

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Council President Esmeralda Soria

“Dr. Carole Goldsmith”

WHEREAS, Dr. Carole Goldsmith earned her Doctorate of Education from the Joint Doctorate program offered by California State University, Fresno and University of California, Davis and has been recognized at the state and national level as an expert on workforce development, contextualized learning, and career technical education and has spent over 20 years in a variety of educational leadership roles, most recently as President of Fresno City College; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goldsmith has changed the dynamic of Fresno City College and has involved the surrounding community by holding regular community meetings to listen to neighborhood concerns; and

WHEREAS, President Goldsmith is a champion for equitable access to education and has contributed tremendously to bridging communication across educational institutions, her work with Fresno Unified School District and Fresno State has resulted in addressing equity for those most underrepresented in post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, Under her leadership the Fresno City “Ram Pantry” was renovated to provide more students with free food at Fresno City College to assist in her fight against food insecurity with the goal of increasing the graduation and course completion rate of students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Goldsmith’s dedication to student success has been evident through her partnership with the City of Fresno in providing Free Bus Rides for Fresno City College students and her support of District 1’s efforts to improve the Fresno City College Neighborhood bringing an affordable housing project to the Blackstone & Mckinley area; and

WHEREAS, In the City of Fresno, women like Dr. Carole Goldsmith are leading the way and making a positive difference in the lives of our residents through their spirit and commitment and are an inspiration for their generous service in creating safer and stronger communities for all.

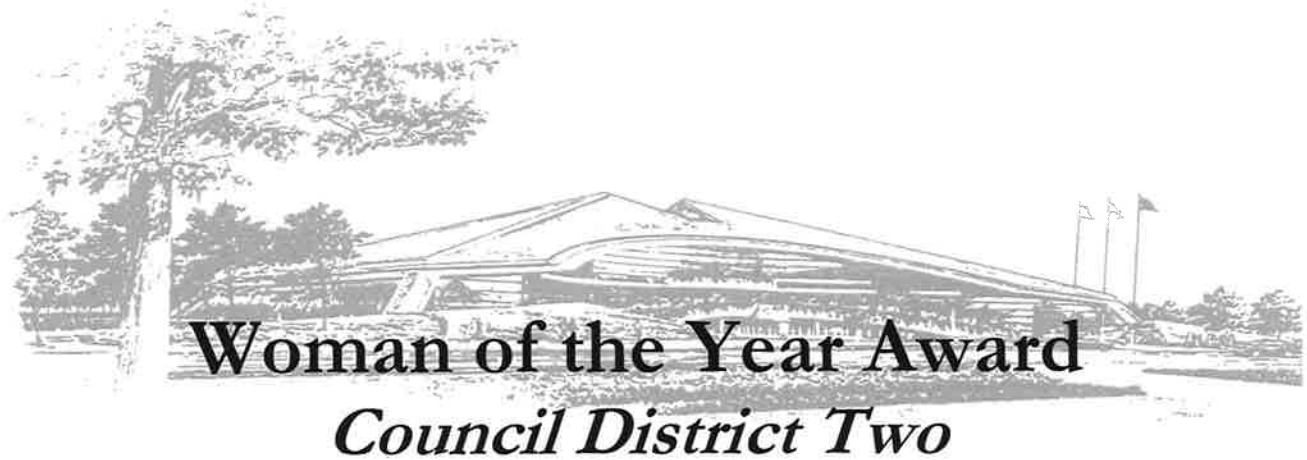
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Fresno Mayor and City Council does hereby recognize **Dr. Carole Goldsmith** as **District 1 Woman of the Year 2018** and do hereby proclaim March 22, 2018 to be:

“Dr. Carole Goldsmith Day”

in the City of Fresno

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 22nd day of March 2018.

