



**JANET NGUYEN**  
Orange County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor, First District

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Consent Calendar Addition

Revised: Item #3

July 24, 2007 agenda

## Yen Ngoc Do Founder, Nguoi Viet Newspaper

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ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*On the motion of Supervisor Janet Nguyen, the following Resolution was adopted by the Orange County Board of Supervisors:*

**WHEREAS**, Yen Ngoc Do Yen Ngoc Do was born on May 25, 1941 in Saigon, Vietnam as one of five children, and died on August 17, 2006 in Southern California; and

**WHEREAS**, Do placed 20th out of 3,000 applicants in an examination to enter one of Saigon's prestigious high schools. On campus, he demonstrated both his intellectual and leadership abilities, and rose to numerous positions. He became editor of the school newspaper. While the French still ruled Vietnam, Do agitated and organized student protests for freedom, and printed and distributed clandestine communications in support of the liberation movement. Additionally, Do was a leader of the Vietnamese Boy Scouts and became a role model for like minded youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Do became additionally active in student activism in support of Vietnamese liberation and improved his writing skills such that professional journalists solicited his support, and his activism linked all Vietnamese student factions together to pacify them during the War, resulted in his arrest; and

**WHEREAS**, Do worked as a reporter and editor for several newspapers in South Vietnam and an interpreter for American and French journalists. In his lifetime, Do would master five languages; and

**WHEREAS**, Do and his wife, Loan were among the first of all Vietnamese immigrants into America and would, later, become among the first to settle in Little Saigon, Orange County. Inspired partly by this stewardship of common interests and goals, but mainly due to his love for writing and news, Do founded *Nguoi Viet Daily News* in 1978 in Orange County, California, one of the first Vietnamese newspapers in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, *Nguoi Viet* grew into one of the most prestigious ethnic publications in history, having earned its founder and its immigrant community worldwide recognition. Today, the newspaper has a daily circulation of 18,000 across the globe. Do sought to inform and educate his fellow refugees about the American way of life while providing accurate, timely and in-depth news about the Vietnamese homeland under communist rule; and

**WHEREAS**, *Nguoi Viet* is a trusted news source for Vietnamese and Vietnamese-Americans. Many non-Vietnamese working or interacting with immigrants also rely on the newspaper for coverage and the insider's view; and



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**WHEREAS**, among many honors, in 1999, Do received the Sky Dunlap Lifetime Achievement Award from the Orange County Press Club. In 2003, he received the Asian American Journalists Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. Do has also been recognized with an Ethics in Business Award from the Chamber of Commerce in the City of Westminster, home to Little Saigon. In 2005, a \$30,000 Yen Do Scholarly Research Grant was launched at California State University, Fullerton, to foster faculty research into the Vietnamese and Southeast Asian communities. In 2006, the \$25,000 Yen Do Vietnam Fellowship was established at the University of Southern California to fund research and publication of original immigrant stories written by students following an internship at Do's paper; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 17, 2006, Do died in Orange County, California, due to complications from diabetes and kidney failure. He was 65. More than 3,000 people attended his viewing and funeral services held over four days, with President George W. Bush and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sending published condolences. The California Legislature adjourned in Do's honor, along with the City Council in his hometown of Garden Grove. Washington DC's museum of news, the Newseum, will dedicate an exhibit that includes Do's work in 2007.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** does hereby acknowledge the tremendous asset that Mr. Yen Ngoc Do has been and further extend their heartfelt gratitude to his family.