

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Aging and Veterans Services

BOARD AGENDA: 6.B.1
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2025

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Commendations for Stanislaus County Outstanding Senior Citizens in Celebration of Older Americans Month in May

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-0233

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor Grewal
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) ☒ Approved as recommended
2) ☐ Denied
3) ☐ Approved as amended
4) ☐ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Kelly Rodriguez
KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Aging and Veterans Services

BOARD AGENDA:6.B.1
AGENDA DATE: May 13, 2025

CONSENT: ☒

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Commendations for Stanislaus County Outstanding Senior Citizens in Celebration of Older Americans Month in May

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the commendations for the Stanislaus County Outstanding Senior Citizens of the Year.

DISCUSSION:

May is officially recognized as 'Older Americans Month' throughout the nation, and senior citizens around the nation are recognized for their contributions to our country. In Stanislaus County, five outstanding senior citizens, one from each Supervisorial District, are selected for their volunteer work in any of the following areas: community service, humanitarianism, leadership, political advocacy, or being a good neighbor. Seniors were nominated from the community at large, and the Senior Award Committee selected the five Senior Award Winners for their invaluable contributions to the growth and prosperity of the Stanislaus community.

These seniors are:

Supervisorial District 1: Arlene Halford (Oakdale)

Supervisorial District 2: Greg Bava (Turlock)

Supervisorial District 3: Jennifer Mullen (Modesto)

Supervisorial District 4: Denise Nordell (Modesto)

Supervisorial District 5: Loveada Fresquez (Newman)

The Board of Supervisors' presentation of the Senior Commendations to their respective constituents is very meaningful to the Senior Award winners.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors have presented resolutions to their respective district's Senior Award Winner since the late 1980s during their evening meeting each May.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended actions are consistent with the Boards' priority of *Supporting a Healthy Community* by recognizing the importance of senior residents in Stanislaus County and the contributions they make to the quality of life of those living in Stanislaus County.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff will complete the recommendation associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Craig Gundlach
Interim Director, Aging and Veterans Services

Telephone: (209) 525-4601

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. 2025 Senior Commendations - Arlene Halford - District 1
2. 2025 Senior Commendations - Greg Bava - District 2
3. 2025 Senior Commendations - Jennifer Mullen - District 3
4. 2025 Senior Commendations - Denise Nordell - District 4
5. 2025 Senior Commendations - Loveada Fresquez - District 5

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Date: May 13, 2025

2025-0233(a)

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor Grewal
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Recused: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # 6.B.1

**RECOGNIZING ARLENE HALFORD
2025 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN OF STANISLAUS COUNTY ~ DISTRICT 1**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and contributions of senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Arlene Halford, as a lifelong volunteer, has spent the last three and half years volunteering at the Stanislaus County Veterans Center greeting Veterans and guests. Mrs. Halford possesses the unique ability to connect with each visitor. She greets most guests by name. She engages easily with "How are you? How may I help you." Because the Veterans Center is a public building, there are times when a guest is down on their luck, but Mrs. Halford treats everyone with the same enthusiasm and caring – she sees a person in need and has no judgment. She exudes friendliness, energy, positivity, and kindness and has served as a role model and mentor to the many volunteers at the center. Most Veterans visiting the Veterans Center for the first time are looking for the Veterans Services Office to learn about their benefits as Veterans; before Mrs. Halford sends them next door, she takes the opportunity to inform them about the many social activities geared towards Veterans at the center, and many later return to enjoy a cup of coffee or attend the weekly dance after they complete their business at the Veterans Services Office; and,

WHEREAS, even through her thirty-year career in banking, Mrs. Halford always found time to volunteer in her community. When she began a second career as the activities coordinator at the Murphys Senior Center, she continued volunteering there also. Although she finally retired from that position at the young age of 83 to move to Stanislaus County to be with family, she and her sister co-founded the Murphys Thrift Shop before she moved. The profits from the shop continue to this day to support not only the senior center in Murphys but also employs several locals; and,

