

Contra Costa County Sheriff

By Supervisor Federal D. Glover
September 11, 2007

This Sept. 11 we are reminded of the tragic attacks on the Twin Towers in New York where almost 3,000 people perished. The scenes of firefighters, port authority officers and police officers rushing up the stairs while thousands of office workers were fleeing is forever seared into our memories.

On that day, 23 members of the NYPD died in the rescue effort, along with 37 Port Authority Police Officers and 343 firefighters. Affected by the toxic smoke and dust as a result of that calamity, rescuers continue to die today.

Every September 11, every time a law officer is killed on duty, every time fire fighters perish in flames – we are reminded of the bravery, skills and heroic efforts of our first responders and the sacrifices they make every day.

Unfortunately, the rest of the time, we as a society often take our public safety for granted. We just assume that the police officers, the fire fighters and the other emergency personnel will keep us safe.

My district, District 5, relies heavily on our Sheriff's Office for law enforcement in our unincorporated communities. I realize the impact of having a safe community on the quality of life for a community. In fact, the largest share of the Keller Canyon Mitigation Funds, which I oversee, helps to pay for several Sheriff's Deputies positions to augment the force already assigned to the area.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, its is always difficult to trim services to my constituents – whether it be deputies, firefighters, hospital care, social services, public works or community development. The entire county – the ordinary citizen as well as county staff, have had to share the burden in the difficult financial times we are going through.

The measures the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors have put in place – while it may cause us to tighten our belts in the short term -- assures all of us that the worst is over and in the long term, we are on the road to a stable future.

The Board of Supervisors must decide what is best for the economic health of the entire County and weigh it -- not against – but “with” the required public safety, the infrastructure requirements and the social needs that make up our quality of life. They all go hand in hand.

Glover is the Supervisor for District 5.