

PROCLAMATION

OF THE

MENDOCINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RECOGNIZING

CHARLES L. BARRA

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles L. "Charlie" Barra was appointed in 1969 to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors by Governor Ronald Reagan to serve as the First District Supervisor. Previously Charlie served as an active member on the Mendocino County Planning Commission holding the First District seat and throughout the years thereafter accepted appointments by the Board of Supervisors to various committees; and

WHEREAS, Charles L. Barra was born December 12, 1926 in Calpella to first generation Italian immigrants Antonio Barra and Maria Rovera. As a young boy working alongside his grandfather and father in the rich soils of Redwood Valley, Charlie learned the ins and outs of farming wine grapes in Mendocino County. These formative years would serve as the foundation for 73 years of grape harvests and over 40 years as a passionate advocate for the California North Coast Grape Growers Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Charlie was forever searching for ways to improve agricultural practices, as well as ensure that grape growers were being fairly compensated for the quality fruit being grown in Mendocino County. As a founding member and president of the North Coast Grape Growers Alliance, Charlie 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 authorized a grower and a winery had to agree on prices before the winegrapes were crushed; and

WHEREAS, Charlie's commitment and devotion to his community showed in many other efforts throughout his life. Most notably the results of his work to create the St. Mary's School Foundation and his 21-year tenure as president are still visible today; and

WHEREAS, Charlie passed away peacefully at his home in Ukiah on Saturday, June 29, 2019. His legacy and inspiration will live on in the lives of so many he touched during his journey through 92 years of life..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mendocino, hereby honors the life of Charles L. "Charlie" Barra recognizing the many accomplishments in public service he made throughout his lifetime.

Dated: July 23, 2019

Carre Brown, Chair