Supporting the Induction of José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was born on December 12, 1922, in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria was a Latino veteran of World War II serving in the European theater and was honorably discharged in 1947; and

WHEREAS, During the 1950s, José Julio Sarria was a vocal critic of the criminalization of queer people and queer meeting places, and would promote a groundbreaking sense of gay pride and positive gay identity in performances at gay establishments such as the Black Cat Café in North Beach; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, José Julio Sarria became the first known openly gay candidate for elected office anywhere in the world by running for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and although he did not win his election, with more than 5,000 votes he placed 9th in a field of 32 candidates, thus demonstrating for the first time the existence of a “gay voting bloc”; and

WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria’s fight paved the way for many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) candidates who followed to seek and win elected office across San Francisco, elsewhere in the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, In 1962 José Julio Sarria co-founded the Tavern Guild, the country’s first gay business association; and

WHEREAS, In 1964, José Julio Sarria proclaimed himself the “Empress of San Francisco, widow of Emperor Joshua Norton and Protector of Mexico,” paving the way for the formation of the Imperial Court System of San Francisco in 1965; and
WHEREAS, Soon after its inception, the Imperial Court system spread across the West Coast and then across international borders, making it one of the oldest and largest LGBTQ organizations in the world with 68 courts across the United States, Canada and Mexico; and
WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Imperial Court of San Francisco has raised up to $100,000 annually for a variety of charities, including the Gay-Straight Alliance, San Francisco Suicide Prevention, and The Trevor Project; and
WHEREAS, José Julio Sarria continued working and speaking out for equality and respect for LGBTQ people and their culture throughout his 90 years of life; and
WHEREAS, The San Francisco Board of Supervisors declared May 22, 2012, José Julio Sarria Day in the City and County of San Francisco in honor of his tremendous contributions to San Francisco’s political and cultural life; and
WHEREAS, In 2013, the International Imperial Court System began a national campaign to induct José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame; and
WHEREAS, The California Hall of Fame inductees include San Franciscans such as former Mayor Ed Lee, Willie Mays, Julia Morgan, Harvey Milk, Levi Strauss, Ishi, Michael Tilson Thomas, and others; and
WHEREAS, Given José Julio Sarria’s significance to the State of California and the LGBTQ community, his induction to the California Hall of Fame is supported by: President pro Tempore of the California State Senate Toni Atkins; founder and president of the Harvey Milk Foundation, Stuart Milk; former Speaker of the California Assembly John Pérez; former San Francisco Supervisor and current BART Board President Bevan Dufty; California State Senator Scott Wiener; the City College of San Francisco Board of Trustees; and others; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby declares its support for the induction of José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame so that his memory may
be preserved and honored for all future generations of Californians, LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ;
and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon final adoption of this Resolution, the Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors is directed to transmit a copy to the Governor and First Lady of
California.
Resolution supporting the inducting of José Julio Sarria into the California Hall of Fame.

May 21, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 5/21/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

[Signature]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

5/31/19
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

[Signature]
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

5/31/15
Date