



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

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Date: March 1, 2022

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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4/5 Vote Required

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### **Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Recognizing Gaye LeBaron For Her Remarkable Career And For Her Considerable Contributions To Our Community.**

**Whereas**, Gaye LeBaron chronicled the people, culture and history of Sonoma County for 65 years as a columnist for The Press Democrat; and

**Whereas**, This Humboldt County native became one of Sonoma County's most beloved residents; and in 1999 was named as one of the community's most influential figures of the entire 20th Century; and

**Whereas**, After graduating from Sonoma Valley High School, she attended Santa Rosa Junior College and the University of California, Berkeley, where she majored in English and minored in history, with the expectation of becoming a teacher; and

**Whereas**, She started as an intern at The Press Democrat in 1955, became one of the paper's few female staffers in 1957 and her first column was published on Nov. 23, 1959. She eventually wrote some 8,500 columns, chronicling daily life, personalities and politics and putting a special emphasis on Sonoma County history. She produced a column six days a week for most of 40 years, a workload far beyond that of columnists at most daily newspapers; and

**Whereas**, LeBaron's career spanned the heyday of local newspapers, when the circulation of The Press Democrat approached 100,000 and the daily news knitted the community together in ways that have been frayed by the myriad forms in which information is digitally distributed today. Her daily column was considered a must-read for Sonoma County residents who wanted to stay well-informed about their community; and

**Whereas**, Her body of work – including interview notes and research material – comprises a special collection at the Library of Sonoma State University in recognition of its historical and cultural value; and

**Whereas**, She announced her retirement with her last column on Jan. 30, with typical LeBaron pith: "I choose no fuss, no muss... It's been a remarkable ride. Thanks to all."

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved**, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors hereby honors and thanks Gaye LeBaron for her considerable contributions to our community; and congratulates her on a remarkable career.

**Supervisors:**

Gorin:           Rabbitt:           Coursey:           Hopkins:           Gore:

Ayes:           Noes:           Absent:           Abstain:

**So Ordered.**