



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

Resolution Honoring the People of Belfonds, Normandy

WHEREAS, France was the first nation to declare itself a friend of the United States of America, and its generous assistance was instrumental in securing our independence as a new nation; and

WHEREAS, for over 240 years the people of France and the people of the United States have worked together to secure the blessings of liberty and prosperity, and, when necessary, have sacrificed together to defeat tyranny; and

WHEREAS, in 1943 France, the United States and their allied nations were engulfed in a great World War to defeat Nazism and return peace and liberty to our nations, and on July 4, 1943, an American B-17F named NYMOKYMI, from the 384th Bombardment Group, 8th Air Force, left its base in Grafton-Underwood, England, to bomb targets in LeMans, France, but afterwards, weakened by damage from anti-aircraft cannons, the plane was shot down by a Messerschmitt 109 near the town of Belfonds, Normandy; and

WHEREAS, of the bomber's 10 crew members, two were killed and two were captured, but the remaining six airmen were hidden by the local Resistance, and exfiltrated safely back to England, and as a result of their courageous efforts to save the airmen, 40 local citizens were arrested by the German Gestapo, and of those, 17 were exiled to concentration camps in reprisal, and seven died in captivity; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Commune of Belfonds each year organize a solemn ceremony to honor the American airmen who sacrificed to save their country, and to honor their countrymen who sacrificed to save the airmen, and this year marks the 80th anniversary of the crash and the events that followed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors commends and thanks the people of the Commune of Belfonds, Department of Orne, in Basse Normandie, for keeping alive the memory of the American airmen and the memory of their courageous neighbors, friends and family who selflessly and at great cost came to the aid of our fellow Americans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, on this 6th Day of June 2023 by the unanimous vote of all members present.



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Supervisor - 1st District

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Supervisor - 2nd District

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Supervisor - 3rd District

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Supervisor - 4th District

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Supervisor - 5th District

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Clerk of the Board

ATTEST: