

County of Santa Barbara

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF DOCTOR MARY ANN EVANS

WHEREAS, Dr. Mary Ann Evans has worked for over 35 years as a clinical psychologist, with an expertise in neuropsychology to assess a variety of brain conditions, offering the unique modality of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Evans co-founded HEARTS Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Santa Barbara in 1985, seeing the wonderful benefits of equine therapy to individuals with physical and mental challenges. Upon moving to the Santa Ynez Valley in 1990, she then founded the SYV Therapeutic Riding Program at her ranch, where she offered her services at no cost for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Therapeutic Riding Program expanded and relocated to the Santa Ynez Valley Equestrian Center in 2000, where it has provided equine-assisted activities and transformed the lives of special needs children and adults, including veterans, with physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and other life challenges - regardless of their ability to pay – and Dr. Evans has remained an active Board Member Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Evans is also a founding member of Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People (PHP) and has remained an active board member and volunteer since its founding in 1992, continuing, through her vision and leadership to help PHP grow from a grassroots safety-net organization into an integrated and comprehensive model of care that addresses emergency needs, supports families, improves health outcomes, and breaks cycles of poverty through dignity and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, as the architect of PHP's focus on increasing access to and navigation of healthcare, she recognized early that health and social well-being are deeply interconnected; and she founded PHP's Mental Health & Wellness Program, which has provided vital mental health support to children, youth, adults, and families while also training and mentoring emerging clinicians;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara does hereby honor Dr. Mary Ann Evans.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, this 13th day of January 2026, by a unanimous vote of all members present.



ATTEST: Clerk of the Board



Supervisor - 1st District

Supervisor - 2nd District

Supervisor - 3rd District

Supervisor - 4th District

Supervisor - 5th District