

## **MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS REPORT**

### **AUGUST 27, 2024**

#### **1.0 PROCLAMATIONS**

- Matt Ryan  
Man of the Year  
July 27, 2024
- Nita Gizdich  
Lifetime Achievement  
July 27, 2024
- Sally-Christine Rodgers  
Woman of the Year  
July 27, 2024
- Staff of Life Market  
Business of the Year  
July 27, 2024
- Veterans Day  
Event of the Year  
July 27, 2024
- Watsonville Community Band  
Organization of the Year  
July 27, 2024
- Daniel del Valle Hernandez  
Ballet del Puerto de Veracruz  
August 18, 2024
- Pajaro Valley Pride  
August 18, 2024
- Salvador Peña Senior  
Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana  
August 18, 2024



# *P r o c l a m a t i o n*

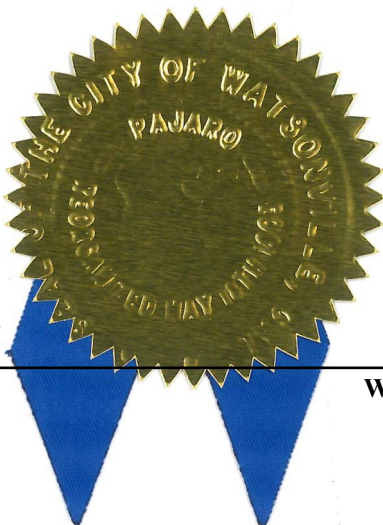
## **Matt Ryan Man of the Year July 27, 2024**

- WHEREAS,** Matt Ryan is an example of giving back to the community and a true champion for countless organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt was a volunteer/reserve firefighter from 1982 – 1990 and a Watsonville firefighter from 1990 – 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** events Matt has participated in include Caravan for Kids, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, Santa Cruz County Junior Livestock Buyer Dinner, and Central Coast Critical Incident Team; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt has served as Sports Booster Chairman for St. Francis High School-Salesian College Preparatory, Booster President for Salesian Elementary and Junior High, Co-Chair for the US Marine Corps Toys for Tots, and as part of the Violence Reduction Committee and the Knights of Columbus #11804; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt frequently volunteers to cook for many events in Pajaro Valley, such as those hosted by Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, The Heritage Foundation, and Santa Cruz County Fair Foundation; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt is known as a person who can be relied upon, always behind the scenes at a barbecue with a smile on his face; and
- WHEREAS,** Matt has donated his time to serving great barbecue and meals for many weddings, memorial services, and has helped St. Francis High School in many fundraisers; and
- WHEREAS,** as a retired firefighter, Matt is always willing to lend a helping hand driving the antique fire truck; and
- WHEREAS,** the community is blessed to have Matt be a part of it, having raised his children here and continuing to be involved as much as possible.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate Matt Ryan on receiving the “Man of the Year” Award from the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two thousand and twenty-four.

  
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor



WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA



# *P r o c l a m a t i o n*

## *Nita Gizdich*

### *Lifetime Achievement*

*July 27, 2024*

- WHEREAS,** Nita Gizdich has a long history in the Pajaro Valley at the Gizdich Ranch which was originally purchased by her father-in-law Vincent John Gizdich, a Croatian immigrant, in 1934 for \$1,400, after which the family moved their three sons from Oakland to the beautiful Pajaro Valley; and
- WHEREAS,** back in 1934, the ranch consisted of five acres of apples and five acres of land for pigs and chickens, and the family home had no electricity or indoor bathrooms but did have a much-needed packing shed; and
- WHEREAS,** of the three brothers, Nita's husband, Vince Jr., was the only one interested in farming for a living; and
- WHEREAS,** Vince and Nita met at a Croatian social dance club, became dance partners, and quickly developed what would become a lifetime love; and
- WHEREAS,** at the young age of 16, Vince was eager to buy Nita an engagement ring, but Nita was steadfast on first graduating high school, which she did on a Friday and then married Vince the following Sunday; and
- WHEREAS,** when Vincent Sr. retired, Nita and Vince moved to the ranch to run the family business, with their two sons having been born just before that; and
- WHEREAS,** Vince soon suggested that Nita start selling her wonderful pies, which proved to be a successful decision and resulted in a lifetime of recognition for their pies; and
- WHEREAS,** with a staunch dedication to the people and organizations in the Pajaro Valley, Nita has volunteered countless hours and served on the board of directors for many of these organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** now in semi-retirement, Nita can be found welcoming visitors to Gizdich Ranch, which has been a Pajaro Valley pioneer for agri-tourism and showing visitors how their food is grown, on an almost daily basis; and
- WHEREAS,** Gizdich Ranch has hosted countless field trips from local schools and brought in tourists from all over the world, making it a destination for generations; and
- WHEREAS,** Nita's son Vince, daughter-in-law Cynthia, and their son are at the Ranch every day, carrying on the family business.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate Nita Gizdich on receiving the "Lifetime Achievement" Award from the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two thousand and twenty-four.

