

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 15 percent of Napa County citizens – over 20,000 people are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one-third of seniors over the age of 65 and 50 percent of seniors over the age of 80 will fall each year, with medical costs of each fall-related hospitalization estimated at \$30,000; 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 whom 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, in 2004, 471 seniors in Napa Valley suffered injuries from a fall great enough to result in hospitalization; 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; and

WHEREAS, the causes of falls vary with contributing factors including lack of strength in the lower extremities, the use of four or more medications, reduced vision, chronic health problems, and unsafe conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Harold Moskowitz, Chair of the Napa County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2007, as County ***FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH*** in Napa County and call upon our citizens and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of fall prevention.

Harold Moskowitz, Chair
Napa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Gladys I. Coil, Clerk of the Board

