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Denny Sanford is a successful entrepreneur and leading philanthropist who is an active supporter of San Diego's medical research and healthcare industry, as well as community enhancement initiatives.

“Investing in the Future of San Diego”

By Denny Sanford

My friend Malin Burnham, a native of San Diego, points out that many of us are transplants to this wonderful community. Many of us came here from across the country and from around the world and found San Diego to be a welcoming, vibrant and creative community ...one with values similar to those I grew up with in the Midwest, albeit with a friendlier climate here in San Diego.

San Diego has a number of rich and diverse attributes as a community, perhaps best exemplified by its long history of commitment in support of our military men and women ...which is represented so aptly by the USS Midway Museum. Midway has become a valued community resource, an ambassador of San Diego, and an iconic symbol of San Diego's unique naval aviation heritage.

I was also attracted to San Diego because of my passionate philanthropic pursuit to find cures for childhood diseases and for prevention, treatment and cures for breast cancer. I invested in these causes here, because I saw the potential for advancing some of the most forward-thinking research in the world, at institutes like the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, and the soon to open Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine encompassing five great nationally known medical research organizations specializing in Stem Cell research.

As you all know, San Diego enjoys remarkable weather which brings not only conventioners and tourists, but also inspires creativity and imagination. The combination of this unique place, an unparalleled research base, a strong work ethic, a diverse citizenship and a notable culture of collaboration positions this region to lead in the future of innovation.

So why is this iconic Sails symbol so important to the San Diego region? I was moved by this concept from the first time I was exposed to it. For me, it captured what San Diego is all about: towering sails representing our location on the Pacific Ocean, San Diego's unique community fabric, and leaning into the future alongside the USS Midway Museum, an institution dedicated to educating and inspiring future generations of Americans. A Veterans Park that features an accessible community events venue and proposed home for the San Diego Symphony's Summer Pops and hopefully major musical events, exhibitions and festivals. It also is consistent with the Port's vision for the North Embarcadero that includes the Greatest Generation Walk and Bob Hope Memorial. Achievement of this multi-dimensional vision will become a badge of civic pride, as a unique and internationally recognizable symbol of San Diego.

I'm honored to be part of it.