City of Fresno



WHEREAS, JENELLE HIGTON is the Executive Director for the Art of Life Cancer Foundation, and has dedicated the past 13 years to serving in the medical community with Saint Agnes Medical Center, Community Medical Center and California Oncology of the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, JENELLE HIGTON helped to create the Art of Life program under the leadership and vision of Fresno Oncologist, Dr. Christopher Perkins. Her passion and vision for the program over the past ten years has never wavered, learning how to create a non-profit from the ground-up, and operating the Art of Life Cancer Foundation out of her own home; and

WHEREAS, THE ART OF LIFE CANCER FOUNDATION was founded in 2013, and their programs help cancer survivors find a therapeutic outlet through art to tell their story and process their cancer journey, connect to family, friends and community, and feel more supported as they deal with the challenges they face; and

WHEREAS, THE ART OF LIFE HEALING GARDEN broke ground in Woodward Park in 2015 and is a collaboration between the Art of Life Cancer Foundation, the City of Fresno, and community partners. The Garden gives the opportunity for cancer survivors and families affected by cancer to reflect their own cancer experiences through landscaping and art. The Garden incorporates artistic expression and creates a space for sanctuary, celebration and healing for the Fresno community; and

WHEREAS, THE ART OF LIFE, through Jenelle's hard work and dedication, has served over 300,000 people since 2007. Jenelle's passion is to see the stories and artwork of local cancer survivors featured in the Art of Life Healing Garden at Woodward Park and in turn, to create a landmark of hope in the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, JENELLE HIGTON was born and raised in Washington state and moved to Fresno in 2004 after graduating from The Master's University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Counseling, and in addition to bringing hope to those affected by cancer, loves travelling and spending time with her husband Ryan and two beautiful daughters Hailey and Hope; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE CITY OF FRESNO recognizes that Jenelle Higton is an inspiration to the community for her compassion, spirit and service to those affected by cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council Members, do hereby honor, recognize and proclaim Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 to be:

“Jenelle Higton Day”

in the City of Fresno. We support the active women leaders in our community. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and admired.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California, this 22nd day of March, 2018.

CITY OF FRESNO

Woman of the Year Award Council District Three

WHEREAS, FIRST LADY VALARIE METOYER-BINION, has been improving our community for more than forty years. She is a trailblazer in the West Fresno community and it is my pleasure to honor her with the 2018 Woman of the Year Award in representing District Three; and

WHEREAS, FIRST LADY VALARIE METOYER-BINION is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana and the eighth out of ten children born to John and Evelyn Metoyer, Sr. The Metoyer's migrated west to Phoenix, Arizona where she attended South Mountain High School and Mesa Community College. She then met her husband to be, Paul L. Binion, II who became the pastor of The Westside Church of God in 1977. They became husband and wife in December of 1978; and

WHEREAS, FIRST LADY VALARIE METOYER BINION, graduated from Fresno Pacific University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Organizational Development in 2004 and soon after became a long time and loyal employee of Fresno Unified School District and is now living her best life as a retired servant of God; and

WHEREAS, FIRST LADY VALARIE METOYER BINION, is a partner to Pastor Binion by being a Proverbs 31 Virtuous Woman. She has exceptionally devoted her time to serving the Lord in every area of her life. In 2017 First Lady Binion marked 40 years of service to our community. In reaching this remarkable service milestone First Lady Binion, has achieved an incredible body of work with unmatched class and humility all the while providing a steady hand of guidance alongside her husband for this community. The tenacity of 40 years of service is truly a remarkable feat. First Lady Binion is the Minister of Music and Worship Arts, and has served alongside numerous organizations that seek to better the community such as, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., Bringing Broken Neighborhoods Back to Life, West Fresno Ministerial Alliance, Feed Fresno Food Giveaways and the Annual City Wide Revival; and

WHEREAS, FIRST LADY VALARIE METOYER BINION, is a devoted wife and a nurturing mother of four children: daughters: Tiffany Mangum, Crisandra, and Kimberly; one son, Ahmad; and grandmother of five beautiful grandchildren: Alyssa, David Paul, Zharia, Amiaya, and Asha; and

WHEREAS, The City of Fresno recognizes that there are many strong, motivated, hard-working women leaders in our community that go above and beyond for our city; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Councilmember Oliver L. Baines, III, do hereby honor and recognize First Lady Valarie Metoyer-Binion as Council District Three's Woman of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, Mayor Lee Brand and the Fresno City Councilmembers, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 to be:

“First Lady Valarie Metoyer-Binion Day”

in the City of Fresno.

