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MICHAEL J. RUBIO

SUPERVISOR - FIFTH DISTRICT

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Rubio Receives Prestigious Fellowship

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) has announced that Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio has been awarded the prestigious German Marshall Memorial Fellowship. The award is given annually to approximately 50 leaders throughout the United States that excel in the government, journalism, business and nonprofit sectors. The GMF was founded in 1972 in Washington, DC as a non-partisan public policy organization devoted to strengthening the transatlantic relationship between the United States and Europe.

Though the exact dates have not yet been finalized, Supervisor Rubio will travel to five or six cities in Europe in early to mid 2006 to meet with local and national European leaders to discuss a broad range of policy areas. In particular, the Supervisor looks forward to discussing the role of health care and other associated issues and how they have been addressed in countries throughout Europe. The Fifth District has the highest rate of uninsured children in Kern County and it has become Supervisor Rubio's personal crusade to work diligently on reversing this saddening statistic. Notably, various European countries have developed innovative ways of improving their health care and insurance rates for children.

The German Marshall Memorial Fellowship application process is highly competitive and includes being nominated by a recognized leader in the community, writing several essays on how the applicant's home community will benefit from his/her participation in the program and an in-person interview. Supervisor Rubio proudly accepted Senator Art Torres' (Ret.) nomination to the fellowship program prior to Supervisor Rubio submitting his application.

"I am humbled by this tremendous honor," said Supervisor Rubio. "I look forward to speaking to European leaders while participating in dialogues to gather as much information as possible to bring back to Kern County to continue addressing the many difficult issues that our communities confront on a regular basis. As the elected representative of the Fifth District to the Board of Supervisors, I expect to learn more during this experience about how I may help better the lives of my constituents through positive work that may already be ongoing in cities in Europe."