PROCLAMATION

in Recognition of

CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS WEEK

November 1 - 7, 2026

WHEREAS, the California Retired Teachers Association was formed by Laura E. Settle in 1929 at the start of the Great Depression with the goal of relieving the economic hardships suffered by retired teachers and for 97 years, has been a leading advocate for providing teachers with sufficient retirement income; and

WHEREAS, the California Retired Teachers Association also provides continuing support to active and future teachers—providing grants, scholarships and donations totaling more than $750,000 a year; and

WHEREAS, California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) achieved our biggest legislative victory when the Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law, repealing the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) that had unfairly reduced the earned benefits of retired educators and other public servants for decades; and

WHEREAS, Retiree spending from pensions generated $89.8 billion in economic benefits to California; and

WHEREAS, the annual dollar value of 1,057,380 volunteer hours donated by retired teachers throughout the state reached $42,443,233 during the most recent reporting period; and

WHEREAS, last year our North Coast division donated $12,650 in local grants and scholarships including $250 each to three of our local museums and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library; additionally, members volunteered their time in schools, museums, hospitals, the Little Red Schoolhouse, the food bank and other community organizations. CalRTA statewide awarded $4,000 to a CalPoly Humboldt student teacher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that the City Council of the City of Arcata hereby recognizes **November 1–7, 2026** as **CALIFORNIA RETIRED TEACHERS WEEK** in Arcata and encourages residents to honor all teachers and acknowledge the vital role that retired teachers fulfill in every community in California.

Dated: November 4, 2026

Kimberley White
Mayor