

# Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

## DECLARING MAY AS ELDER AND DEPENDENT ADULT ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

WHEREAS, elder and dependent adult abuse is a serious and growing problem throughout California, with no association between socioeconomic status, gender, race, ethnicity, educational background, or geographic location; and

WHEREAS, nearly 225,000 Californians are victims of elder and dependent adult abuse every year, including neglect and physical, psychological, emotional, and financial abuse; and

WHEREAS, it has been estimated that only one in five cases of elder and dependent adult abuse is reported because the victims are ashamed, helpless, or afraid of the abuser; and

WHEREAS, recognizing suspected elder and dependent adult abuse through increased awareness is the first step toward the prevention of this type of abuse; and

WHEREAS, elder and dependent adults are deserving of special consideration and protection, not unlike the special protections provided for minor children, because they are a vulnerable population that is often targeted by criminal predators; and

WHEREAS, elder and dependent adults have the right to live safely, whether in their homes or in health care facilities, and to enjoy an optimum quality of life, while being protected from all forms of abuse; and

WHEREAS, private citizens and public agencies must work both independently and collaboratively to combat crime and violence against elder and dependent adults to ensure that our "Greatest Generation," which has given us so much, can live their lives with the dignity and respect they deserve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark W. Stone, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby declare the month of May, 2006, as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Month in Santa Cruz County.



  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

April 19, 2006

Date