COUNTY OF SANTABARBARA <u>RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JULY 4, 2025 AS</u> CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JULY 4, 2025 AS FILIPINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

WHEREAS, Filipino-American Friendship Day, July 4, is a day designated in the Philippines to commemorate the official recognition of the independence of the Philippines by the United States of America on July 4, 1946, and celebrates the close ties and shared history between the two nations, including the liberation of the Philippines by joint Filipino and American forces during World War II; and

WHEREAS, initially, the Philippines' Independence Day holiday (Araw ng Kalayaan) was observed on July 4, marking the date independence was granted by the U.S. However, in 1962, it was officially moved to June 12, the date the Philippines declared independence from Spain in 1898. Filipino-American Friendship Day was subsequently created, observed on July 4, coinciding with the United States' Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara Filipino-American community, a vibrant and significant part of our county numbering more than 7,000 in population, will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Filipino American Friendship Day; and

WHEREAS, Filipinos and Americans alike will take time and pride in jointly celebrating Filipino-American Friendship Day alongside the United States' Independence Day on July 4, 2025, and our local Filipino-American community welcomes and encourages all residents of Santa Barbara County to experience the beauty, cultural richness, and traditional heritage of the Philippines during these festivities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors honors the Filipino-American Community upon the celebration of Filipino-American Friendship Day and further commends their contributions to the rich cultural heritage of Santa Barbara County.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 15th day of July, 2025 by a unanimous vote of all members present.

