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BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF RECOGNIZING AND)
CONGRATULATING DR. DAVID DAVENPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 18-376

WHEREAS, on Wednesday May 30, 2018 Fresno County residents commemorated the Centennial of the founding of Liberty Cemetery for Veterans and the Sesquicentennial of the first Memorial Day with an event at Liberty Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, the Friends of Liberty Cemetery, an ad hoc organization founded in 2015, was organized to assist the local Veterans' Services Office in verifying the burials that have taken place at Liberty Cemetery and to indirectly determine which, if any, burial plots are unused; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Davenport was the first to point out that approximately 110 veterans along with their spouses and loved ones were buried at what was to become Liberty Cemetery on Memorial Day in 1918. Since 2008, Dr. Davenport has been meticulously documenting the lives of Union Veterans who lived in Fresno, and in so doing determined that twelve to fifteen were buried in Mountain View Cemetery or Liberty Cemetery without headstones; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides headstones, but requires applications be made by next of kin and by the cemetery manager. Dr. Davenport has prepared biographies and "descendancies" of each veteran resting in an unmarked grave showing that the deceased has no living descendants. Over the course of two years, replacement markers for eroded stones and new markers for previously unmarked graves were set at Dr. Davenport's expense; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davenport intends, as funds become available, to purchase and set headstones for at least ten widows of veterans who rest beside their husbands at Liberty Cemetery or in the Grand Army of the Republic Plot in the St. James Tract of Mountain View Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Davenport worked closely with members of the James Savage Chapter 1852 of the Ancient and Honorable order of E Clampus Vitus in securing a monument commemorating the Centennial of Liberty Cemetery. Their collective effort resulted in securing a two ton black granite marker with a stack of cannon balls atop, which was unveiled at the May 30, 2018 ceremony.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors hereby recognize and congratulate Dr. David Davenport for his leadership and commitment to honoring deceased local veterans and their families.

THE FOREGOING, was passed and adopted by the following vote of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Fresno this 23rd day of October, 2018, to-wit:

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

Sal Quintero
Sal Quintero, Chairperson 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 Susan Bishop
Deputy

File ID. # 18-1263
Agenda Item #5
Resolution No. 18-376