



MEDIA ADVISORY

January 15, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California State Senator Catherine Blakespear names Brother Benno's Executive Director Paul "Mac" McNamara Community Champion for District 38

OCEANSIDE, CA – California State Senator Catherine Blakespear, District 38, will present Paul "Mac" McNamara, executive director of Brother Benno's, as the Jan. Community Champion of the Month, 10 a.m., Jan. 16, at the Brother Benno's Center, 3260 Production Ave., in Oceanside.

Blakespear will bestow a certificate of recognition to honor McNamara and his work. Senator Blakespear honors a Community Champion from San Diego and Orange Counties within the 38th Senate District each month. Honorees have included organizations, teams and businesses that, through their efforts, uplifted the community.

In a newsletter announcing this honor, Blakespear wrote, "Mac' has brought his military background and experience as a corporate executive to his role as executive director of Brother Benno's in Oceanside. He blends efficiency with compassion to make a difference to those facing food and housing insecurity, mental health challenges and/or addiction.

"Highlighting the work that Mac is doing at Brother Benno's is especially relevant as we turn our attention to the annual homelessness survey conducted in January by the Regional Task Force on Homelessness."

Who: Senator Catherine Blakespear, District 38, and Brother Benno's Executive Director Paul "Mac" McNamara.

What: Blakespear will name McNamara Community Champion of the Month for January.

Where: Brother Benno's Center, 3260 Production Ave., in Oceanside

When: 10 a.m. Jan. 16.

Why: This will honor McNamara's long record of service to country and community.

About Paul “Mac” McNamara

McNamara, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel, served in Operation Desert Storm, flew relief operations during Mount Pinatubo’s June 15, 1991, eruption in the Philippines, and has supported hurricane and natural disaster relief operations. He also served as an attaché for the Defense Department’s Defense Intelligence Agency in Mexico City, working to counter trafficking of people and drugs.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, McNamara helped a struggling tech company recover and prosper and then helped his local community. He served several terms on Palomar College’s governing board and served as mayor of Escondido.

About Brother Benno’s

Brother Benno’s is dedicated to serving homeless neighbors, the working poor and seniors in North San Diego County by offering essential meals, addressing basic needs, fostering community outreach and supporting addiction recovery.

There are many ways to support Brother Benno’s mission. Cash donations, volunteering, clothing donations, shopping at the thrift store, hosting a clothing or donation drive, funding a scholarship for a student who has been in foster care, donating a vehicle and planned giving are just a few ways to get involved. For more information, please visit www.brotherbenno.org.

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