We support the active women leaders in our community. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and admired.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California, this 22nd day of March, 2018.

CITY OF FRESNO

Woman of the Year Award Council District Three

***WHEREAS, MARY A. CURRY**, has been improving our community for over sixty years. She is a trailblazer in the West Fresno community and it is my pleasure to honor her with the 2018 Woman of the Year Award in representing District Three; and*

***WHEREAS, MARY A. CURRY**, is a native of Denver, Colorado. She completed her primary years of education at institutions in Denver and majored in musical education at University of Kansas, and in 1954, she married the love of her life, Dr. Ulysses Curry. They moved to Fresno, California in 1956 and have been positive forces within the community; and*

***WHEREAS, MARY A. CURRY**, founded the Concerned Citizens for Quality Education, an organization that was crucial in the struggle for educational equality in Fresno during the 1970's and 1980's. Mrs. Curry and her group successfully defended further erosion of West Fresno's schools and forced the district to reexamine many of its policies. She has served on the Board of Trustees for the Fresno Unified School District in the 1990's becoming the first African American to hold the post of Board Member and Board President. She served two terms on the Board of Trustees of Fresno Pacific University becoming the first African American to do so. She also served alongside various other organizations including the Fresno City Water Board, waste to energy commission, numerous educational committees and working groups.*

***WHEREAS, MARY A. CURRY**, most recent accomplishments are serving on the Concerned Citizens of West Fresno working thirteen tireless years on getting the City of Fresno to relocate the Darling Rendering Plant, a fight once won that will address environmental concerns in South West Fresno and is the most egregious example of environmental injustices in all of the City of Fresno. The City of Fresno was given an historic opportunity through the Transformative Climate Communities Program (TCC) in 2017. Through the efforts of Mrs. Curry she became the parental voice in the community that solidified the community engagement of TCC. The results of her efforts ensured that the Fresno Community spoke with a single voice in adopting the TCC investment recommendations which led to the awarding of a \$70 Million dollar grant from the State of California to the City of Fresno; and*

***WHEREAS, MARY A. CURRY**, is a devoted wife to Dr. Curry, a loving mother to her children and grandchildren. In their matrimony, they have five children and all of them have undergraduate degrees, with three obtaining their Master's and one obtaining a M.D. Degree. She is an exemplar of how Black Americans from the South justified their move West for a better life with renewed hopes and opportunities for themselves and their family; and*

***WHEREAS;** The City of Fresno recognizes that there are many strong, motivated, hard-working women leaders in our community that go above and beyond for our city; and*

***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council Members, do hereby honor and recognize Mary A. Curry as Council District Three's Woman of the Year; and,*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, Mayor Lee Brand and the Fresno City Councilmembers, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 22nd 2018 to be:*

“Mary A. Curry Day”

in the City of Fresno.

