

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 AS REMEMBRANCE DAY IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, since the first state institutions opened in 1852, individuals with mental and developmental disabilities were separated from their communities and committed to these institutions for a variety of reasons, many of which would not be considered acceptable today; and

WHEREAS, more than 45,000 people who died while confined in these state institutions were not claimed by family or friends and were buried by the state, often in mass or unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,600 people who died while confined at the Mendocino State Hospital during its years of operation from 1892 to 1972 were buried locally in unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS, the California Memorial Project was formed to honor and restore dignity to those individuals who lived and died in confinement at state hospitals and development centers; and,

WHEREAS, the local committee of the California Memorial Project, in cooperation with the Russian River Cemetery District, has installed plaques honoring those who died while confined locally; and,

WHEREAS, the California Memorial Project seeks to restore all cemeteries or graves where individuals from State institutions are buried; document the history of the client and consumer movement in California; and preserve the history of the individuals who lived in state institutions; and,

WHEREAS, the California Memorial Project also coordinates a Remembrance Day to honor and show respect to all people who lived or died in California state mental institutions and development centers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby proclaims September 19, 2016, as:

“REMEMBRANCE DAY IN MENDOCINO COUNTY”

Dated: September 13, 2016

Dan Gjerde, Chair