

RESOLUTION NO. 24-094

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING THE RENAMING OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER BRIDGE TO THE CHARLIE BARRA MEMORIAL BRIDGE ON STATE HIGHWAY ROUTE 20 IN THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

WHEREAS, numerous constituents living in the Redwood Valley and Calpella area have requested the support of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors for the renaming of the newly constructed Russian River Bridge located on State Highway Route 20 in the County of Mendocino as the Charlie Barra Memorial Bridge; and

WHEREAS, Charles Barra was born in Calpella on December 12, 1926 to first generation Italian immigrants Antonio Barra and Marie Rovera; he attended grammar school locally, graduated from Ukiah High School Class of 1946 while beginning his career as a successful grape grower who established and farmed over 500 acres of vineyards during his career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barra made significant contributions back to the community throughout his lifetime by serving in the US Army 1952-54, helped create the Redwood Valley County Water District in 1964, was appointed to the Mendocino County Planning Commission two times in 1965 and 1975, and was appointed to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors in 1968 by then Governor Ronald Reagan. He also created the St. Mary's School Foundation, serving as its president for 21 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barra made numerous contributions to the wine industry as an innovator of harvesting equipment and practices, pioneering overhead frost protection, in 1963 providing regional leadership as the Founder and past president of California North Coast Grape Growers Association and board member for 41 years where he lobbied for a variety of grower causes, including varietal percentage change in wines from 51% to 75%, the first appellation designation in the U.S, and for pricing regulations that said a grower and winery had to agree on prices before grapes were crushed, certifying all of his vineyards as farmed organically by 1989, as well as owning and operating several wineries including Redwood Valley Cellars where he received numerous accolades in the industry for his wines and technical contributions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Charlie Barra passed away on June 29, 2019 at the age of 93, leaving behind Martha Barra, his wife of 39 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors expresses its gratitude to constituents for bringing forth an initiative to honor Mr. Barra's legacy of service and generosity to the community; and offers its unanimous support for the renaming of the Russian River Bridge to the Charlie Barra Memorial Bridge in honor of an individual who loved his community as much as the community loved him.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by Supervisor Haschak, seconded by Supervisor Gjerde, and carried this 25th day of June, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors McGourty, Mulheren, Haschak, Gjerde and Williams
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.

ATTEST: DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board

MAUREEN MULHEREN, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Deputy

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
JAMES R. ROSS
Interim County Counsel

BY: DARCIE ANTLE
Clerk of the Board

Deputy