

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
APRIL AS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, AND
RECOGNIZING ORCUTT ACADEMY STUDENTS
FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN “POETRY OUT LOUD”**

WHEREAS, since 1996, the Academy of American Poets has designated April as National Poetry Month to highlight the extraordinary achievements and ongoing legacy of American Poets and increase the visibility, presence, and accessibility of poetry in our communities and culture; and

WHEREAS, in celebration, presenters including the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Public Library system create and facilitate free public poetry events countywide throughout the month; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County hosts an annual regional Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition through a partnership with the California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts and National Poetry Foundation to help local high school students master public speaking, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage; and

WHEREAS, over 2,000 students from 6 high schools participated in Santa Barbara County’s 2018 Poetry Out Loud program, with Cabrillo, Carpinteria, Orcutt Academy, Pioneer Valley, Ernest Righetti and Santa Maria high schools holding separate competitions at the school level; and

WHEREAS, the high school champions competed in Santa Maria at the Regional Competition on February 15, 2018, with Orcutt Academy High School students Josie Allen and Isabella Melsheimer finishing in the top two places to make 2018 the second consecutive year that Orcutt Academy students have won the competition, highlighting Orcutt Academy’s continued commitment to literary education; and

WHEREAS, Santa Barbara County was represented at the Poetry Out Loud State Competition in Sacramento on March 18, 2018 by Josie Allen, from Orcutt Academy High School, who beautifully recited the poems *American Smooth* by Rita Dove, *It was Not Death, for I stood up* by Emily Dickenson and *The Gift* by Li-Young Lee poetry.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the month of April be proclaimed as National Poetry Month in Santa Barbara County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, AND HEREBY ORDERED, that this Board of Supervisors offers congratulations to both Orcutt Academy High School student finalists for their exceptional finishes and representation at the Poetry Out Loud competitions in the year 2018.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 10th day of April 2018, by unanimous vote of all members present.