

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION

Honoring

Gene and Betty Senestraro

WHEREAS, Gene and Betty Senestraro are lifelong members of the Humboldt County community whose dedication to family, agriculture, and public service has had a lasting and meaningful impact on the region; and

WHEREAS, Gene Senestraro, born in 1928 to parents who emigrated from Northern Italy, learned English at a young age to serve as an interpreter for his family, demonstrating responsibility and determination from an early age; and

WHEREAS, Gene developed a strong work ethic early in life through his family's dairy operations and went on to establish his own dairy at the age of 18, reflecting his entrepreneurial spirit and lifelong commitment to agriculture; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Fortuna High School, Gene was an active member of FFA, serving as a State Officer and earning the prestigious American FFA Degree at a time when few received this honor; and

WHEREAS, Gene has dedicated more than seven decades to strengthening Humboldt County agriculture, including serving as President of the Humboldt County Farm Bureau, helping to establish its current headquarters, and representing local agricultural interests at the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, Gene has further served his community through numerous local and state boards and commissions, including the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Humboldt County Planning Commission, contributing to the stewardship of natural resources and community development; and

WHEREAS, Gene has been instrumental in advancing agricultural education, helping guide a scholarship program that has awarded more than \$1.4 million to Humboldt County students pursuing studies in agriculture, natural resources, science, and education; and

WHEREAS, Betty Senestraro, born in 1935 and a graduate of Eureka High School, was raised in Elk River and married Gene in 1954, beginning a lifelong partnership grounded in hard work, devotion, and shared commitment to their community; and

WHEREAS, Betty devoted herself to raising six sons, instilling in them the values of education, responsibility, and service, and her children continue to express deep love and respect for their mother, reflecting the strength of her guidance and care; and

WHEREAS, Betty contributed greatly to both her family and community through helping manage the family dairy, volunteering more than 25 years at St. Joseph Hospital, and supporting local education, including baking countless pies over many years for Pine Hill School fundraisers—an effort that resulted in thousands of pies in support of the school community; and

WHEREAS, Betty’s steadfast support and partnership made possible Gene’s decades of public service, reflecting their shared commitment to family, agriculture, and community; and

WHEREAS, together, Gene and Betty Senestraro built a life centered on hard work, service, and generosity, supporting local youth and the future of agriculture through scholarships and mentorship, and inspiring generations through their example; and

WHEREAS, their combined contributions reflect a legacy of leadership, humility, and enduring commitment to the well-being and prosperity of Humboldt County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby honors Gene and Betty Senestraro for their lifetime of service, dedication to family and agriculture, and extraordinary contributions to the Humboldt County community.

April 14, 2026



Mike Wilson, Chair