

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

Resolution No.

Congratulating Steve Church on the _____)
National Steinbeck Center “Ag Leader Award”.....)

WHEREAS, Steve Church was born and raised in the Salinas Valley and has been part of the produce industry for nearly 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Steve graduated from Salinas High School in 1967 and Arizona State University in 1971, with a degree in Agriculture Business; and

WHEREAS, Steve has been married to Melinda Church for 25 years, and has six beautiful children; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Steve was hired at Growers Exchange as the Sales Manager and remained there until 1981 when he started an independent sales company that sold produce for Grainger Farms and Derrick Ranches until 1985; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, Steve and his brother Tom formed Church Brothers Produce as a grower/shipper/packer entity, and in 2000 they started Fresh Kist with a group of Santa Maria growers that took the unique approach of simultaneously selling product from Salinas and Santa Maria regions; and

WHEREAS, Steve and Tom invested in the export venture of International Produce Group in 2002, and formed a partnership with Mike Garcia, Garcia and Church, who continues to grow for Church Brothers Farms in Huron, California; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, Tom and Steve became partners in True Leaf Farms, a whole leaf and tender leaf processing company in King City; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Church Brothers Farms was formed, and now has grown to more than 1,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, Steve and Tom’s latest business venture focuses on sustainability by being early investors into Concentric Power which builds clean power plants with a cogeneration system for processing plants; and

WHEREAS, Steve is currently the chairman of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, past chairman of the Grower Shipper Association of Central California, and served on the Board of Directors for the Western Growers Association, and Central California Lettuce Producers Co-Op; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Steve was awarded the Produce Marketers for All Seasons Award by *The Packer*; and

WHEREAS, Steve's influence in the Salinas Valley is not measured by acres farmed or owned, but through the success stories of his numerous partnerships, investments, and the employees he has touched throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, Steve's dedication to both family and the people of the fresh produce industry will leave a deep-rooted mark on the Salinas Valley for years to come; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the county and all citizens thereof, does hereby congratulate Steve Church upon being a recipient of the 2018 Ag Leader Award from the National Steinbeck Center.

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ and carried this ____ day of _____ by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, 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 Minute Book ____ for the meeting on _____, 2018.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By _____
Deputy