with strong winds burning out of control. Chris John was working on BR73 as a Firefighter under the supervision of Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic Spencer Mallinger when they were burned over. The two sought refuge in the fire engine until toxic fumes of the burning fire engine filled the cab and forced them to evacuate to the west through the burn area. Chris John sustained first and second degree burns to his hands, face and knee. Spencer Mallinger sustained first, second and third degree burns to his hands. They were both treated at the UC Davis Burn Center for over one week.

John Martell Jr. was working on BR75 as the Driver/Operator when he was over run by the fire. He sustained first and minor second degree burns to his face and was treated and released at the UC Davis Burn Center.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

**In the Matter of a Commendation honoring
Chris John, CalFire Firefighter I assigned to
Dry Creek Station 100, for his heroic work
fighting a wildfire on June 11, 2008, in Lincoln,
California that resulted in his personal injury.**

Whereas, on June 11, 2008, a wildfire broke out near Nicolaus Road at Dowd Road in Lincoln, California located in Placer County; and

Whereas, the fire quickly spread with strong winds burning out of control; and

Whereas, Chris was working on BR73 as a Firefighter under the supervision of Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic Spencer Mallinger when they were burned over. The two sought refuge in the fire engine until toxic fumes of the burning fire engine filled the cab and forced them to evacuate to the west through the burn area; and

Whereas, Chris sustained first and second degree burns to his hands, face and knee and was treated at the UC Davis Burn Center for over a week. At this date, Chris continued treatment as an out patient and returned to light duty work with CalFire while awaiting his full recovery and reinstatement to full duty; and

Whereas, Chris has worked for CalFire for three fire seasons after starting in June 2006 at various fire stations in the Nevada Yuba Placer Unit. In addition, during the winter seasons, he has worked as a Resident Firefighter for the Placer County Fire Department while attending classes; and

Whereas, Chris has shown exceptional bravery and commitment in his position as a CalFire Firefighter and has risen above the call of duty to protect and serve the public.

Now, Therefore, Let It Be Known That on this date, November 25, 2008, the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pride and pleasure in commending Chris John for his commitment to duty and personal self-sacrifice while serving to fight fires and especially for his bravery while fighting a Lincoln fire on June 11, 2008, that resulted in his personal injury.

Jim Holmes Supervisor, District 3
Chairman 2008

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5

**In the Matter of a Commendation honoring
Spencer Mallinger, Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic
assigned to Sunset Fire Station 77, for his heroic work
fighting a wildfire on June 11, 2008, in Lincoln, California
that resulted in his personal injury.**

Whereas, on June 11, 2008, a wildfire broke out near Nicolaus Road at Dowd Road in Lincoln, California located in Placer County; and

Whereas, the fire quickly spread with strong winds burning out of control; and

Whereas, Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic Spencer Mallinger and CalFire Firefighter I, Chris John were working on BR73 when they were burned over. The two sought refuge in the fire engine until toxic fumes of the burning fire engine filled the cab and forced them to evacuate to the west through the burn area; and

Whereas, Spencer sustained first, second and third degree burns to his hands, and face and was treated at the UC Davis Burn Center for over a week. The burns to his hands were such that skin grafts were necessary. At this date, Spencer continues to be treated as an out patient and participates in physical therapy to regain full use of his hands with expectations of returning first to light duty work with CalFire followed with full duty by the end of the year; and

Whereas, Spencer first worked for CalFire as a Firefighter I in the Shasta Trinity Unit in the summer of 2001. He attended college to complete his paramedic training and became a member of the Butte County Fire Department in Chico; which is also managed by CalFire. He pursued work in the EMS field until his appointment with CalFire in January 2007. At that time, Spencer was appointed as a Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic at the Sunset Fire Station, 77 located near the Thunder Valley Casino. Spencer has been responsible for managing the bidding and purchasing of medical supplies not just for the Sunset Station but the entire Placer County Fire Department system; and

Whereas, Spencer has shown exceptional bravery and commitment in his position as a Fire Apparatus Engineer/Paramedic and has risen above the call of duty to protect and serve the public.

Now, Therefore, Let It Be Known That on this date, November 25, 2008, the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pride and pleasure in commending Spencer Mallinger for his commitment to duty and his personal self-sacrifice while serving to fight fires and especially for his bravery while fighting a Lincoln fire on June 11, 2008, that resulted in his personal injury.

Jim Holmes Supervisor, District 3
Chairman 2008

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5

**In the Matter of a Commendation honoring
John Martell Jr. Driver/Operator assigned
to the Placer County Paige Fire Station 75 for his
heroic work fighting a wildfire on June 11, 2008,
in Lincoln, California that resulted in his personal injury.**

Whereas, on June 11, 2008, a wildfire broke out near Nicolaus Road at Dowd Road in Lincoln, California located in Placer County; and

Whereas, the fire quickly spread with strong winds burning out of control; and

Whereas, John Martell Jr. was working on BR75 as the Driver/Operator when he was over run by fire. He was feverishly working to keep the fire from crossing over a driveway off of Nicolaus Road when he had to seek refuge in a hay field to the east; and

Whereas, John sustained first and minor second degree burns to his face and was treated and released at the UC Davis Burn Center. John was able to return to full duty the following week; and

Whereas, John began his work with the Placer County Fire Department as a Volunteer Firefighter in April of 2003. He is know for being an outstanding member of Company 75 and was promoted to Driver/Operator in 2006; and

Whereas, in 2007 alone, John participated in over 150 hours of training and he has shown exceptional bravery and commitment in his position as a Driver/Operator; and

Whereas, John has risen above the call of duty to protect and serve the public throughout his career earning him the 2008 title of the "Placer County Fire Department's Firefighter of the Year" award serving Western Placer.

Now, Therefore, Let It Be Known That on this date, November 25, 2008, the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great pride and pleasure in commending John Martell Jr. for his commitment to duty and personal self-sacrifice while serving to fight fires and especially for his bravery while fighting a Lincoln fire on June 11, 2008, that resulted in his personal injury.

Jim Holmes Supervisor, District 3
Chairman 2008

Rocky Rockholm
Supervisor, District 1

Kirk Uhler
Supervisor, District 4

Robert M. Weygandt
Supervisor, District 2

Bruce Kranz
Supervisor, District 5