



PROCLAMATION

OF THE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Mental Health and Sempervirens Psychiatric Health Facility are celebrating a half century of community mental health; and

WHEREAS, the federal Community Mental Health Act of 1963 and the state Community Mental Health Services Act of 1967 began the movement away from institutionalization toward local, community-based mental health care; and

WHEREAS, in Humboldt County, tireless advocates such as Gladys Strobe, led the way to educate the community, destigmatize mental illness, and promote the creation of new community-based services; and

WHEREAS, in May, 1963, the county Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the establishment of the first community mental health services in Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, largely staffed by volunteers, Sempervirens inpatient psychiatric unit opened in 1967 on the campus of General Hospital on Harrison Avenue before moving to its present location on Wood Street in Eureka in 1976; and

WHEREAS, in 1969 Humboldt County celebrated these first steps in community mental health by naming a wing of Sempervirens after Gladys Strobe and honoring the work of the Humboldt Mental Health Society, a precursor to today's Behavioral Health Board; and

WHEREAS, Sempervirens is a sixteen-bed free standing acute psychiatric hospital licensed by the California Department of Health Care Services, providing comprehensive psychiatric and physical assessment, evaluation and treatment in a safe and secure setting; and

WHEREAS, on October 22, 2019 more than sixty dedicated Sempervirens employees serving over five hundred patients annually, with dignity and respect on the journey to recovery, celebrated 50 years of service to the resident of Humboldt County.

NOW THEREFORE, in honor of Sempervirens' 50 Year Anniversary, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors hereby wishes to recognize October 22, 2019 as Community Mental Health Day and encourages all citizens to celebrate community-based mental health services that promote, protect and enhance the health and safety of all residents in our county.

DATED: November 5, 2019

Rex Bohn, Chair