Proclamation

Honoring

Charles Rodriguez
Veteran of Foreign Wars

Whereas, Charles Rodriguez moved from Contra Costa County to the Orange community as a young child with his immigrant parents who were farm laborers.

Entering the United States Army in 1942, Charles Rodriguez fought for the American forces during World War II. He volunteered for a "dangerous and hazardous mission" and became a member of the "5307 Composite Unit-Code Name Galahad," better known as the infamous "Merrill's Marauders" during the China-India-Burma campaign of 1943-44.

The Marauders, with no tanks or heavy artillery to support them, walked over 1,000 miles through extremely dense jungles in Burma and in five major battles and thirty minor engagements, defeated the veteran soldiers of the Japanese 18th division by completely disrupting the enemy supply line, communication lines and climaxed their behind lines operations with the capture of Myitkyina Airfield, the only all-weather airfield in Northern Burma.

As a member of the Marauders, Charles was awarded the "Distinguished Unit Citation" in July, 1944, the "Presidential Unit Citation" in 1966 and the extremely rare distinction of having every member of the Marauders Unit receive the "Bronze Star."

Charles returned to the community of El Modena and married his childhood sweetheart, Margaret, experienced several long-lasting medical conditions from his war time service in the jungles of Burma, worked as a civilian at the El Toro Marine Base and eventually retired at the age of 75, having been married for 55 years with 9 children, 12 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

Now, therefore, I, Mark A. Murphy, Mayor, the entire City Council, and the City Orange community have a long-standing tradition of patriotism and service to the armed forces of the United States of America. We hereby commend Charles Rodriguez for his service to the community, the United States Army, and citizens of the United States.

Dated, this 4th day of November, 2005.

[Signature]
Mayor