  
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor



WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA



# *P r o c l a m a t i o n*

## *Sally-Christine Rodgers*

### *Woman of the Year*

#### *July 27, 2024*

**WHEREAS,** Sally-Christine Rodgers has worked in marine conservation for decades and along with her husband Randy Repass, founder of West Marine, has supported many local and environmental community efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** tired of the litter and illegal dumping in our beautiful area, Sally-Christine brought together a coalition of agencies called the Trash Talkers; and

**WHEREAS,** working collaboratively, they created the Pitch In Initiative on litter and illegal dumping; and

**WHEREAS,** this Initiative includes promoting a clean environment through Pitch In signs at parks, on trails, beaches and farmland, cameras to deter and seek prosecution on illegal dumping, working with schools and organizations to educate the community about eliminating litter, and participating in monthly cleanups; and

**WHEREAS,** Sally-Christine, along with the Trash Talkers and other non-profits, drove forward the first annual All-Santa Cruz County Cleanup Day on May 11<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS,** the goal of this event is to make Santa Cruz the cleanest county in the State.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate Sally-Christine Rodgers on receiving the “Woman of the Year” Award from the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two thousand and twenty-four.

  
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor



# *P r o c l a m a t i o n*

## *Staff of Life Market Business of the Year July 27, 2024*

- WHEREAS,** Staff of Life Market has given multifaceted contributions to the community and demonstrated its unwavering commitment to promoting health and well-being; and
- WHEREAS,** since its inception, Staff of Life has not only brought a new store, but also a vision of fostering healthier lifestyles and better access to quality food options for South County residents; and
- WHEREAS,** Staff of Life has made significant strides in improving the local food landscape, with its focus on offering fresher and higher quality food products, and has become a beacon of wellness in the community; and
- WHEREAS,** the company's dedication to supporting community initiatives, including conducting health tours to educate residents about nutrition, organizing free family fun events and school tours, sets it apart; and
- WHEREAS,** Staff of Life is committed to philanthropy through donations to a variety of local charities such as Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County, Loaves and Fishes, the Ag History Project, and various Chamber of Commerce events; and
- WHEREAS,** the beautiful new store serves as a testament to the company's dedication to promoting healthy eating, with its inviting ambiance and well curated selection of products that creates an environment encouraging customers to make wholesome choices for themselves and their families; and
- WHEREAS,** Staff of Life has not only brought a new business to Watsonville but has become an integral part of the community through its efforts to promote health, support the community and give back.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate Staff of Life Market on receiving the "Business of the Year" Award from the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two thousand and twenty-four.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor