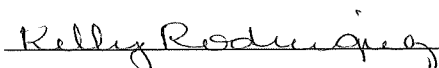
WHEREAS, Mrs. Halford spent five years as a respite volunteer at Amador County Hospice giving

family and friends brief respites from caring for their dying loved one. She also spent five years volunteering under the Sheriff's department for the Amador County Lifeline Program. In that position, she would fulfill her volunteer duties one day a week alone in the office of the Sheriff in Arnold hearing concerns from her community. One day, a man walked in and sat a large object on her desk saying he did not want it anymore, then he told her what it was: a bomb! She immediately called the Sheriff to dispose of the bomb. Some of her other volunteer activities in Amador County were with the Newcomers Program, directing traffic at parades and events, and serving as a Friendly Visitor. One of the highlights of Mrs. Halford's volunteer career was her five-year stint as a California State Ombudsman; she found it highly satisfying to help the most vulnerable older adults in her community; and,

WHEREAS, it was serendipity or meant to be when Mrs. Halford was lunching at La Morenita soon after she moved to Modesto, and she noticed the nearby Veterans Center. She always admired those who served our country as her late husband had served, so she soon was volunteering at the Veterans Center. Not only was she serving, she began scheduling the volunteers and orchestrating the first ever annual Volunteer Appreciation event for the volunteers. Arlene is the proud mother of three children, grandmother to seven children, and great-grandmother to two children; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Mrs. Arlene Halford for her exceptional contributions to Stanislaus County and congratulates her for being the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for District 1.

ATTEST: **KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk**
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California

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File No.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: May 13, 2025

2025-0233(b)

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor Grewal
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Recused: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # 6.B.1

**RECOGNIZING GREG BAVA
2025 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN OF STANISLAUS COUNTY ~ DISTRICT 2**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and contributions of senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Greg Bava is an avid volunteer for the United Samaritans Foundation. Each month, Mr. Bava volunteers on site at United Samaritans preparing emergency food boxes for those in his community with the need for immediate nutrition. Linda Murphy-Julien, Director of the United Samaritans Foundation, said of Mr. Bava, "Thanks to his dedication and countless hours of volunteerism and support, we are able to help individuals and families suffering from food insecurities"; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bava's infectious positivity not only brightens the day of those around him but also fosters a collaborative spirit among the volunteers. They often remark that Mr. Bava's enthusiasm makes even the most challenging tasks more manageable and enjoyable. Mr. Bava's presence lifts spirits and motivates those who volunteer and are served by him; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bava also volunteers through his church as part of the We Care Shelter program, which is dedicated to offering shelter and assistance to Turlock's most vulnerable individuals for two decades. Mr. Bava encourages others to share the joy of serving the less fortunate. Mr. Bava is a board member for the men's shelter and works on several church programs while still managing time for family and friends. The word "impossible" is not in Mr. Bava's vocabulary; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bava is a role model and leads with integrity and makes those around him want to be better. His ability to think critically, act civilly, and always listen are some of his admirable traits; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bava has been married to Patrice Bava for twenty-two years. They have four children, and seven grandchildren; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Bava lives each day as if it were his last and keeps his eyes towards heaven. Mr. Bava stated his greatest accomplishment is his family and the opportunity to love and serve others. Mr. Bava encourages those around him to embrace each moment with gratitude, reminding them that life is fleeting, and every day is an opportunity to make a positive impact. He often says, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," which resonates deeply with his outlook on life. Through his actions and beliefs, Mr. Bava serves as an inspiration to others, emphasizing the importance of love, family, and altruism in a world that often rushes by; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Mr. Greg Bava for his exceptional contributions to Stanislaus County and congratulates him for being the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for District 2.

