



Camarena Educational Foundation seeking members

STAFF REPORT

CALEXICO — The Enrique S. Camarena Educational Foundation Inc. was recently formed to help children ward off drug abuse.

The nonprofit group helps place busts of the late U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent in schools, libraries and public buildings to show there are heroes willing to sacrifice their lives to help protect us all.

Foundation president John Windham said, "Through 'Kiki's' image we honor all fallen and wounded narcotic officers while helping our kids realize that drug abuse isn't fun and games, but a deadly habit that harms society."

John Fernandes, special agent in charge of the DEA in San Diego, said, "It's good to receive more assistance from the private sector. Law enforcement can't do the job alone and we need all the help we can get. There is no greater symbol than Agent Camarena."

He praised members of the Association of Former Federal Narcotics Agents, who, with relatives and friends of Camarena, formed the organization. The late agent was abducted, tortured and mur-

dered by drug traffickers in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, in 1985. The case had a lasting impact on the drug problem.

AFFNA President Chris Egan lauded the work of its members who contributed personal funds to start up the project. He also thanked Camarena family members for taking active roles in operating the foundation, which already has placed sculptures in several schools, museums and public buildings.

Camarena's widow, Geneva "Mika" Camarena, and other relatives serve on the foundation's boards and speak at ceremonies when the busts are installed.

The foundation will work with all the selecting sites in raising funds to get the sculptures into place. Further information can be obtained by calling (858) 485-1356 and (858) 451-8745 or by sending e-mails to jwindham@san.rr.com

Contributions may be sent to P.O. Box 28691, San Diego, CA 92198.

Diogenes "Dodge" Galanos, a retired DEA agent and foundation vice president, said, "This is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization. If you want to do something good for mankind, just climb on board. You can make a difference."