# *Proclamation*

## **2023 Veterans Day Parade and Program Event of the Year July 27, 2024**

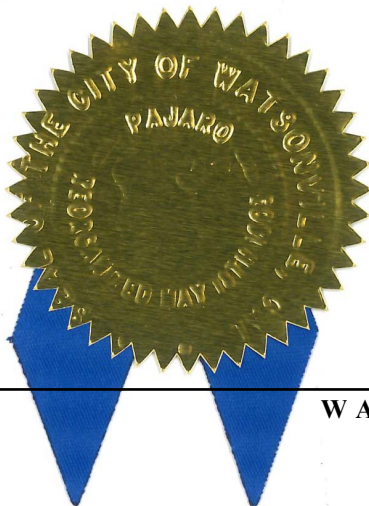
- WHEREAS,** the Veterans Day Parade and Program is an annual special event that recognizes and honors all local community residents who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces; and
- WHEREAS,** the Parade and Program promote unity and pride to the local community and an opportunity to honor all of the men, women, and their families who have served our nation; and
- WHEREAS,** the Parade started at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church with the Chesty Puller Battalion, U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps leading and followed by around 60 veterans marching along Main Street and other riding Watsonville fire engines; and
- WHEREAS,** members of the Watsonville Community Band played for an audience of approximately 400 prior to the Program's 11 a.m. start, signaled by the ringing of the Bell; and
- WHEREAS,** Diana McGuffey sang the Star Spangled Banner and former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta served as a guest speaker and highlighted the importance of honoring all veterans past, present, and future; and
- WHEREAS,** the Watsonville Community Band later accompanied Diana McGuffey in a sing-along of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land"; and
- WHEREAS,** veteran's awards were presented to U.S. Army Sergeant Richard Squier, Freedom VFW Post 1716 and U.S. Army Specialist David Trevino, Watsonville American Legion Post 121; and
- WHEREAS,** the Program ended with Taps followed by all veterans, their families and friends being treated to lunch at Applebee's, which was coordinated by the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate the 2023 Veterans Day Parade and Program on receiving the "Event of the Year" Award from the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two thousand and twenty-four.



**Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor**



**WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA**



# *P r o c l a m a t i o n*

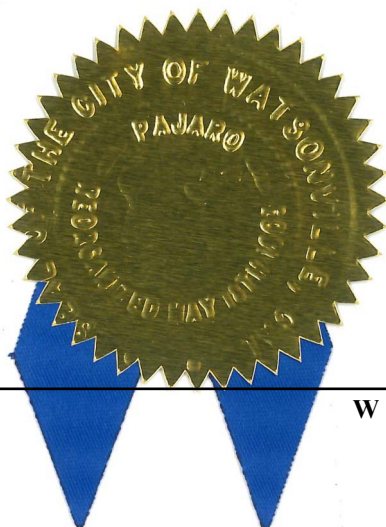
## ***Watsonville Community Band Organization of the Year July 27, 2024***

- WHEREAS,** from its very first rehearsal in the Watsonville High School band room on February 23, 1947, the Watsonville Community Band was organized for the purpose of providing its members the opportunity to play music for enjoyment, community education, and service, and to continue to promote music as an inherited part of the community culture; and
- WHEREAS,** since its first performance at the Watsonville Independence Day Parade on July 4, 1947 to their 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Concert Series in April 2024, the band was designed to should “Watsonville!” wherever it goes; and
- WHEREAS,** Watsonville Community Band has traveled through California and to Seattle, Chicago, Montreal, Calgary, Honolulu, 10 countries on two European tours, New Zealand, Australia, Washington D.C., and innumerable small towns along the way; and
- WHEREAS,** Watsonville Community Band has been on local, regional, national, and global television, including a one-hour concert in prime-time T.V. in Mexico City; and
- WHEREAS,** a welcoming an inclusive organization, Watsonville Community Band’s greatest strength is its sense of family, with spouses, partners, and significant others being considered as much members of the band as the performers; and
- WHEREAS,** Watsonville Community Band is open to all those with adequate musical skills, as there are no auditions, dues, or other financial requirements, and welcomes high school and advanced student musicians; and
- WHEREAS,** the Watsonville Youth Band was founded in 2016, and is open to all comers wishing to learn to play a band instrument or improve their skills; and
- WHEREAS,** staffed by Band volunteers, the Youth Band joins the adult band on the Spring and Winter Concerts at the Henry J. Mello Center and performs “solo” as well; and
- WHEREAS,** band members, including the Conductor, President, Business Manager, and Board members do not receive compensation, and since 2005, Watsonville Community Band has been a 501-c (3) Non-Profit Corporation; and
- WHEREAS,** although the names, faces, uniforms, and music have changed over the years, from Watsonville Sciots Band to Watsonville Band to Watsonville Community Band, and though its members are drawn from five different counties, Watsonville and the Pájaro Valley remain in its heart.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby congratulate Watsonville Community Band on receiving the “Organization of the Year” Award from the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, Two thousand and twenty-four.

