

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2019/186

Honoring Deputy Sheriff William R. Johnson who died in the line of duty on July 31, 1852.

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff was notified regarding the discovery of historical documents reporting a line of duty death of an “Office of the Sheriff” deputy in the year 1852. WHEREAS, a review of the historical documents, coupled with further research, supported the initial findings and provided further insight into the circumstances surrounding the death of Deputy William R. Johnson.

WHEREAS, Deputy William R. Johnson lost his life in the line of duty on July 31, 1852 while serving a “writ of ejection” at a residence unlawfully occupied by the suspect. Johnson was shot in the chest by the suspect and succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

WHEREAS, Deputy William R. Johnson died at the age of 34, leaving a wife and three children and was buried in Yerba Buena Cemetery in San Francisco.

WHEREAS, facts of Deputy William R. Johnson’s death are supported by archival newspaper articles, official court documents, mortuary documents, and original Grand Jury transcripts of eight witnesses statements (courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society).

WHEREAS, historical documents confirm that Deputy William R. Johnson was acting under the color of authority on the date of his death, as a sworn deputy sheriff of the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff.

WHEREAS, Deputy Johnson was formally inducted into the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C. on May 13, 2019 and has been accepted by the California Peace Officer’s Memorial in Sacramento and scheduled for formal induction in May of 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County recognize and honor the sacrifice Deputy William R. Johnson made as a lawman in the old west, while serving and protecting the people of Contra Costa County.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair, District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: June 11, 2019

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy