

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 20 percent of Napa County citizens – over 25,000 people – are 60 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one-third of adults over the age of 60 and 50 percent of adults over the age of 80 will fall each year; and medical costs of each fall-related hospitalization averaging nearly \$40,000 in Napa County, and

WHEREAS, falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among people over the age of 65, and the leading cause of doctor visits, hospital admissions, and emergency room visits; and

WHEREAS, falls among older adults cause over 90 percent of broken hips; two-thirds of those afflicted will not recover post fracture mobility, only 50 percent will remain independent and as many as 20 percent will not survive one year; and

WHEREAS, falling, and the fear of falling, can lead to depression and hopelessness, loss of mobility, and loss of functional independence; and

WHEREAS, injuries from falls are a largely preventable community health problem; the cause of falls is composed of multiple contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of multiple medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe environments; and

WHEREAS, concentrated efforts are being made in Napa County through “*Stop Falls Napa Valley*” to reduce falls and fall- related injuries by using multi-faceted interventions; and

WHEREAS, at the state level, Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 77 (Lowenthal) was passed in 2008, perennially declaring the first week of autumn each year as Fall Prevention Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, at the federal level, the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007 (S.845) became Public Law No. 110-202 in April 2008, calling for the expansion of public health programs, educational outreach, and research activities related to fall prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Diane Dillon, Chair of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the week of September 19-25, 2010, to be **FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK** in Napa County and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

ATTEST:

Diane Dillon, Chair
Napa County Board of Supervisors

Gladys I. Coil
Clerk of the Board

