

**M E M O R A N D U M**  
Office of  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
County of Placer

TO: The Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chairman Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3

DATE: November 5, 2013

SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION** - Adopt a Resolution commending Dr. Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H. for over 30 years of dedicated public service, and congratulate him on his retirement.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve a Resolution commending Dr. Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H. for over 30 years of dedicated public service to Placer County, the State of California and United States.

**BACKGROUND**

Dr. Richard James Burton began his career with the County 17 years ago as the Public Health Officer. He has served as Director of the County Health and Human Services Department for nearly a decade while continuing to serve as Public Health Officer. Dr. Burton is well known and respected for his unwavering dedication to public service and a strong commitment to protecting the County's most vulnerable residents and to improving health and wellness in communities throughout Placer County.

Dr. Burton has been a driving force for the success of the "Placer Model," a collaborative, integrated approach to health and human services that is nationally recognized for providing high-quality, cost-effective services to the public.

Dr. Burton's career has spanned service at the Federal, State, and County level. He began his public service while serving as a Naval Flight Surgeon and has since served in various State and County roles. In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Dr. Burton took a temporary assignment as State Epidemiologist and Associate Director of the California Department of Health Services due to his expertise and leadership in coordinating the State's emerging bioterrorism-preparedness efforts. Dr. Burton has also served as President of the California Conference for Local Health Officers as well as the Health Officer's Association of California.

Dr. Burton has been a tireless public servant grounded by the mission of public service, the dedication of the Department's employees and community partners, and the courage of clients spanning the breadth of health and human services.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**NOVEMBER 05, 2013 IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION HONORING DR. RICHARD JAMES BURTON FOR 17 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF PLACER.**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Richard James Burton has been an outstanding leader and dedicated public servant during 17 years as Placer County Public Health Officer and almost a decade as Director of the County Health and Human Services Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Burton has been a guiding light in his department's implementation of the "Placer Model," a collaborative, integrated approach that is nationally recognized for providing high-quality, cost-effective services to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Burton is well known and respected for his unwavering dedication to public service and a strong commitment to protecting the county's most vulnerable residents and to improving health and wellness in communities throughout Placer County; and

**WHEREAS**, Placer County recognized Dr. Burton's contributions by presenting him with its 2000 Outstanding Leadership Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Burton's leadership style combined a willingness to share credit for his department's successes with his dedicated staff, courageous clients and community groups; and a commitment to team-building that ensured he will leave behind a dedicated team of professionals who will continue providing outstanding services to the public; and

**WHEREAS**, with Placer County's support, Dr. Burton took a temporary assignment as State Epidemiologist and Associate Director of the California Department of Health Services in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks because his expertise and leadership were needed to help coordinate the state's emerging bioterrorism-preparedness efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Burton played an active role in many professional organizations, serving as President of both the California Conference of Local Health Officers and the Health Officer Association of California; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 5, 2013, Dr. Burton received this commemorative coin from Board Chairman Jim Holmes for his exemplary leadership and impressive legacy on behalf of Placer County residents.

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN**, that the Placer County Board of Supervisors congratulates Dr. Richard James Burton on his upcoming retirement and recognizes him for his many years of outstanding service to Placer County, the State of California and the United States. Dr. Burton will be missed greatly, but he will leave behind a legacy of inspirational leadership that will not be forgotten.

The Board wishes Dr. Burton the best of luck in his future adventures with his wife, Ruth, and their three daughters: Rachel, Hannah and Sarah.

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Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3,  
Chairman 2013

Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1  
Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2  
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4  
Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5