ATTEST: **KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk**
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California

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File No.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: May 13, 2025

2025-0233(c)

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor Grewal
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Recused: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # 6.B.1

**RECOGNIZING JENNIFER MULLEN
2025 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN OF STANISLAUS COUNTY ~ DISTRICT 3**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and contributions of senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jennifer Mullen has been an advocate for her community through her previous employment as Executive Director of the Modesto Convention/Visitors Center along with her commendable history of volunteering. Ms. Mullen's interaction with her fellow volunteer workers, and her almost daily public tours at the Graffiti Museum, display her outreach to the local and international community; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Mullen volunteered at the Stanislaus County Salida Health Center during the COVID pandemic, and the King Kennedy Center distributing food during this difficult time; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Mullen's commitment to the activities she is involved with, along with her creative ideas, and 'can-do' attitude have been tremendous assets to the organizations she has served. Ms. Mullen currently volunteers her skills in many City of Modesto projects including block staging of the dignitaries in the annual Parade of Lights and the Rocking Christmas Celebration in downtown Modesto. Ms. Mullen's ability to lead, support, and coordinate the activities of her associates in a kind and caring manner has been an asset to the many projects she has been involved in, such as the Spirit of Giving Fun Run and Love Modesto Project; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Mullen drives across town each morning to ensure an elderly woman is safe and well cared for. From washing dishes and feeding two dogs to watering plants both inside and outside, she attends to a variety of needs that often go overlooked. Ms. Mullen does not just complete these tasks; she brings warmth and companionship, making a genuine effort to connect with her elderly friend on each visit. Ms. Mullen's commitment encourages all of us to look out for our neighbors, reminding us that a small act of kindness can make a world of difference. In a time when community ties can often feel strained, Ms. Mullen's dedication showcases the power of being there for one another.

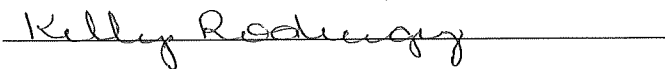
Ms. Mullen's selflessness and compassion is a reminder of the importance of caring for those around us; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Mullen's 'work-by-example' leadership style truly sets her apart as a role model. Ms. Mullen consistently takes the initiative to volunteer for tasks and demonstrates a strong work ethic; she not only exemplifies commitment but also motivates her colleagues to adopt a similar attitude; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Jennifer Mullen volunteers over forty hours weekly at the Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum managing the gift shop. Ms. Mullen's involvement with the north Modesto Kiwanis demonstrates her commitment to community service, where she actively participates in numerous events that benefit those in need. As the liaison between various car clubs and the museum, Ms. Mullin effectively bridges these communities, facilitating collaboration and mutual support; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Ms. Jennifer Mullen for her exceptional contributions to Stanislaus County and congratulates her for being the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for District 3.

ATTEST: **KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk**
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California

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File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

2025-0233(d)

Date: May 13, 2025

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor Grewal
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Recused: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # 6.B.1

**RECOGNIZING DENISE NORDELL
2025 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN OF STANISLAUS COUNTY ~ DISTRICT 4**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and contributions of senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Denise Nordell has been an active community member for over twenty years with an exceptional enthusiasm and passion for literacy. As the president of the Friends of the Modesto Library, she inspired board members to support the organization with her dedication. Mrs. Nordell was instrumental in encouraging the board members and the volunteers to help her raise \$3 million dollars to enhance the Lifelong Legacy Campaign. The Lifelong Legacy Campaign will use the \$3 million dollars to bring the library to a level of excellence and a source of pride for all Modesto residents with vibrant and attractive enhancements. The project will reimagine the Early Childhood Room, provide durable furnishings for the main floor and the Children's library, upgrade the meeting rooms with technical advancements, provide the quiet room with furniture and fixtures, upgrade the McHenry Room auditorium, and provide an art gallery to display local artists works; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nordell has volunteered as a tutor for adults at the Stanislaus Literacy Center for the Learning Quest program. In tribute to her late father's legacy, Mrs. Nordell has tutored inmates who were incarcerated. Mrs. Nordell has been a speaker at various trainings to encourage others to volunteer in their communities. Mrs. Nordell served as the Library Foundation President for the past three years. She has also served in the Red Cross as a volunteer; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nordell has worked diligently to enhance children's experiences at the library. She spearheaded the recruitment of the original twenty adult volunteers for the Kids Quest program. Under her leadership, the organization has expanded the role of volunteerism in support of the summer reading program for hundreds of local students. Karen Williams, Executive Director of Learning Quest, had this to say about Mrs. Nordell, "I can honestly say we would not have launched Kids Quest when we did without Denise. She convinced me that as a volunteer for 10- 15 hours a week it could be done. She recruited over twenty adults as tutors and a similar number of children to

