

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, John Porter is a 5-decade hospitality professional starting his career in the Catskill Mountain Resorts in 1965 having grown up in Northeastern New York State. He attended State University of New York at Delhi in the Hotel, Restaurant & Institutional Management program graduating in 1967 with an AAS degree in that field. Having a desire to finish his education in the fall of 1967 Porter was accepted to University of Nevada at Las Vegas in the Business School; and

WHEREAS, while in Las Vegas he interned at the Sahara Hotel working in all departments and in 1969 graduated from UNLV with a Bachelor of Science in Business and minor in hotel management. Upon graduation he accepted a position with Trust House Forte in San Diego as General Manager of their full-service hotel Travelodge on Harbor Island; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 29 Porter moved to Humboldt County to become the General Manager of the Eureka Inn. Over the course of 18 years Porter accomplished the following:

- Took total revenues from \$995,000 to \$5,000,000
- Helped establish the Eureka, Humboldt County Visitors Bureau
- Was Founding President of the Bureau
- Past President of Redwood Empire Association
- Past Board member of Eureka & Garberville Chamber of Commerce
- Past Board member of Ingomar Club
- Founding and current member of Humboldt Lodging Alliance
- Rotary Club active and current Honorary member

WHEREAS, in 1995 John, along with his partner John R. Macdonald purchased the Benbow Inn and he moved his family to Benbow as Managing Partner. Over the course of almost 30 years John along with his wife Teresa operated the Inn achieving the following accomplishments:

- Acquiring in 2004 the adjacent property Benbow RV Park and golf course
- Opening the Inn year around
- Increasing Inn Revenues from \$1,100,000 to \$4,900,000
- In 2012 franchising the RV Park to a KOA (Kampgrounds of America)
- In 2015 completing major renovations at the KOA to include new playground & Sport Court, adding 30 park models, new splash park and adding Friendship Hall
- In 2016 adding the addition that the Benbow Family nor any subsequent owner were able to do to make the Inn ADA compliant and other major improvements

WHEREAS, Teresa Porter has over 40 years of Hotel and Restaurant Operations experience including 30 years involved in the day-to-day operations of the Benbow Historic Inn; and

WHEREAS, John and Teresa were voted Citizens of the Year Garberville Chamber of Commerce 2010; and

WHEREAS, in Teresa's early years in marketing and publishing she was awarded two Golden Bell Awards and an Adrian Award for Excellence in Marketing by the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International; and

WHEREAS, in her decades as a Food and Beverage professional Mrs. Porter was recognized with fifteen Awards of Excellence and one Best of Awards of Excellence by *Wine Spectator* and put the Benbow Historic Inn on the list for Best Restaurants for wine lovers in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, concurrently with her hotel and restaurant efforts, Teresa has also been compiling in-depth research regarding the Benbow family, Benbow Inn History and ephemera and histories of Humboldt County. She has been nominated twice for Hotel Historian of the Year by the Historic Hotel of America. In 2018 she was named Hotel Historian of the Year by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Historic Hotels of America; and

WHEREAS, Teresa is on the committee to plan and execute STRL 100th Anniversary Gala; and

WHEREAS, she has previously served on the Board of Counselors of the Save The Redwoods League for 6 years; served on the Garberville, Redway Chamber of Commerce (now called the Southern Humboldt Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center); served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for KEET TV (PBS); the Board of the Eureka YWCA; and served on the Board of the Humboldt County Historical Society (HCHS), then moved on to be the Executive Director of the HCHS; and


WHEREAS, Teresa and John actively raised over 1.5 million dollars for Humboldt County non-profits, schools, and individuals in need of medical care; and

WHEREAS, along with the Benbow Historic Inn and The Benbow RV Resort donated over 600,000 dollars in gift certificates and sponsorship for youth programs, Hospice, schools, hospitals, and numerous non-profits in Northern California and Southern Oregon; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes, honors, and expresses gratitude for John and Teresa Porter's years of dedication to community and wishes them both a long and happy retirement.

Dated: May 1, 2024




Supervisor Rex Bohn, Chair