  
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor





# *P r o c l a m a t i o n*

## *Daniel del Valle Hernandez Ballet del Puerto de Veracruz August 18, 2024*

- WHEREAS,** the City of Watsonville acknowledges that a vast number of our local City community members come from many regions and states of Mexico, and we honor the contributions that the diverse Mexican community has made in our City in areas such as commerce, sports, religion, agriculture, arts and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** Watsonville understands the importance of arts and culture and includes them in our actions to reach the City's priorities of community engagement and wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS,** we congratulate the Ballet Folklórico del Puerto de Veracruz and Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana for the 40 years disseminating the traditional music and dance of Veracruz and appreciate their presence in Watsonville to teach and perform in our community; and
- WHEREAS,** we are aware of the social and emotional benefits of learning about one's culture and engaging in physical activity, via dance and music, and we thank the Ballet Folklórico del Puerto de Veracruz and Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana for entering PVUSD schools to showcase and teach the traditional dances and music of Veracruz; and
- WHEREAS,** we appreciate that the evening dance classes that were taught in various venues in Watsonville allowed for local youth to learn dance techniques and performance skills that will prove to be useful in their daily lives; and
- WHEREAS,** we are aware that the participation, of the Ballet Folklórico del Puerto de Veracruz and Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana, in the First International "Reinforcing Cultural Identity" Dance & Music Conference permitted our community to come together to remember to keep one's traditions alive as they are important to one's growth and development as a whole person.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby recognize Daniel del Valle Hernandez and Ballet del Puerto de Veracruz for visiting our City and sharing their traditional dances with our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, Two thousand and twenty-four.

**Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor**







# *P* *roclamation* ***Pajaro Valley Pride*** ***August 18, 2024***

- WHEREAS,** LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, New York; and
- WHEREAS,** Pajaro Valley Pride, a Watsonville-based nonprofit, was founded in 2015 by a group of locals who saw a need for LGBTQIA2S+ visibility in Watsonville and the surrounding Pajaro Valley; and
- WHEREAS,** Pajaro Valley Pride is committed to building community through social networking, education and service work as well as creating welcoming spaces where LGBTQIA2S+ residents and their allies can thrive; and
- WHEREAS,** each year, Pajaro Valley Pride awards scholarships to students for their academic success and contributions to the LGBTQIA2S+ community; and
- WHEREAS,** Pajaro Valley Pride has received several awards in recognition of their admirable efforts such as Community Hero Award in 2018 and the Organizational Ally to Queer Youth Award in 2019; and
- WHEREAS,** we support their ongoing efforts to ensure freedom, justice and equality for all members of the community.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby recognize Pajaro Valley Pride for bringing community members together in solidarity and for their work in uplifting and empowering the LGBTQIA2S+ community in Watsonville.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, Two thousand and twenty-four.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor





# *Proclamation*

## *Salvador Peña Senior*

### *Nematatlin de la*

### *Universidad Veracruzana*

### *August 18, 2024*

- WHEREAS,** the City of Watsonville acknowledges that a vast number of our local City community members come from many regions and states of Mexico, and we honor the contributions that the diverse Mexican community has made in our City in areas such as commerce, sports, religion, agriculture, arts and culture; and
- WHEREAS,** Watsonville understands the importance of arts and culture and includes them in our actions to reach the City's priorities of community engagement and wellbeing; and
- WHEREAS,** we congratulate the Ballet Folklórico del Puerto de Veracruz and Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana for the 40 years disseminating the traditional music and dance of Veracruz and appreciate their presence in Watsonville to teach and perform in our community; and
- WHEREAS,** we are aware of the social and emotional benefits of learning about one's culture and engaging in physical activity, via dance and music, and we thank the Ballet Folklórico del Puerto de Veracruz and Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana for entering PVUSD schools to showcase and teach the traditional dances and music of Veracruz; and
- WHEREAS,** we appreciate that the evening dance classes that were taught in various venues in Watsonville allowed for local youth to learn dance techniques and performance skills that will prove to be useful in their daily lives; and
- WHEREAS,** we are aware that the participation, of the Ballet Folklórico del Puerto de Veracruz and Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana, in the First International "Reinforcing Cultural Identity" Dance & Music Conference permitted our community to come together to remember to keep one's traditions alive as they are important to one's growth and development as a whole person.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor of the City of Watsonville, in the State of California, on behalf of the City Council hereby recognize Salvador Peña Senior Nematatlin de la Universidad Veracruzana for visiting our City and sharing their music with our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Watsonville to be affixed this 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, Two thousand and twenty-four.

**Vanessa Quiroz-Carter, Mayor**



**WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA**