

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 293769

ADOPTED ON SEP 12 2000

WHEREAS, the United States of America has been the worldwide symbol of individual liberty and a beacon of hope and opportunity for more than two centuries; and

WHEREAS, our system of criminal and civil justice plays a vital role in preserving our liberties, and protecting the rights which have been guaranteed to us by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the principle of a *Common Law Jury* or *Jury of Your Peers* was first established more than 700 years ago, on June 15, 1215 at Runnymede, England when King John signed the Magna Carta, or Great Charter of our Liberties; and

WHEREAS, drawing upon the common law rights inherited from England, the Founding Fathers of this nation provided in the 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America a guarantee of the right of trial by jury in civil matters; and

WHEREAS, being called to serve on a jury is more than a mere opportunity to participate in the process of civil governance, it is a call to civic duty, a call to serve in a position of honor and to carry out a sacred trust; and

WHEREAS, our citizens must continually be reminded of how fundamentally important it is to the preservation of our liberties and to the health and well-being of our system of law that they carry out their duty to serve on a jury when called; and

WHEREAS, San Diego County Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse has been a tireless advocate for constructive reform of the civil justice system, and a fearless combatant against abuse of the civil justice system; and

WHEREAS, justice for legitimate victims is delayed or denied when abusive, meritless and frivolous litigation clogs our courts; and

WHEREAS, lawsuit abuse is a plague upon our justice system and our economy that carries a cost of \$1,200 for each and every American citizen, costs jobs and cripples small businesses; and

WHEREAS, one of the most effective ways to root out lawsuit abuse is for citizens to bring their common sense to the jury box; and

WHEREAS, for their annual Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week theme, San Diego County Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse is calling upon men and women of good will and common sense to do their duty and say "I Will Serve" when called to serve on a jury; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council hereby proclaims the week of September 18-22, 2000 as "**Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week**" and commends San Diego County Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for its work in affecting positive change in the public's attitude and behavior towards jury service.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett

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