

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No.

A Resolution honoring the memory of _____)
MELANIE MAYER GIDEON)
Moss Landing Community Leader)

WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon* was born on March 20, 1960 in Sacramento to John and Shirley Mayer, who moved their family around the state before finally settling in Monterey County, where Melanie attended Moss Landing School and where, at the age of eight, she declared that she would one day become a marine biologist, one of many goals she would go on to achieve during her lifetime; and,

WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon* attended Salinas High School where she excelled on the swim team until graduating in 1978, earned a bachelor's degree in marine biology from San Jose State University in 1982 and earned a master's degree in marine science from the Moss Landing Marine Labs in 1987; and,

WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon* set up the first education program at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve for training teachers and volunteers, was one of the first women in management at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, where some of her favorite projects were developing wilderness areas and restoring wetland habitats, went on to start her own business, Melanie Mayer Consulting, was instrumental in rebuilding her alma mater, the Moss Landing Marine Labs, after the Loma Prieta earthquake by making many thoughtful presentations to the California State Coastal Commission, the Monterey County Planning Commission and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors providing crucial testimony at hearings in the face of opposition by environmental and Native American groups, initiated the community effort to relocate Moss Landing's utilities underground, led the negotiations for mitigation funds from Duke Energy for the Moss Landing Power Plant's retrofit, served as president of the Moss Landing Chamber of Commerce, where she worked diligently on the Moss Landing Antique Fair, served as chair of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, was a lifetime member of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and continued supporting the Marine Labs in every way possible; and,

WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon* met her husband, Yohn Gideon, while he was stationed in the Navy at Moffet Field and because Yohn shared Melanie's love for the ocean, they took many scuba diving trips to far away places including Australia, the Caribbean and Cabo San Lucas, where he proposed marriage to her; and, in 1984, they married and that same year founded the Elkhorn Slough Safari, a tour that has guided thousands of visitors into the estuary by boat, and with help from family and friends, resurrected the Old Pacific Steamship Building and opened the Captain's Inn Bed & Breakfast at Moss Landing in May 2003 and which, through Melanie's tireless efforts, was one of the first historic properties in Monterey County to qualify for the Mills Act program; and, she wrote a cookbook, *Cooking for the Captain*, that is a bestseller at the Inn; and,

WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon's* life revolved around her family; she was a great mom to her twins, Hans and Haylee, whom she loved dearly and who always came first in her life, and they enjoyed camping, fishing, going to the beach and tide pools, birding, biking, and hiking together at local and national parks; and, Melanie was an enthusiastic supporter of Hans' and Haylee's sports activities as well as a volunteer in their classrooms; and, she made sure that they were involved with a church, was a great teacher and organizer, and because education was important to Melanie, seeing her kids graduate from college was one of her dreams; and,

WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon* had a gift for making people feel special and will be remembered for her big smile, even bigger laugh, her love, enthusiasm and unfettered dedication to her family and her community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors joins the community in honoring the memory of **MELANIE MAYER GIDEON** and praises her for her significant contributions to Monterey County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 12th day of February 2013, upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

I, Gail T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book ___ for the meeting on _____.

Dated:
Gail T. Borkowski Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey, State of California.

By _____
Deputy