



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF FATHER JON-STEPHEN HEDGES

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges was a community organizer, spiritual leader, and social justice advocate; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was known for his ministry to the houseless of Isla Vista, members of his church, victims of tragedy, and first responders; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon came to Isla Vista in 1968 to attend UC Santa Barbara and he met and married his devoted wife, Melissa, and they had children Benjamin and Sarah; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was known for his compassion, tenacity, and dedication to serving others. He became a longtime assistant priest at St. Athanasius Orthodox Church, an elected and founding member of the Isla Vista Community Services District, and served as a volunteer Chaplain for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was called up to comfort and guide countless County residents during times of great local disaster and tragedies, from the aftermath of the Goleta Postal shooting, the mass shooting in Isla Vista, the 1/9 Debris Flow, and the Conception dive boat fire; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon also comforted and guided countless Americans in other states struck by disaster including in the wakes of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon did not just respond to unanticipated disasters, he was also called upon to serve the most vulnerable among us and was an advocate for the poor, the destitute and the houseless; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon influenced countless others to do good works and to walk the path of virtue and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon selflessly dedicated his life to three noble endeavors: helping those impacted by tough circumstances, misfortune, bad choices, or calamity; supporting, nurturing, and fortifying those who are called to respond to their needs; and serving God by doing those first two; and

WHEREAS, Fr. Jon was a shepherd who tended his many flocks with devotion, energy, compassion, and kindness and he will be missed.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors recognize the extraordinary life of Fr. Jon-Stephen Hedges after his untimely passing in February 2021. **Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, on this 6th day of April, 2021, by unanimous vote of all members present.**



ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

[Signature]
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