



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING COLONEL PHILIP CONRAN

WHEREAS, on October 6, 1969, then-Major Conran performed extraordinary acts of heroism when he, after the designated rescue pilot refused due to extreme danger, conducted a daring operation to recover downed personnel in Laos, despite heavy enemy fire from North Vietnamese Army (NVA) forces, ultimately saving the lives of 8 Americans and 46 Lao soldiers; and

WHEREAS, despite being wounded and under relentless assault from the NVA, Colonel Conran's leadership, tactical expertise, and selfless bravery allowed his unit to withstand the intense firefight for over six hours, providing critical support that enabled the successful recovery of his comrades; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Conran's heroic actions, including his bold decision to expose himself twice to heavy enemy fire to retrieve vital supplies and his command of defense under impossible circumstances, are a testament to his unwavering dedication and courage in the face of overwhelming odds; and

WHEREAS, it is with great respect and gratitude that we recognize Colonel Conran's extraordinary service, and advocate for the United States Congress to expeditiously recommend upgrading Colonel Conran's Air Force Cross to his original Medal of Honor recommendation, a recognition that is richly deserved for his lifesaving actions and leadership under fire; and

WHEREAS, as a Santa Barbara neighbor for the past 25 years, Colonel Conran has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to community service, having served on the Board of the Vieja Gardens Association for 24 years; held national leadership roles with the Legion of Valor; contributed significantly to veteran organizations and the Military Order of the Purple Heart; played key roles in Santa Barbara's Memorial Day and July 4th ceremonies; and currently serves as Treasurer for the California Branch of the American Irish Historic Society, all while cherishing a 66-year marriage to Margaret and a loving family of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County does hereby recognize and honor Colonel Philip Conran for his heroic contributions to the United States, for the lasting impact of his actions in defense of his fellow soldiers, and in support of his swift and well-deserved receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 18th day of March, 2025, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



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Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board