We support the active women leaders in our community. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and admired.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California, this 22nd day of March, 2018

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Councilmember Paul Caprioglio

Woman of the Year Award *Council District Four*

WHEREAS, Belinda “Boggie” Anaya was born in Sanger into a large family of four sisters and three brothers, and has two sons of her own both proudly serving in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Belinda was hired by the Fresno Police Department (PD) in 2002, where her tenacious spirit was quickly recognized, resulting in her elevation to various PD units such as the Northeast District Crime Suppression Team, the Bulldog Tactical Team, and the Violent Crime Suspension Team, ultimately culminating in a promotion to her current position with the Vice Unit in 2011; and

WHEREAS, with the Vice Unit, Belinda has worked tirelessly to combat the horrors of human trafficking by identifying, rescuing, and providing for victims of the sex trade. She has distinguished herself amongst her peers, the legal community, and social service providers as an individual wholeheartedly dedicated to the capture and detention of the criminals who are responsible for these heinous crimes; and

WHEREAS, in her work, Belinda has always put the victim first. In her eyes, the mental and physical well-being of the victim supersedes all other concerns, which is why she is so committed to connecting with victims on a personal level, ensuring that victims obtain the health services they so desperately need, and placing victims in an environment where they can recover and rehabilitate without fear; and

WHEREAS, Detective Anaya serves as the archetypal civil servant, devoted to the selfless pursuit of justice, peace, and safety for all. Belinda is a role model for young women everywhere, and she represents the best and most admirable that the Fresno PD and all of Central California has to offer;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Lee Brand and the Fresno City Councilmembers, do hereby honor and recognize Detective Belinda Anaya as Council District Four’s 2018 Woman of the Year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Lee Brand and the Fresno City Councilmembers, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 22, 2018 to be:

“Detective Belinda “Boggie” Anaya Day”

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have herunto set our hands and affixed the seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 22nd day of March 2018.

CITY OF FRESNO

Office of Mayor Lee Brand & The Fresno City Council

Woman of the Year Award Council District Five

WHEREAS, MATTIE BELL THOMAS has been improving our community since 1965; first beginning with the Education community, by working with the School Site Council, PTA, and Stay In School Club for Girls; and

WHEREAS, MATTIE BELL THOMAS in 1968 began a 32 year career with Fresno Unified School District starting as a Paraprofessional at Kirk Elementary and then promoted to the position of Postal Clerk in 1977 assigned to the Administration Building (AKA: Pink Palace); and

WHEREAS, MATTIE BELL THOMAS in the mid to late 1990's, continued her community improvement efforts by being appointed to the now defunct Fulton Redevelopment Project Committee. She also was instrumental in co-founding Club-Vel Fidelis, a local women's club, under the umbrella of the National Association of Colored Women's Club, Inc. (NACWC, Inc.), the oldest black women's organization in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, MATTIE BELL THOMAS prides herself on providing the ongoing efforts of rebuilding the community which she resides and serves by working with and being members of several organizations: California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), Fresno Unlimited Lions Club, Central Labor Council, Coalition of Labor, and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) local chapter and Retiree Council. She has and currently serves on several boards, with the most recent being President of CSEA Chapter 125; and

WHEREAS, MATTIE BELL THOMAS continues to actively participate in activities at the local, State and National levels that could potentially have an effect on the people of the City of Fresno; and

WHEREAS, MATTIE BELL THOMAS has seven adult children, Christopher D. Thomas (who preceded her in death), Gwendolyn Jackson-Williams (husband Elvy), Gregory Jackson, Monica Howard, Dwayne Perry, Darryl Perry and Desiree Perry. She has one grand-daughter, Sherronda Jackson and three great grandkids, Skylar Grace, Donovan Lyles and Gavin Lyles; and

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF FRESNO recognizes that there are many strong, motivated, hardworking women leaders in our community that go above and beyond for our city; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council Members, do hereby honor and recognize Mattie Bell Thomas as Council District Five's Woman of the Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Lee Brand and the Fresno City Councilmembers, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 to be:

“Mattie Bell Thomas Day”

in the City of Fresno. We support the active women leaders in our community. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and admired.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California, this 22ND day of March, 2018.

