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RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING 70 PLUS
YEARS OF THE BLACK MALLARD FEED,
HOSTED BY AMERICAN LEGION POST
371 OF GUADALUPE & THE SONS OF GUADALUPE

WHEREAS, in the early 1900's the Black Mallard also known as Mud Hens or Coots were extremely prevalent in the ponds and waterways around Guadalupe and were considered a nuisance by the ranchers in the area because they would walk through the grassland with their webbed feet, flattening the grass preventing the cattle from eating it, and;

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WHEREAS, the ranchers would shoot the Black Mallards in large numbers in order to preserve the grasslands for the cattle. The birds however were edible and were routinely eaten by the ranchers and other families in the area who had hunted them, although only the breast meat and gizzards were any good; the rest tasting like mud, and;

WHEREAS, one day in 1930 Guadalupe resident and World War I veteran Charlie Campodonico, charter member of American Legion Post 371 and several other post members decided to host a community dinner. They asked the local ranchers & hunters to donate the birds they had recently killed to be the main course for the dinner.

WHEREAS, several hundred birds were collected, cleaned and a hearty stew was made. After cooking for several hours and the broth thickened with flour this delicious dish was poured over bowls of polenta and served with salad & bread. Bringing the entire community together, this first dinner was a huge success and was repeated over the next few years, quickly becoming an annual tradition in the Guadalupe community, and;

WHEREAS, about 25 years ago the Black Mallards were listed as a Threatened Species and the recipe had to be modified so that they now use chicken in place of the Mud Hens. The dinner which became known as the "Black Mallard Feed" has continued almost uninterrupted over the years with responsibility for the preparation of the stew being passed down from the older members to the younger members of the post, and most recently to the group known as the Sons of Guadalupe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED that this Board of Supervisors recognizes AMERICAN LEGION POST 371 OF GUADALUPE AND THE SONS OF GUADALUPE for their past and continuing efforts to build strong community ties among the residents of Guadalupe by hosting 70 PLUS YEARS OF THE "BLACK MALLARD FEED". PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California this 12th day of February, 2008 by unanimous vote of all members present.