

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

**In the matter of:**

**Resolution No. 2022/391**

**In the matter of recognizing the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office on their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**WHEREAS**, in 1926, San Bernardino County established the first County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) in California, and between World War I and World War II, at least ten other counties with large veteran populations also established CVSO offices; and

**WHEREAS**, the CVSO's offices were developed to assist the State's veterans in obtaining federal benefits they had earned by virtue of their service to the country; and

**WHEREAS**, by the end of World War II, most California counties had established CVSO offices, and with the return of thousands of World War II veterans to California, the California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CACVSO) was formed to assist veterans in accessing entitlements as authorized by the United States Congress, such as the GI Bill for education and veterans home loan programs, as well as compensation and pension benefits for wounded veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to promoting state and federal legislation and policies supportive of veterans' rights, the CACVSO provides a medium for the exchange of ideas, information, training, and support to facilitate the delivery of services to nearly two million California Veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa CVSO follows the mission of the CACVSO; and

**WHEREAS**, while recognizing the importance and merit of the congressionally chartered veterans service organizations, the Contra Costa VSO is committed to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship for the common good of all veterans, and it is the intent of all these organizations that veterans residing in California receive the benefits and service to which they are entitled by law and moral obligation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa CVSO is committed to providing a vital and efficient system of services and advocacy for veterans, their dependents, and their survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa CVSO has been led by 7 different Veterans Service Officers in its 75-year history; and

**WHEREAS**, in Contra Costa, the CVSO plays a critical role in the veterans' advocacy system and are often the initial contact in the community for veterans' services, and they work closely with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) to assist California's veterans in obtaining federal and state benefits, with CVSOs services as the "boots on the ground; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa CVSO promotes the welfare and rights of veterans through legislative advocacy, providing training and education to their employees, and collaborating with a network of resources, information, and ideas; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contra Costa CVSO has experienced a high demand for services from the beginning and all who have served here are dedicated employees who treat veterans, and their families with respect and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, four Contra Costa County Veterans Service Officers have served as President of CACVSO, William Smaker, Elmer Rieger, Gary Villalba, and Nathan Johnson; and

**WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Contra Costa CVSO never stopped providing services to our veterans, moving all their services to a virtual office format through zoom to assist the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa CVSO, with a staff of 13, provides services to a veterans population of 47,863; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, 2,279 new veterans' claims were submitted and \$17,683,945 was awarded to the veterans, with an average claim of \$7,760 awarded; and

**WHEREAS**, current Contra Costa County Veteran Service Officer, Nathan Johnson, hosts the award-winning show “Veterans’ Voices” on CCTV. The show highlights and speaks on various topics that are relevant to the veteran community; and

**WHEREAS**, Contra Costa CVSO has always been a stand-alone department for the County with an excellent reputation as one of the very best County Veteran Service Offices in the United States.

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby Commend the Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office for its 75 years of service to veterans and their families in Contra Costa County through the advancement of professionalism within its ranks and the pursuit of advocacy across all levels of government, ensuring that veterans may receive the benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their military service to the country.

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**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
Chair, District IV Supervisor

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**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

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**CANDACE ANDERSEN**  
District II Supervisor

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**DIANE BURGIS**  
District III Supervisor

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**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: November 8, 2022

Monica Nino, County Administrator

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy