

The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California

C.16

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

Resolution No. 2019/186

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff was notified regarding the discovery of historical documents reporting a line of duty death of an "Office of the Sheriff" deputy in the year 1852; and

WHEREAS, a review of the historical documents, coupled with further research, supported the initial findings and provided further insight into the circumstances surrounding the death of Deputy William R.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; and

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; and

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; and

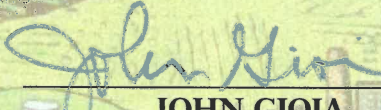
WHEREAS, facts of Deputy William R. Johnson's death are supported by archival newspaper articles, official court documents, mortuary documents, and original Grand Jury transcripts of eight witness statements (courtesy of the Contra Costa County Historical Society); and

WHEREAS, historical documents confirm that Deputy William R. Johnson was acting under the color of authority on the date of his death, as a sworn deputy sheriff of the Contra Costa County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

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 does hereby 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.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 11th day of June, 2019.



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 TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By Stephanie Melto, Deputy