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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
OFFICE OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION HONORING  
WILLIE GALVAN

**WHEREAS**, In the late 1960s, Willie Galvan, a U.S. Army veteran, relocated to California from Victoria, Texas where early in his adult life he helped Mexican Americans purchase homes in previously restricted areas, helped launch Hispanic owned businesses, and assisted individuals in accessing their GI Bill privileges, breaking down barriers and enabling access to resources that had long been denied; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1973, he began his lifelong journey of education by enrolling at UC Santa Barbara, earning his BA in Political Science along with a Certificate in Criminal Justice. Furthermore, he secured a Vocational Teaching Credential from UC Berkeley. While at UCSB, Willie met and married Helen Rivas. Together they have raised 3 boys, 3 girls, over 30 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Willie's commitment to our youth was highlighted after the 1979 Peppertree shootings when he helped create recreational opportunities for our Evans Park youth by installing handball courts and other programs, including establishing the PRIDE Gym (People's Responsible Involvement Develops Esteem) on Russell Street. One of Willie's boxers, Andrew Maynard won a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul; and

**WHEREAS**, Willie's passion for justice and fairness drove him to establish numerous chapters of the American GI Forum, whose mission it is to combat discrimination against veterans of Mexican American descent. Through Willie's advocacy, the American GI Forum has awarded over a half million dollars in scholarships to over 500 local students; and

**WHEREAS**, the AGIF Education Foundation, which Willie oversees, has significantly expanded, now operating five programs totaling over a million dollars, with six more set to begin in the coming year. This expansion has created job opportunities for 37 individuals and facilitated access to affordable Internet services. Through the AGIF Family Assistance Program, approximately 700 veterans and their families have received emergency funds for clothing, food, transportation, medical needs, and lodging;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors wishes to commend Willie Galvan for dedicating his life to serving his country and advocating relentlessly for the youth and veterans of his community.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: Monica Reyes  
Clerk of the Board

Rob Williams  
Supervisor - 1st District

Frank Cooper  
Supervisor - 2nd District

Tom Wentworth  
Supervisor - 3rd District

Bob Weber  
Supervisor - 4th District

Shirley Swanson  
Supervisor - 5th District