

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

Resolution No.

Adopt Resolution commending **Bob Gray**
upon his selection as the National Steinbeck Center's
2013 Valley of the World Ag Leader Award

WHEREAS, the Valley of the World Ag Leader Award was established to honor individuals who have performed outstanding personal, professional and civic achievements in our community and the agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Yuma, Arizona, **Bob Gray** entered the produce business at the age of 18 while searching for a summer job to put himself through college; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray** graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Philosophy and won a British Marshall Scholarship for post-graduate study at the University of Edinburg, Scotland, where he received a Master of Arts with Honours in English Language and Literature; and

WHEREAS, after returning from Scotland, **Bob Gray** revisited the produce industry before pursuing his further graduate studies. In the mid-1970's Bob came to a proverbial fork in the road, choosing a career in produce over a professorship; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray** worked for several family-owned grower-shippers in both Arizona and California in a variety of positions eventually progressing to sales and sales management; and

WHEREAS, the decision to make fresh produce his career drew **Bob Gray** to Salinas, where he joined Gene Jackson Farms; a subsidiary of Duda. Bob spent 29 years with the company, ultimately heading the largest subsidiary of the corporation and serving as Chief Executive Officer of Duda Farm Fresh Foods, Inc., which had fresh produce operations in eleven states and Mexico, five sales offices, and twenty-three shipping points; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray** was an Executive Vice President of the parent corporation, A. Duda & Sons, Inc., of Oviedo, Florida and was only the second non-family member of management to hold the title of Executive Vice President in the 87-year history of the Duda Company; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray** became president and CEO of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation in 2009, a 501(c)(3) private non profit public benefit corporation committed to leadership training and transformational learning experiences in partnership with four California universities; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray** was a director of the Hartnell College Foundation from 1995-2001, and served as chairman of the Foundation's board for three years; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray** has been an active member of many industry organizations and served as the 73rd Chairman of the Grower Shipper Association of Central California in 2003-2004, and was the 83rd Chairman of the Western Growers Association in 2007-2008, becoming the first non-owner Chairman in the history of the Association ; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 **Bob Gray** was appointed by California's Secretary of Agriculture as a Director of the California Institute for the Study of Specialty Crops, affiliated with California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; and

WHEREAS, **Bob Gray's** many achievements include; past Chairman of the California Celery Research Advisory Board (1996-2000); past member of the California Lettuce advisory Board; Director of the

Produce Marketing Association's Foundation for Industry Talent (2006-2009); member of PMA's Retail Board; appointed by California's Lieutenant Governor to the Agriculture Advisory Committee of the California Commission for Economic Development (2008); and still serves on the Technical Committee of the Center for Produce Safety, affiliated with the University of California at Davis; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2010 **Bob Gray** was made an Honorary Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his 15 years of volunteer service to the Marshall Scholarship Program as a regional selection committee member and chair in the Pacific Northwest along with his support of the U.S. / U.K. "special relationship."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and all citizens thereof hereby congratulates **Bob Gray** as recipient of the National Steinbeck Center's 2013 Valley of the World Ag Leader Award and wishes him continued peace and happiness in all his future endeavors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this _____ day of _____, 2013 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 Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book _____, for the meeting on _____.

Dated:

Gayle T. Borkowski, Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors, County of Monterey,
State of California.

By _____
Deputy