



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: May 21, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, honoring the life of Val Robichaud owner and publisher of the Sonoma Sun and his many contributions in the press and to the community of Sonoma Valley.

Whereas, Val Robichaud passed away suddenly on February 16, 2024, leaving his friends, family, colleagues and our entire community at a loss for words; and

Whereas, his passing is particularly felt in the lives of his family, most notably his daughter Annie, his sister Nicole, their brother Keith, their mother Joan, his nieces, and nephews; and

Whereas, Val Robichaud was born on July 25, 1957, in Marin and spent his early days with his parents and siblings in Kentfield, CA, until his family moved to Sacramento, where he graduated high school; and

Whereas, Val's passion for creative writing and journalism began at a young age, in elementary school he had created his first newspaper, "The Vault", where he would interview family members, write innovative articles, and draw creative cartoons; and

Whereas, he then studied Journalism at San Diego State University before landing his dream job at San Francisco's KQED; and

Whereas, being a journalist was not the only dream Val had and after roughly a decade Val decided to chase his next dream, to become a professional chef, leading him to enroll in the culinary program at San Francisco State; and

Whereas, not only did he learn how to cook during the program, but it is also where he met his wife-to-be, Cathy Anderson, and in the early nineties, Val and his wife moved to Sonoma and opened a restaurant where Val was a chef until he was drawn back to journalism as a writer for the Sun in 2009, eventually becoming sole owner, publisher, and editor of the newspaper; and

Whereas, family was everything to Val, his daughter Annie was his very best friend in the world, he was so happy to see her spreading her wings as she studied abroad in Italy after the two of them lovingly cared for Annie's mom, Val's wife Cathy who passed away in August of 2023; and

Whereas, some of Annie's favorite memories with her father included, watching movies, family trips to the Bluejay cabin in Downieville, and swimming in the river together; and

Whereas, Val was known for his huge heart, his ready laugh, and his many contributions to, and unflinching support for the people of the Sonoma Valley; and

Whereas, Val was relentlessly determined to keep alive the Sonoma Valley Sun, the Community's Independent Voice, and was appreciated by colleagues for his excellence in writing and editing, and by the large readership of the Sun for its fearless reporting; and

Whereas, Vallen Peter Robichaud worked tirelessly to amplify the voices and stories of his community while holding family, truth and integrity above all else.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma does hereby recognize and honor the outstanding contributions and life of Val Robichaud and express their hope that his memory will be an inspiration to his family, the many who loved him, and his successors who are continuing his work at the Sonoma Valley Sun.

Supervisors:

Gorin:	Coursey:	Gore:	Hopkins:	Rabbitt:
Ayes:	Noes:	Absent:	Abstain:	

So Ordered.