

Resolution No. 2018 - 99

RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS POSITIVE IMPACT ON SOLANO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Travis Air Force Base is celebrating its 75th anniversary as a critical element of the United States Air Force's Air Mobility Command. Proudly serving as Solano County's largest employer, more than 26,000 people live or work on the 6,000 acre air base, including 7,200 active-duty military members, 3,096 Air Force reservists, 1,828 civil-service civilians and 1,290 civilians in contracted and private business; and

WHEREAS, world renowned as the Gateway to the Pacific, Travis Air Force Base and its personnel stand at the ready to provide refueling, cargo and medical evacuation to our nation's military and allies around the globe. In the air, Travis' contingent of C-5, KC-10 and C-17 aircraft enables our military to have a global reach through airlift and air refueling of military aircraft in combat, humanitarian relief and disaster operations; and

WHEREAS, Solano County's connection and commitment to Travis Air Force Base spans 75 years, evidenced by support from ranching families who farmed the land that would become the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base in 1942. Among them were Joseph and Mary Enos, who initially sold 42 acres of their 320 acre ranch to the government for base housing. Mary and Joe opened their home to the military, providing them with fresh eggs and vegetables. The Army Corps of Engineers made their headquarters in a grove of eucalyptus on their ranch and dubbed it, "Camp Enos." The Enoses would allow full access to their land during the base's infancy in exchange for electricity. In turn, airmen helped drive the Enos sheep through the middle of the base to help get them to market. In the ensuing years, Mary, who has been affectionately referred to as "Mother Travis," took care of the children of every base commander or staff officer; and

WHEREAS, the support of Solano County residents remained critical as the Fairfield-Suisun Army Air Base underwent a rapid expansion, sparked by the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It wasn't long after the first bulldozers broke ground on the brand new airstrip in July 1942 that officials recognized the need for additional housing for service members and civilians. By the fall of 1944, the base had grown to over 2,000 enlisted men and 173 officers. A chapel and 125-bed hospital had also been constructed. The small town of Fairfield, with a population of roughly 1,500 had seemingly doubled overnight as new housing developments sprang up. With more and more military personnel arriving, residents of the Fairfield, Suisun, Vacaville and Dixon area were called upon to rent every room they could spare; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, President Harry S. Truman dedicated the United States Air Force as its own branch of the military. Now dubbed the Fairfield-Suisun Air Force Base, the air base had become a center for wounded air evacuees from the war zone and had been recognized as the West Coast's largest aerial port. Not long after the outbreak of the Korean War in August 1950, the base's commanding general, Brig. Gen. Robert F. Travis was killed when the B-29 he was co-piloting crashed upon takeoff for a nighttime training mission. In the wake of his tragic and untimely death, the United States Air Force honored his legacy by renaming the installation, Travis Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, following World War II and its role in protecting the West Coast, the ensuing decades would see Travis Air Force Base proudly. It's dedicated military and civilian personnel have provided critical services - in particular, airlift, medical and aerial refueling - in support of United States involvement in conflict around the world, which has included the welcoming home of Prisoners of War from the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War; Operation Desert Shield, whose airlift phase, called "Volant Wind," began in 1990 at Travis Air Force Base; Operation Fiery Vigil, in which Travis personnel helped airlift nearly 6,500 people and nearly 1,000 pets from the Philippines in the wake of the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991; airlift of personnel and equipment to Ground Zero and the Pentagon following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001; rapid deployment of combat forces to Southwest Asia during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001; and the provision of airlift, aerial refueling and medical support during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

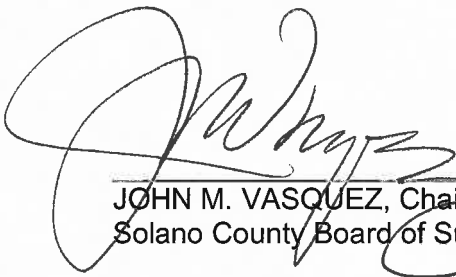
WHEREAS, today, community support for Travis Air Force is widespread and comes from many individuals and community groups, including the Travis Regional Armed Forces Committee (TRAFC). Comprised of more than 180 local businesses and civic leaders from across the county, TRAFRC members have worked with local, state and federal legislators on matters critical to the base and its operations. For nearly two decades, TRAFRC has served as a voice for the people of Travis Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, Travis Air Force Base has had an enormous and positive impact on Solano County, for which it is the county's largest employer. As an economic engine, Travis Air Force Base and its 13,400 military and civilian personnel contribute more than \$1.6 billion annually to the local economy. Not only is Travis Air Force Base a strategic asset on our nation's defense, David Grant Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base is the Air Force Medical Service's flagship medical treatment facility in the United States, providing full-spectrum care to the 130,000 TRICARE-eligible patients in the San Francisco-Sacramento region.

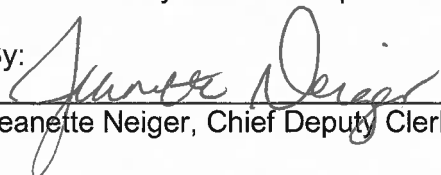
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the 75th anniversary of Travis Air Force, its contribution to the safety and security of the United States and the positive impact it continues to have on Solano County.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2018




JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: 
Jeanette Neiger, Chief Deputy Clerk