HONORING THE BENNETT VALLEY GRANGE
FOR BEING THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY ACTIVE GRANGE
IN THE UNITED STATES, HAVING BEEN FORMED IN 1873, AND
HONORING THE MANY PAST AND CURRENT GRANGERS
OF BENNETT VALLEY GRANGE NO. 16

WHEREAS, in 1867 the National Grange of the order of Patrons of Husbandry was founded as a grass-roots coalition to help farm families network, fight railroad monopolies and advocate for common interests like low-cost loans, water and other resources; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 1872 twenty-five founding members met at the home of George Whitaker to formally organize the Bennett Valley Grange and on December 4, 1987 dedicated their new hall. The lumber for the building was bought from Smith’s Mill in Occidental at a cost of $292.82 and took two days to arrive by oxcart; and

WHEREAS, the Bennett Valley Grange became a place where farmers would meet to compare crops and prices, share new technologies and find out what was going on in the community; and

WHEREAS, since its inception men and women were accepted as equal members and youngsters can join at age 14, and many past and current Grangers have contributed to the success of the Bennett Valley Grange; and

WHEREAS, while most of the valley’s growers now tend grapevines rather than dairy cows or hay fields, the sturdy white building remains a vital community hub.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma honors the Bennett Valley Grange for being the oldest continuously active Grange in the United States, having been formed in 1873, and honors the many past and current Grangers of Bennett Valley Grange No. 16.

Supervisors:

Brown: Rabbitt: Zane: McGuire: Carrillo:
Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.