

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
COUNTY OF FRESNO  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**RESOLUTION NO. 21-080**

**IN THE MATTER OF A PROCLAMATION HONORING COLONEL VANG FONG)**

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong was born on January 1, 1944 in Rhawv Zeb, Xieng Khouang, Laos, to Cheu Xang Vang and Nai Lor as one of 8 children. His parents were farmers, and his father was the Chief of the village; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong attended first grade in 1952, at the age of eight and left school at the age of twelve in 1960, to join the Central Intelligence Agency's Secret Army in Laos to fight against the North Vietnamese and the Pathet Lao communist troops; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong was married to Mylee Vang in 1964 and married Kao Lee in 1968. He has ten children, thirty-one grandchildren and six great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong was promoted to the rank of Colonel by the late General Vang Pao to provide consult and support to the Royal Lao Family in Luang Prabang, Laos in March 1973; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong's families and relatives were air-lifted from Long Cheng, Laos, to Nam Phong, Thailand, on May 14, 1975, due to the Laos government falling to Communist Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese troops. In 1980, his family resettled in Hamilton, Montana before moving to Huntington Beach, California to reunite with the rest of his family; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong was appointed President of the Hmong International New Year Celebration in Fresno, California, in February 1986. The annual Hmong International New Year festivities in Fresno have become one of most notable and significant events in the City's diverse panoply of cultural celebrations. The Hmong New Year celebration brings hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world to Fresno generating millions of dollars of revenue for the Fresno Community; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Vang Fong passed away in Fresno County on February 17, 2021 leaving behind a legacy of courage, leadership and service during the Secret War in Laos. In America, he left a future full of hope, equality, social justice, and opportunities for Hmong families in America.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby urge all citizens to join in honoring Colonel Vang Fong for his contribution to the United States Government and communities.

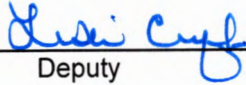
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**THE FOREGOING**, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021, to-wit:

AYES: Supervisors Brandau, Magsig, Mendes, Pacheco, Quintero  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAINED: None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Brandau, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno

ATTEST:  
BERNICE E. SEIDEL  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Fresno, State of California

By  \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy