



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

Resolution Honoring Sheriff Deputy Chris Nelson, CHP Officer Brian Hanrahan, District Attorney Investigator Wayne Flick, and Santa Maria Police Officer Erik Hesch

WHEREAS, on the morning of September 25, 2024, a violent attack shook the Santa Maria Superior Courthouse, when an explosive device detonated near the entrance, causing injuries to five individuals, and placing hundreds of lives at risk; and

WHEREAS, the individual responsible for this act had not only caused the explosion but was heavily armed with additional explosives, firearms, and ammunition, with the clear intent to inflict further harm; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Deputy Chris Nelson, while stationed inside the courthouse, immediately responded to the explosion with an unwavering sense of duty, pursued the armed suspect; and

WHEREAS, California Highway Patrol Officer Brian Hanrahan, though dressed in civilian attire, was present at the courthouse and, without hesitation, joined Deputy Nelson in pursuit of the suspect, drawing his service weapon and working in tandem to locate and apprehend the individual; and

WHEREAS, District Attorney Investigator Wayne Flick and Santa Maria Police Officer Erik Hesch responded with similar speed and determination, providing critical support during the apprehension, ensuring that the suspect was disarmed and secured; and

WHEREAS, these four officers, acting in unison, confronted the suspect as he attempted to retrieve further deadly weapons from his vehicle, exhibiting remarkable courage in preventing him from launching additional attacks on the courthouse, the public, and law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, despite the suspect's possession of additional weaponry, Sheriff Deputy Nelson, Officer Hanrahan, Investigator Flick, and Officer Hesch acted with exceptional professionalism, risking their own lives to secure the area, protect those in harm's way, and bring the suspect into custody; and

WHEREAS, their quick thinking, bravery, and collaboration directly thwarted the suspect's planned massacre, ensuring the safety of countless individuals within and around the courthouse, and demonstrating the highest standards of law enforcement in the protection of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the actions of all officers are a shining example of the dedication and selflessness that define our law enforcement community, and their heroism on this day will not be forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors does hereby recognize and honor Sheriff Deputy Chris Nelson, CHP Officer Brian Hanrahan, District Attorney Investigator Wayne Flick, and Santa Maria Police Officer Erik Hesch for their commitment to public safety during the attack on the Santa Maria Superior Courthouse on September 25, 2024.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 8th day of October, 2024, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



Joe Williams

Supervisor - 1st District

Mark Can

Supervisor - 2nd District

Scott Watson

Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Nelson

Supervisor - 4th District

John

Supervisor - 5th District

ATTEST: *Monica Reyes*

Clerk of the Board