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OC's 125th Birthday Chronicled in Reception, Exhibits

(Santa Ana, CA) — Come celebrate Orange County's Quasquicentennial on Tuesday, August 5, at 8:30 a.m., when the public is invited to a reception commemorating the very first Board of Supervisors meeting held 125 years ago.

Supervisor John Moorlach will provide remarks on the County's milestone birthday, as will author and historian Phil Brigandi. The reception will be held in the lobby of the Hall of Administration at 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd. in Santa Ana.

Just across the street, the Old Orange County Courthouse is pleased to present "Orange County Circa 1889," a collection of historic photographic work taken 125 years ago documenting the founding era of Orange County. The exhibit will run through October 10, 2014.

Also at the Old Courthouse is "Celebrate OC," describing the County's separation from Los Angeles County and many of the milestone anniversaries celebrated over the years. The exhibit features photographs, documents, maps, newspapers and artifacts from the Orange County Archives. It will run through the end of the year.

Prior to 1889, the region was part of Los Angeles County. The county seat at that time was seven hours distant by horse buggy on rutted dirt roads, and local residents felt overtaxed and unrepresented. Attempts to form a separate county began in 1870. The Legislature finally approved a county formation vote, which was held on June 4, 1889. Support for the new county was overwhelming—2,505 to 499. The county officially formed on August 1 of that year, and the rest is history.

Special thanks is extended to Supervisor John M.W. Moorlach for his support of the Board of Supervisors reception on August 5.

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