City of Fresno

Office of Councilmember Garry Bredefeld

Woman of the Year Award Council District Six

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynn Nile was born in Norfolk, Virginia in July, 1954. She moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts for 2 years as her father attended Harvard Business School. Dr. Nile attended local schools in Ilion, New York throughout her childhood, until graduation from high school in 1972. She attended Syracuse University, her mother's alma mater, and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S in Biology in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynn Nile went on to study medicine at New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York and had the good fortune of obtaining a Health Profession's Scholarship with the U.S. Navy to finance her entire medical education. She went on to study at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, California from 1980-81 as an intern, served as a ship's doctor for 1 year thereafter and then continued her service to the Navy as a General Medical Officer for 5 more years of active duty; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynn Nile completed UCSF Fresno Psychiatry residency training from 1988-1992. She left the USN with the rank of Commander in 1991 after serving in the Naval reserves. She was then hired by the Veteran's Hospital as a staff psychiatrist in September, 1992, where she recently celebrated her 25th year of service to our veterans; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynn Nile continues to work as a full time attending psychiatrist at the VA hospital, which continues to be a very challenging and gratifying pursuit for her. She cares for the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of her patients. She has received many letters of appreciation from her patients over the last several years. Dr. Nile was honored last year with "heartfelt appreciation" by "Caring Veterans of America" for her service to veterans in Madera County and throughout the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynn Nile met her husband, Greg, during medical school. Dr. Nile and her husband, Greg moved to Fresno, Ca. in July, 1987 where they have raised their children and pursued their medical careers. They have been happily married for 34 years with 3 children and 1 grandchild. Their daughter, Kara, son-in-law, Andrew and grandson, Drew recently moved to the East coast, outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their 20 year old son, Sam is a sophomore at UCLA in the school of Theater, Film and Television. Their beloved oldest son, David passed away in October, 2002 after years of medical challenges; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lynn Nile is honored and thankful to have served the Fresno community for the last 30 years. She has a reverent love for God, her family, friends and her veteran patients; and

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF FRESNO recognizes that Dr. Lynn Nile is an inspiration for her generous service to the Veteran Community in our great City; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council Members, do hereby honor, recognize and proclaim Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 to be:

"Dr. Lynn Nile Day"

in the City of Fresno. We support the active women leaders in our community. Your dedication is greatly appreciated and admired.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of The City of Fresno, California. this 22nd day of March 2018

CITY OF FRESNO

Woman of the Year Award *Council District Seven*

WHEREAS, CHALE' WESSON has been improving our community since 2015 when she became the Program Director of 4141 Ministries' Build a Child Program: an after-school and summer educational experience for children based upon the development of assets that every child needs for success in life to thrive and grow into competent and confident adults, and;

WHEREAS, CHALE' WESSON has made an even greater impact through the skills and knowledge gained as a 2016 honors graduate of Fresno Pacific University's Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Restorative Justice Program; and

WHEREAS, CHALE' WESSON has identified key traits that are predictors for success in life, has researched how to teach these traits to children through lessons and activities, and has one year's worth of curriculum written with the goal of publishing so other groups around the world can utilize the critical lessons Chale' has written; and

WHEREAS, CHALE' WESSON has touched countless lives throughout the community by mentoring, tutoring, encouraging, and guiding over 40 youths in the neighborhood surrounding Granny's Park, consistently challenging them to become better stewards of their community, and giving them a place to grow spiritually, physically, and mentally; and

WHEREAS, CHALE' WESSON and her husband, Serafino Wesson, have three children together, Rylahn, 11, Harley, 9, and Ezekiehl, 7, but have dedicated their time to serving the children of the Granny's Park Community through the Build a Child Program as well as volunteering with the Fellowship of Joy and the Saturday Sports Program; and

WHEREAS, THE CITY OF FRESNO recognizes that there are many strong, motivated, hard-working women leaders in our community that go above and beyond for our city; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, Mayor Lee Brand and Fresno City Council Members, do hereby honor and recognize Chale' Wesson as Council District Seven's Woman of the Year; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, Mayor Lee Brand and the Fresno City Councilmembers, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 to be:

“Chale' Wesson Day”

in the City of Fresno.