

PROCLAMATION OF THE
MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 8, 2018 AS THE
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REDWOOD COMPLEX FIRE IN MENDOCINO COUNTY

WHEREAS, on the evening of October 8, 2017, high winds knocked down many mature trees in Potter Valley and blew tree limbs into power lines, starting what became known as the Redwood Complex Fire; and

WHEREAS, within hours the wind driven fire crested the ridge separating Potter Valley from Redwood Valley and rapidly spread throughout northern Redwood Valley, up Tomki Road to Pine Mountain and up the Willits grade, including parts of Ridgewood Ranch; and

WHEREAS, tragically, despite the best efforts of emergency first responders, including fire, law enforcement and medical professionals, and the efforts of countless friends, family members and neighbors who risked their own safety to save others, nine people died in the fire and others suffered serious injury; and

WHEREAS, the fire burned 36,523 acres in Redwood Valley and Potter Valley, destroyed 350 residences and approximately 300 other structures, and impacted critical communication facilities; and

WHEREAS, after the first tragic night of the fire, the responding fire fighters, including our local fire district personnel, both paid and volunteer, Cal Fire and other agencies from far and wide, due to their dedication to duty and determination to persevere under difficult conditions, succeeded in containing the fire and limiting further destruction; and

WHEREAS, in the immediate aftermath of the fire, countless individuals and agencies came forward without needing to be asked, to contribute their time, energy and resources to help their neighbors in need; and

WHEREAS, everyone has their own way of responding to tragedy and loss, and among these are the Fire Survivor Ensemble wherein seven fire survivors shared their personal stories of survival, and the Art from Ashes Mosaic Mural whereby material objects destroyed in the fire were transformed into objects of beauty and remembrance; and

WHEREAS, most significantly, as we approach the First Anniversary of the Redwood Complex Fire it is appropriate to memorialize those who lost their lives during the Redwood Complex Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby recognize October 8, 2018 as the First Anniversary of the Redwood Complex Fire in Mendocino County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors encourages everyone to remember, reflect upon and honor the tragic losses suffered by members of our community; the countless acts of valor of first responders and many other community members; and the resiliency of our community as we rebuild and recover; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors encourages everyone to participate in a candlelight vigil and plaque dedication ceremony on October 7 at Lion's Park in Redwood Valley where the South Ukiah Rotary Club will unveil a "memory rock" forever memorializing Elsie Bowman, Roy Bowman, Janet Costanzo, Elizabeth Foster, Jane Gardiner; Kai Shepherd; Kressa Shepherd; Steve Stelter; and Margaret Stephenson who tragically lost their lives in the Redwood Complex Fire the night of October 8, 2017

Dated: October 2, 2018

Dan Hamburg, Chair