

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-1719

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS AND
GOLD STAR FAMILIES OF SAN JUAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, Hershel "Woody" Williams enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and served in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3d Marine Division. During the battle, Mr. Williams displayed "valiant devotion to duty" and service as he enabled his company to reach its objective. Mr. Williams's actions, commitment to his fellow service members, and heroism were recognized on October 5, 1945, when he received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman. Mr. Williams is the sole surviving Marine from World War II, and the last living recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima, to wear the Medal of Honor; and

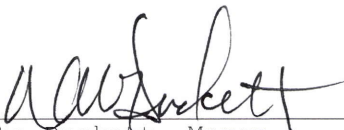
WHEREAS, as World War II began, Mr. Williams came into direct contact with families in his own community when he delivered Western Union telegrams informing the Gold Star families of the death of their loved one. Based on these experiences and others, and his deep personal commitment to veterans and their families led him to help create the Hershel "Woody" Williams Medal of Honor Foundation in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the activities of this foundation allow Mr. Williams to continue his devotion and commitment to those who have served and the Gold Star families who have lost loved ones to that service above self. His foundation is focused on honoring Gold Star Families and their fallen Heroes by establishing Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in communities in all 50 states, offering scholarships to Gold Star Children, sponsoring outreach programs and events, and educating communities about Gold Star Families and the sacrifice they have endured; and

WHEREAS, THE City of Farmington, proudly honors the service members and veterans of our armed forces through public memorials such as All Veterans Park and Vietnam Veterans Park, and sees these as a way to educate our community about the lives of those who heeded the call to serve their country, the wars in which they fought, and to bring a place of solace and reflection for their families and friends. As such, the efforts of Mr. Williams, and our local Gold Star Foundation Committee, to build the state's first Gold Star Monument here in Farmington are greatly appreciated and the city is proud to collaborate with them to bring recognition, education, and memoriam for families and friends of loved ones lost in battle; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Farmington City Council, offers this resolution recognizing the service of Mr. Herschel "Woody" Williams for his service to his country and our gold star families and encourages people of all ages to visit the Gold Star Memorial from time to time to be reminded that freedom is not free and our way of life has been born by the bravery and blood of those who gave all for their country.

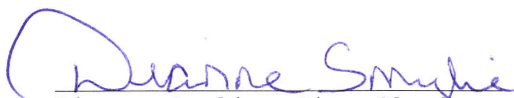
PASSED, SIGNED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of July, 2019.



Nate Duckett, Mayor

SEAL

ATTEST:



Dianne Smylie, City Clerk