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December 9, 2006

## **The Portantino Press: News from Assemblyman Anthony Portantino**

### **Portantino Takes Oath, Presents First Bill, Is Appointed to Chair Higher Education Committee, and Invites you to a Holiday Open House**



**Dear Catherine,**

On Monday, December 4, I was honored to take the oath of office to become your new Assemblyman. As I set up my new Assembly office and get settled in, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to everybody who helped me on the way to Sacramento.

I also wanted to send good wishes to Assemblywoman Carol Liu, who leaves behind big shoes for me to fill. I am grateful for her wisdom and advice, and for all the work that she has done for this district over the last six years. I hope I can serve you as well as she has.

### **Portantino Takes Oath of Office**

Anthony Portantino was sworn in on Monday as the Assemblymember representing the 44th Assembly District. Anthony was joined by his family and friends from the district in celebrating the event.

"It was an honor to have been selected by the residents of the 44th AD, and having so many family and friends fly up to Sacramento to enjoy the moment with me was the icing on the cake."

Anthony's one disappointment was that his mother, Barbara, could not make the trip from New Jersey as she is recovering from heart surgery. We all join Anthony in wishing her a speedy recovery.

### **Portantino Introduces First Piece of Legislation**

#### **Bill Would Promote Public Cord Blood Donation**

Anthony wasted no time in presenting his first bill, AB 34. AB 34 endeavors to set up five donation banks for umbilical cord blood within the State of California. Umbilical cord blood has shown a remarkable benefit to those with leukemia and other blood related diseases. Anthony was inspired to act because he and his wife Ellen were surprised at how difficult it was to donate their daughter's umbilical cord blood five years ago after hearing how a blood treatment had sent a friend's child into remission from leukemia.

- [Read the Text of Anthony's Bill!](#)

## Speaker Nunez Appoints Portantino to Chair the Assembly Higher Education Committee

Anthony was also honored on his first day in office to be selected by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez to Chair the Higher Education Committee. Public Education was a core issue for Anthony and the main reason why he campaigned so hard for the 44th Assembly District. California has long been regarded as having the premier public higher education system in the country. The 44th AD is home to Pasadena City College, and is also served by Citrus College, East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles Community College and Glendale Community College.

## Portantino and Liu Host Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 17

Come celebrate Anthony's new office and the six great years of service of Carol Liu. Anthony and Carol ask folks to bring an unwrapped gift of art supplies or art projects appropriate for ages 7-16 to benefit the youth served by the Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock.

Holiday Open House  
Sunday December 17, 3-5pm  
Home of Carol Liu and Mike Peevey, 1322 Verdugo Blvd.  
Park off Verdugo Blvd On Union, Fairlawn or Encinas.  
No RSVP needed. Just come join us!

## Firefighter's Son Seeks Bone Marrow Donor

Harrison Leonardo, the two-year-old son of San Francisco Firefighter O.J. Leonardo and his wife Stephanie, is fighting Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). Harrison went into remission over the summer, but the cancer relapsed just before Thanksgiving.

As his parents and brother are not matches, Harrison is in need of a non-related donor. If you'd like to see if you are a match for Harrison or any other patient in need of a donor, a free testing kit can be mailed to your home. To request a free kit, please call 1-800-59-DONOR (1-800-593-6667).

- [More Information on Harrison and his Search for a Match](#)
- [More information on the Asian American Donor Program](#)

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"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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