

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Gary Louis Simpson was born in St. Joseph, Missouri and as a very very young person came west during World War II when his father began working in the shipyards. Gary attended public schools in Oakland, California and got his first exposure to law enforcement when his father became a Police Officer for the City of Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Gary received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences in 1965 from Pacific Union College and none were happier to have Gary graduate and leave the institution than many of the faculty and staff of the College. Gary served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1969 and left the Army at the rank of First Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Gary began his law enforcement career with the City of Napa as a Police Officer in April, 1969 and worked his way through the ranks promoting to the position of Lieutenant in 1983. During his employment with the City of Napa, Gary earned a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Golden Gate University and in 1986 he ran for and was elected as the twenty-fifth Sheriff of Napa County; and

WHEREAS, when taking office Gary made it very clear to his staff that his first goals as Sheriff included professionalizing the organization and removing the politics out of the day to day operations. From the day Gary took office, it became obvious to all staff that he was in charge, insisting that his goals and direction were going to be met!! Gary's style of management is quiet and hands off, but there has always been an understanding that "a boot to the butt" is a vastly under utilized management technique; and

WHEREAS, during his 20 years as Sheriff the Department literally went from typewriters to computers and did so successfully even with Gary's five minute limit on any discussion involving technology. Under Gary's leadership the department professionalized at all levels, training was stressed and constantly improved upon, and equipment was evaluated and updated as science and technology became partners in the law enforcement effort; and

WHEREAS, Gary's accomplishments during his 20 years as Sheriff are too numerous to list here, but some of the most notable include:

- the Sheriff's Activity League with 600 kids participating in variety of after school programs and teams,
- the Citizens Academy,
- the Sheriff's Hazardous Device Team,
- the implementation of the DARE Program in County schools,
- the GREAT Program in selected schools,
- installation of the Mobile Data Computers in patrol vehicles,
- automation of all local warrants,
- participation in the creation of the Napa County Major Crimes Task Force,
- creation of a State funded off-highway enforcement team,
- development of significant police service contracts with the City of American Canyon, Town of Yountville, Napa County Court Services, the State Department of Boating and Waterways, and the Napa State Hospital,
- professionalization of Napa County Animal Services,
- conversion of filmed documents to digital photography,
- creation and expansion of an all volunteer Search and Rescue Team,
- implementation of in-car video systems for all patrol vehicles long before they were in common use around the Country; and

WHEREAS, when he wasn't making certain all of this was done and done properly, Gary had time to share his vision of a new home for the Sheriff's Department on Airport Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, although many of Gary's accomplishments listed above are Department accomplishments, many involve the men and women of the neighboring law enforcement agencies. All will attest to the fact that under Sheriff Simpson's leadership the Department was always there to lend a hand when needed, share ideas and goals for the common good, combine workforces when the task at hand was too large for one, and set aside boundary lines and political subdivisions when the citizens of Napa County were in need of help; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Simpson was always mindful and kept his staff mindful, that the Sheriff's Department was just one part of County Government and what was needed was "teamwork" with the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Executive Officer to reach common goals. Gary not only demanded loyalty to the Sheriff's Department, he also demanded equal loyalty to the goals of the County and constantly worked to provide expeditious, professional and fiscally prudent service to the citizens of the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that on the occasion of his retirement, the Board of Supervisors wishes to express its appreciation to Gary Simpson for his many years of effective and loyal service to the public; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Board of Supervisors and the numerous associates and friends with whom Gary has worked over the years wish to acknowledge and thank him for his dedicated service to the citizens of Napa County and wish he and his wife Veronica happiness, good health, contentment, and good hunting in his retirement.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

Mary Jean McLaughlin
Acting Clerk of the Board