

TULARE LOCAL HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS • RESOLUTION NO. 941

Honoring the Life and Service of Stephen “Steve” C. Harrell

WHEREAS, Stephen “Steve” C. Harrell, who passed away on October 8, 2026, was a second-generation Tulare native and lifelong resident who served the Tulare Local Healthcare District and the community of Tulare with dedication, generosity, and a readiness to help whenever called upon; and

WHEREAS, Steve’s commitment to serving others began at the age of 15 as a volunteer firefighter and continued through service with the California Division of Forestry, four years in the United States Air Force, and a distinguished career in law enforcement, including 25 years with the Tulare Police Department, from which he retired as a lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Steve demonstrated a particular dedication to emergency medical services and community healthcare, having served as an emergency medical technician at Tulare District Hospital, as a member of the Tulare County Emergency Medical Care Committee for 20 years, and in leadership positions within the County’s emergency medical services system; and

WHEREAS, during one of the most challenging periods in the history of the Tulare Local Healthcare District, marked by public controversy, frequent and long Board meetings, and severely limited resources, Steve answered Board Chair Kevin Northcraft’s request to serve as a volunteer Sergeant at Arms, helping maintain orderly meetings without compensation or cost to the District; and

WHEREAS, Steve again stepped forward when the District needed a representative for District 1, accepting appointment to the Board on November 14, 2017, and serving through January 2021, including service as Board Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Steve approached his Board responsibilities diligence, integrity, and a deep sense of accountability, carefully reviewing meeting materials, asking thoughtful questions, and keeping track of the District’s many meetings during a demanding period in its history; and

WHEREAS, Steve served alongside fellow Directors in the District’s efforts to stabilize its finances, establish a partnership with Adventist Health, and reopen the Tulare Regional Medical Center on October 15, 2018, restoring essential hospital services to the people of Tulare and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, Steve’s dedication to his community extended well beyond his service to the District, encompassing decades of involvement in public safety and emergency medical care, as well as his election to the Tulare City Council in 2020 and subsequent service as Vice Mayor; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Steve exemplified the principle that public service is measured not merely by the offices one holds, but by a willingness to help others, a quality captured in Board Chair Kevin Northcraft’s fond recollection that, whenever Steve was asked to serve, his answer was always “yes”; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his unwavering dedication to his community and long history of service, Steve was named the Tulare Chamber of Commerce’s 2025 Man of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Steve will be remembered not only for his many contributions to his community, but also for his generosity of spirit, steadfast dependability, friendship, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Tulare Local Healthcare District hereby honors and commemorates the life and distinguished public service of Stephen “Steve” C. Harrell, and expresses its profound gratitude for his contributions to the District, his dedication to the restoration of essential healthcare services, and his lasting legacy of service to the people of Tulare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board extends its heartfelt condolences to his wife, Barbara, and to his entire family, and directs that this resolution be entered into the District’s official records and a copy presented to his family as an expression of appreciation and remembrance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: _____ NOES: _____ ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

Kevin Northcraft, Board Chair

ATTEST: Board Secretary