

**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, California to John and Shirley Mayer. The family moved around the state before settling in the Prunedale area. Melanie attended Moss Landing School and showed lambs and rabbits in 4-H. Her enthusiasm and determination started at the age of eight when she decided that she wanted to be a Marine Biologist, this was only one of many goals she would achieve; and,

**WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon*** attended Salinas High School where she excelled on the swim team. After graduating from High School in 1978 she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology from San Jose State University in 1982 and her Masters Degree in Marine Science from Moss Landing Marine Lab in 1987. She set up the first education programs at the Elkhorn Slough reserve for training teachers and volunteers. She 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. She then went on to start her own business, Melanie Mayer Consulting. She was instrumental in rebuilding her alma mater, the Moss Landing Marine Labs after the Loma Prieta earthquake. She made many presentations to the Coastal Commission, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. Her testimony was crucial at hearings before the California Coastal Commission in the face of opposition by some environmental and Native American groups; and,

**WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon*** met her husband, Yohn Gideon while he was stationed in the Navy at Moffet Field. Yohn shared Melanie's love for the ocean and they took many diving trips including Australia and the Caribbean. He proposed while they were scuba diving in Cabo and they were married in 1994. That same year they started the Elkhorn Slough Safari a tour company that's guided thousands of people into the estuarine preserve. With help from family and friends, they resurrected the old Pacific Steamship building and created the Captain's Inn Bed and Breakfast at Moss Landing. The Inn opened in May 2003 and twins Hans and Haylee arrived in July 2003. Through Melanie's efforts the Captain's Inn was the first historic property to qualify for the Mills Act program in Monterey County; and,

**WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon's*** life revolved around her family and the Inn. She was a great mom and her family always came first. Together they enjoyed camping, fishing trips, going to the beach, tide pooling, birding, biking, and hiking at local and national parks. She also enjoyed dancing, playing cards, crafts, and gardening. Melanie was an enthusiastic supporter of Hans' and Haylee's sports activities as well as volunteering in their classrooms. Education was very important to Melanie, and college for the kids was one of her goals. She also made sure they were involved in church. She was a great teacher and organizer and an excellent cook. Her cookbook, "Cooking for the Captain" is a bestseller at the Inn; and,

**WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon*** loved the color blue and holidays. She especially enjoyed the Fourth of July and one year she and Yohn went to 4 different fireworks shows. She also loved Halloween, dressing up with the kids, and pumpkins, pumpkins, pumpkins! Christmas was also a favorite time, and she enjoyed decorating, making pies, and collecting special ornaments with Yohn and the kids; and,

**WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon*** was an important member of the Central Coast community. She served as President of the Moss Landing Chamber of Commerce - where she worked diligently on visitor service issues, and as Chair of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. She was a lifetime member of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation and continued to support Moss Landing Marine Labs. She was instrumental in getting mitigation for underground utilities with Duke Energy and she was involved in the Moss Landing flea market; and,

**WHEREAS, *Melanie Mayer Gideon*** had a gift for making people feel special. She will be remembered for her big smile and even bigger laugh, her love, enthusiasm and 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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