

WHEREAS, the Hmong people bravely served alongside the United States during the Vietnam War, also known as the Secret War, and have resided in Fresno for 50 years, establishing a vibrant and resilient community; and

WHEREAS, General Vang Pao, an influential and revered Hmong leader, played a pivotal role in the migration of Hmong refugees to the United States, leading efforts to establish Hmong communities across the country and helping to create one of the largest Hmong refugee resettlement areas in the nation, in Fresno; and

WHEREAS, General Vang Pao, through the traditional 18 Clans family infrastructure, represented by the surnames Chang, Cheng, Chue, Fang, Hang, Her, Khang, Kong, Kue, Lee, Lor, Moua, Pha, Thao, Vang, Vue, Xiong, and Yang, helped preserve cultural identity, strengthen unity, and guide the Hmong community's transition into their new life as Hmong Americans; and

WHEREAS, Neng Chu Vang, the family-designated successor of General Vang Pao and son of the late General, continues this legacy by working closely with the 18 Clans family infrastructure to maintain cultural preservation, provide resources and support, and strengthen the connection between the Hmong community and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, Neng Chu Vang, together with Hmong family leaders, remains committed to strengthening the Hmong community by collaborating with former and current Hmong elected officials, local nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and service providers to identify needs, promote resiliency, and uplift the Hmong community in Fresno.