be tutored. After a year, she convinced me to hire a replacement to run the program. Currently, Denise helps the program and tutors both dyslexic children and adults.”; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nordell is dedicated to making her community a better place. Mrs. Nordell considers it both a privilege and a duty to volunteer as much as she can. Mrs. Nordell agrees with President John F. Kennedy who said, “One person can make a difference, and everyone should try”; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nordell has been married to Dave Nordell for 49 years. Together they have one daughter and two granddaughters; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nordell is most proud of her service as President of Friends of the Modesto Library and her recent Lifelong Legacy Campaign; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Mrs. Denise Nordell for her exceptional contributions to Stanislaus County and congratulates her for being the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for District 4.

ATTEST: **KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk**
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California

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File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

2025-0233(e)

Date: May 13, 2025

On motion of Supervisor C. Condit Seconded by Supervisor Grewal
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Grewal, C. Condit, and Chairman B. Condit
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Recused: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # 6.B.1

**RECOGNIZING LOVEADA FRESQUEZ
2025 OUTSTANDING SENIOR CITIZEN OF STANISLAUS COUNTY ~ DISTRICT 5**

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors wishes to acknowledge the outstanding service and contributions of senior citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Loveada Fresquez has shown great care, concern, and love to older adults through her many volunteer activities while encouraging her family and friends to join her in serving these individuals in her community on the West Side; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Loveada Fresquez was the president of the Orestimba 50+ Club in Newman from 2017-2024. During the COVID outbreak, Mrs. Fresquez began delivering hot meals to older adults. She started by delivering to six local older adults and soon was delivering to 42 individuals. Mrs. Fresquez provided this service for three years. Mrs. Fresquez trained ten volunteers to help deliver warm meals through two routes. Because of her initiative, the West Side older adults now have a food delivery program; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Loveada Fresquez and her family prepare and deliver Thanksgiving meals for older adults in the Gustine, Newman, and Crows Landing area. Mrs. Fresquez and her family create fruit baskets to deliver to older adults during Easter. Mrs. Fresquez understands the importance of community and the impact of a simple gesture on the lives of others. Her hard work helps to foster a sense of belonging and joy among older adults who may not have family nearby or the opportunity to celebrate holidays; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Fresquez started bingo programs at the Bob McConnell Senior Center and the Westside Senior Apartments where she conducts holiday celebration events for the residents. She has volunteered as host and waitress for the Westside Theatre for the last five years; and,

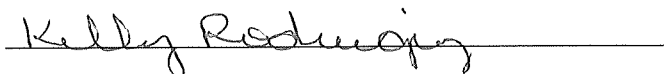
WHEREAS, Mrs. Loveada Fresquez often volunteers to take older adults shopping, to doctor appointments, delivers food, and organizes enjoyable outings, including lunch and casino trips.

In return, she receives the heartfelt smiles and warm hugs of those older adults who are deeply grateful for her thoughtful gestures. What motivates Mrs. Fresquez to serve is her awareness of the needs within the older adult community with the understanding that companionship is essential. She recognizes her efforts provide them with connection and support combating loneliness. When asked about her greatest accomplishment, Mrs. Fresquez humbly shares that it is her ability to stay healthy, allowing her to continue her invaluable work in helping the older adults she cares so much about. Her commitment to their well-being not only enriches their lives but also highlights the profound impact of community service; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Loveada Fresquez shares five children, twelve grandchildren, and one great grandson with her husband of forty years, Richard Gaytan. At one point, Mrs. Fresquez was raising nine of her grandchildren all under the age of five. Mrs. Fresquez has lived in Newman for 35 years. She served her community in her career with the Stanislaus County Tax Collector's Department for fifteen years; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors does hereby thank Mrs. Loveada Fresquez for her exceptional contributions to Stanislaus County and congratulates her for being the 2025 Outstanding Senior Citizen for District 5.

ATTEST: KELLY RODRIGUEZ, Assistant Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California

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File No.