

**November, 2005**

**Guests at our campaign dinner enjoyed music, conversation, good food and speeches by Candidate Harry and Keynote Speaker and Community Activist, Doctor Marion Woods. Local poet and jazz singer, Susan Brooks, sang for the group and also read "Like Mountains," one of her published poems. Community Activist Rhonda Erwin, who has been fighting to highlight the local problem of youth violence and homicides, addressed the group in support of Candidate Harry.**



**HENRY HARRY**



**Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Marion Woods**

**CANDIDATE HARRY'S SPEECH  
(as prepared for delivery)**

**I truly want to thank all of our soldiers who are serving around the world. Their sacrifice allows us to be here free to enjoy this night. We can never thank them too much. To the men and women in this room who served in our armed forces, we thank you.**

**I want to acknowledge all of those killed, injured or displaced by hurricane Katrina. I am personally grateful to people right here in Sacramento who sent help to my family in Mississippi during their time of need.**

**As a Deputy Sheriff, I have lived and worked in South Sacramento for many years. I don't have to tell you about all of the crime, the shootings and the killings. When people say South Sacramento – they think blight, prostitution and crime.**

**For many of our neighbors, life is still lived in the forgotten pockets of our society. In these areas, the elderly and the very young are some of the most venerable.**

**Had I made these statements prior to September 2005, many, perhaps some in this room may have dismissed them. But since the flooding of New Orleans, America has had to acknowledge our history of two Americas. Today, many of our newspapers and cities are acknowledging this existence of two Americas; a division of our people, a division of our nation -- a question mark over our future.**



**M.C. Bonita Barnes**

**I am running for County Supervisors for South Sacramento and I want this campaign to be about bringing people together.**

**Let me share some thoughts on some of the many issues. We know our community. We don't need a term-paper to tell us that unemployment is too high in this area and it leads to many social problems. We need to continue our efforts to improve job training, placement, and pay. We know too many of our kids are not finishing school. And they need more positive role models, safer campuses and more teachers. We know we must maintain an atmosphere that makes businesses want to locate and remain in our community. And we know this area will and must grow.**

**New housing which is fairly priced and new businesses are desired and necessary for a good economy. We want our sales tax dollars staying in the county so we can pay for better services. I have heard this at meetings and from citizens as I have campaigned.**

**It is these sale tax dollars which will allow us to improve senior housing opportunities, deal with the challenges facing our foster care system and provide timely and quality public services.**

**But we want our growth to be responsible growth, and it must recognize the limits of our law enforcement capacity and our environmental and traffic concerns. We do not want to grow faster than our existing services can handle because that is a plan for disaster.**

**All of the social issues I just talked about are important. But crime is biggest issue.**





**I am deeply bothered by the high crime and violence in South Sacramento. Over the years, I have had to watch as some of neighborhoods have been lost day by day, block by block, shooting victim by shooting victim, and child by child.**

**As a street cop, I realized how connected we are by crime and gang members who travel around South Sacramento terrorizing our neighborhoods, in the city and county areas. The problem is spreading. Last fall, when I spoke to a group of about three hundred people in Vintage Park I said: "We don't have to stand by while our neighborhood turns into "South Central," a place where kids can't ride a bike to the store without getting beat-up, threatened or robbed."**



**Our kids hear too many gun shots and witness too many crimes. They are growing up in a war zone. I am tired of seeing so many of our kids lost daily to drugs, violence and to fear -- the fear of crime in their neighborhoods, the fear of crime as they walk to school -- and the fear of crime once they reach school.**

**This huge crime and drug problem has gone unaddressed too long. And I have been on some of the worst drug streets in Sacramento. We have to make some changes. It's about governance. It's about passion. It's about time.**

**If we are going to turn this area around, we have a lot of work to do. And I know we can turn our troubled neighborhoods around.**



**Under the drug plan I wrote in 2003, we saw some huge improvements in some of our worst drug areas. So believe me when I say that with focused law enforcement leadership, true passion for all of the people we serve and brave officers; we can breathe life back into our dying neighborhoods.**



**Let me move to my closing by reading a passage from my up coming book, titled "Making War." I think this passage best defines why I am fighting so hard.**

**"I often made the statement that if we do not change the system, children born in poor communities in South Sacramento today will grow up over the next twenty years in drug and crime infested communities. They will see drug dealing and violent crime almost daily.**

**This book is my declaration of defiance to those in government who are content to let this happen."**





**So I am fighting for change. Not only to put more officers on the streets to reduce crime and make us safer, but a change that helps redeem so many of our fallen neighbors, friends and children. Our kids in South Sacramento, and throughout Sacramento, are worth fighting for. So while I am still strong enough, I will keep fighting.**

**I take this situation very personal. My brother officers are working shorthanded in dangerous conditions. Too many of our neighbors are trapped in their own homes by crime, and for too many of our neighborhoods South Sacramento is still the wild-wild west.**

**I have been speaking out since 2003. I have been campaigning since January of this year. This has been an exhausting and enlightening journey that has challenged my courage, tested my limits and measured my conviction. But I have stood firm and fought the good fight. A now I need your help in this fight.**

**So I end by repeating what I told the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff in December of 2003; it is time our leaders step up, own up and clean up our communities.**

**Thank you.**

