

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN AND FOR THE  
COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Resolution No.** )  
Adopt Resolution Honoring *Tom Griffin* )  
upon his retirement from Monterey )  
County 's Military & Veterans Affairs )  
Office as Department Director.....)

WHEREAS, *Tom Griffin* born in Staufenberg, Germany to a German army soldier and his wife during WWII. After the death of his father in WWII, Tom along with his identical twin-Jerry were orphaned; and

WHEREAS, *Tom Griffin* was adopted by an American Army sergeant in 1952 and he and his brother were brought to America. Tom graduated from Balboa High School in San Francisco in 1958 and was appointed by U.S. Congressman Shelly to the United States Military Academy at West Point where he graduated from USMA in 1963; and

WHEREAS, *Tom Griffin* served three involuntary tours in Vietnam, first as an Infantry Airborne Ranger-soldier and leader, where he was wounded both by gun fire and by being stabbed in hand-to-hand combat, during his second tour he was a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Battalion, and on his third tour he was a Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Infantry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, *Tom Griffin* completed his regular Army service of 20 years as a Lieutenant Colonel with his last two assignments as member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon and at Ft. Ord as a Brigade Executive Officer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. During his twenty years of service he was awarded a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, two Air medals, four Army Commendation medals, two Meritorious Service medals, a Joint Services Commendation medal, a Defense Meritorious Service medal and numerous campaign ribbons, foreign awards and the coveted Combat Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, *Tom Griffin* along the way attended college and earned his Master's degree, a Specialist degree and his Doctorate. Tom is a licensed professional counselor and was contracted by the Army for seven years to work with Army families focusing on assisting Army families and their mobile lifestyle; he then worked for the Monterey County Housing Authority assisting low-income families with their psycho-social needs. He then moved on to work as a Correctional Counselor and then began working in both the County of Santa Clara and the County of Monterey as a Social Worker for Child Protective Services. Following this he worked for six years as a Management Analyst in the Monterey County's Military & Veterans Affairs Office, however in 2010 he became the acting head of the department for six months before becoming the Department Director in January 2011; and

WHEREAS, *Tom Griffin* in 1998 had a vision and helped to create the Veterans Transition Center (VTC), an organization that now owns 40 homes on the Former Ft. Ord and houses over

50 homeless veterans and families in a two year transitional program and today the VTC has a 12 person staff, numerous volunteers and a full complement of services. Tom came as an immigrant and took the commitment of service to heart; he served our country, our State, our County of Monterey as a dedicated soldier, veteran, and patriot. He has given of himself, his skills, expertise and is well known across the State as an advocate for the soldiers, veterans, and their families. This was demonstrated once again in June of 2012 when Tom assisted to organize the Monterey county Stand Down for homeless veterans, where 297 homeless veterans were served, including 10 homeless families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, on behalf of the County and all of its citizens hereof, hereby acknowledges, commends, and thanks Tom Griffin for all of his contributions and dedication service to Monterey County, the State of California and our Country as a dedicated soldier, veteran, and patriot ;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby congratulates *Tom Griffin* upon his retirement and wishes him success, good health, and happiness in his retirement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2013, upon motion of Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, and carried by the following vote, to-wit: