

Remarks for Eric Faith, June 13, 2012

The year was 1974, and the Monrovia of that time was very definitely not the Monrovia we know today. After thirty-eight years, the memories of that Monrovia are beginning to fade, as they should. But it is still important to occasionally bring to mind the Monrovia of 1974 as a reminder of just how far we have come.

Three individuals, Bob Bartlett, Eric Faith, and Pat Ostrye, ran as a team for the Monrovia City Council. After a vigorous campaign, they were elected. It was a turning point in Monrovia's history.

Not like the Triumvirate of old, that ruled Rome with an iron hand, this Triumvirate ruled Monrovia with a touch that was both gentle and golden. And not like Caesar Augustus, who boasted that he "found Rome brick and left it marble," this triumvirate could boast—not that they would—that they found Monrovia in decline and stagnation and carefully engineered a Renaissance that left Monrovia attractive and revitalized. Working with like-minded City staff, this Triumvirate turned Monrovia around.

Tonight you salute Eric Faith, the last member of the Triumvirate in public service. Eric has served this community for a total of thirty-four years. At the time of his election to the Monrovia City Council in 1974, Eric was chosen as mayor. He was the youngest mayor in the State of California at the time. Eric served on the council for eight years. He then continued his public service by being appointed to the Monrovia Planning Commission in April of 1986. Eric has served this community perhaps longer than anyone else in its lengthy history.

To you, Eric, and to your fellow members of the Triumvirate, I declare my boundless gratitude for what you have done for this community. On the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren, architect of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, are engraved the words, "If ye seek a monument, look around you." Look around you, Monrovia of 2012, and know that the vital city we live in today is a monument to the work of Eric Faith, Bob Bartlett, and Pat Ostrye.

*By Steve Baker
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