

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-**297024**

ADOPTED ON **SEP 09 2002**

WHEREAS, the San Diego Blood Bank was established in 1950 and now serves as the City's largest blood collection agency; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, a day that changed our nation, the United States of America was hit with great tragedy when terrorists attacked the Pentagon, hijacked American Airlines Flight 93 which later crashed in Pennsylvania, and attacked the World Trade Center in New York City, taking more than 3,000 lives and injuring countless others; and

WHEREAS, by approximately 9:15 a.m., EST, on the morning of September 11, 2001, the City of New York had run out of its blood supply and was in dire need of blood, and although thousands of New Yorkers lined up to donate blood, donations take 24 hours to process, and processed blood was desperately needed; and

WHEREAS, Ramona Walker, CEO of the San Diego Blood Bank, acted swiftly and patriotically to ensure that survivors of September 11<sup>th</sup> would receive the blood that they so desperately needed, and realizing that no commercial planes were allowed to fly at that time, called on Lieutenant Aaron Harding of the Balboa Naval Medical Center, who found a C-9 transport leaving for Brunswick, Maine, at 1:00 p.m. and arranged for the delivery of 380 units of blood from the San Diego Blood Bank to New York City; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of 380 units of blood to New York was a community-wide effort, from the San Diegans that donated blood, to the 7-11 at 430 Spruce Street, and Sanfilippo's Restaurant at 3515 Fifth Avenue, which donated ice for temperature control, to the San Diego Blood Bank staff that, in two hours, packed 15 cases of blood for shipment, to the Coronado Police Officers that escorted the blood through a North Island traffic jam on its way to the naval base, to the military escort that ensured that the shipment made its way safely to the plane, and finally to the pilot that brought the shipment to the East Coast; and

WHEREAS, the San Diego Blood Bank was the first blood bank in the United States of America to fly blood that reached New York on the date of September 11, 2001; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the citizens of San Diego, hereby commends the San Diego Blood Bank for its outstanding efforts, and supports and encourages the mission and goals of the San Diego Blood Bank.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council recognizes the accomplishments of the San Diego Blood Bank for improving the lives of the people of New York City, and that September 9, 2002, be and is hereby proclaimed to be "**SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK DAY**" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

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