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NEWS RELEASE

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**Orange County Archives Announces Several Historic Firsts For
Janet Nguyen, Newest Member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors**

Janet Nguyen's certification Tuesday as the newest member of the Orange County Board of Supervisors encompasses several historic firsts. She becomes the youngest member in history to join the Board of Supervisors, the first of Vietnamese descent and the first woman elected to represent the 1st District, according to the Orange County Archives.

The youngest Orange County supervisor until now was 2nd District Supervisor Tom Talbert, who was 31 years old upon his appointment to the job in 1909. He was elected to office a year later. In 1912, Bill Schumacher became the youngest person elected to the Board of Supervisors, at four months' shy of his 32nd birthday. (Talbert and Schumacher, incidentally, married sisters and were brothers-in-law.)

Janet Nguyen becomes the first person born in Vietnam to win a seat on the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Born in Saigon, Nguyen and her family escaped on a small wooden 10-foot boat sailing across the South China Sea, according to her campaign biography. She and her family arrived in California in 1981. She lives in Garden Grove.

Janet Nguyen also becomes the first woman to represent the First District and the fifth woman to become a supervisor. The others preceding her were former supervisors Harriett Wieder (2nd District), Marian Bergeson (5th District) and Cynthia Coad (4th District), as well as current 5th District Supervisor Patricia Bates. Women have now been elected to serve in four of the five Orange County districts, with only the 3rd District never having been represented by a woman.

In fact, with Janet Nguyen and Pat Bates now both members of the Board of Supervisors, it is the first time in Orange County's history that two women are simultaneously serving on the Board.

Though Janet Nguyen's victory was declared by a hair's-breadth margin of three votes, the Feb. 6 special election wasn't the closest ever. In 1912, Bill Schumacher defeated Anaheim City Councilman John Brunworth by one vote. In fact, Schumacher had won by two votes on Election Day, and then battled his way through a court case where Brunworth picked up one additional vote.

The Orange County Archives, established in 1983, is a division of the Orange County Clerk-Recorder Department. Located at the Old County Courthouse, the Archives is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To learn more about Orange County history, call the Orange County Archives at (714) 834-2536 or send us an e-mail at archives@rec.ocgov.com.