



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

Date: July 8, 2025

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

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

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California,  
Honoring and Congratulating The Young Family  
Sonoma County Farm Bureau 2025 Farm Family of the Year**

**Whereas,** Sonoma County Farm Bureau was established in 1917 with the mission of uniting voices to protect agriculture in Sonoma County for future generations; and

**Whereas,** the annual Sonoma County Farm Bureau Love of the Land is a mid-summer celebration honoring agricultural award winners who are leading the way to preserve Sonoma County's rich farming heritage; and

**Whereas,** the Young Family's longevity on the land, perseverance, stewardship, and agricultural leadership are valued and recognized by Sonoma County Farm Bureau; and

**Whereas,** the Young family immigrated from Alsace-Lorraine, France, to New York in 1830. In 1851, brothers Michael, George, and Peter traveled to California, eventually settling in Alexander Valley in 1858, where they raised cattle and grew wheat. Peter later purchased the McPherson Ranch and planted the first prunes. After Peter's death in 1885, the ranch was divided among his three sons; and

**Whereas,** in 1937, during the Great Depression, Robert Young, Peter's grandson, saved the family farm from foreclosure with help from a great-uncle. In 1963, Robert transitioned 14 acres from prunes to grapes, planting the first Cabernet in Alexander Valley. Robert Young was also one of the first to plant French Dijon Chardonnay clones in Alexander Valley; and

**Whereas**, today, Robert's four children, Fred, Jim, JoAnn, and Susan care for 317 acres of vines that include 12 different varietals. After many years working with many different clones, Jim created a hybrid clone to combat leaf roll virus, Robert Young Clone 17, which is used globally to farm chardonnay vines; and

**Whereas**, in 1997, Robert's children founded Robert Young Estate Winery, which is now run by the fifth and sixth generations, with three great-grandchildren (generation 7) involved.; and

**Whereas**, the Youngs strive to honor their patriarch's commitment to preserve the land and remain stewards of the family estate, working directly with the land they attribute success to "footprints in the vineyard". Today, the Young family is one of the oldest farming families in Alexander Valley and among the oldest continuously operated family farms in California; and

**Whereas**, the Youngs have been awarded numerous recognitions over the year and are committed to continued support of scientific research and collaboration, a vital role in ensuring the long-term preservation of Sonoma County's family farms.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors does hereby honor and congratulate the Young Family, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau 2025 Farm Family of the Year.

**Supervisors:**

Hermosillo:

Rabbitt:

Coursey:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**