

# CITY OF FRESNO

*Office of Councilmember Brandon Vang*



## *Dirksen Nhia Khue Moua*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fresno is home to one of the largest Hmong communities in the United States, many of whom resettled in the Central Valley after surviving the aftermath of the United States' withdrawal from Laos in 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, following the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Laos, many Hmong civilians who had been allied with U.S. efforts were left without formal protection and faced displacement, violence, and uncertainty under the newly established communist government; and

**WHEREAS**, the period known within the community as the Silent Suffering and Survival Era, from 1975 to 1988, represents a prolonged humanitarian crisis in which Hmong families endured food shortages, untreated illness, exposure, military violence, and constant movement through mountainous and jungle regions in search of safety; and

**WHEREAS**, survival during this era depended on the courage and leadership of Unrecognized Humanitarian Responders, civilian protectors who guided families through dangerous terrain, helped secure food and water, and supported movement toward safety and passage across the Mekong River; and

**WHEREAS**, among these humanitarian responders were Strategic Aides, individuals who memorized escape routes, scouted ahead for danger, coordinated group movement, and helped safeguard elders, children, and families during one of the most difficult chapters in Hmong history; and

**WHEREAS**, Dirksen Nhia Khue Moua, born June 15, 1959, in Nam Than, Laos, served as a Strategic Aide between 1983 and 1988, guiding hundreds of Hmong families through the jungles during the Silent Suffering and Survival Era and contributing directly to their survival and safe passage; and

**WHEREAS**, since resettling in Fresno in 1989, Mr. Moua has been a proud District 5 resident, small business owner, farmer, and respected elder whose courage, resilience, and lifelong contributions have strengthened the cultural and economic fabric of the Fresno community;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that we, Mayor Jerry P. Dyer and the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim June 25th, 2026, as:

## *“Dirksen Nhia Khue Moua Day”*

**In the City of Fresno**

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Great Seal of the City of Fresno, California, this Twenty-Fifth Day of June of the Year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

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**JERRY P. DYER**, Honorable Mayor

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**NELSON ESPARZA**, Council President

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**TYLER MAXWELL**, Council Vice President

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**ANNALISA PEREA**, Councilmember, District 1

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**MIKE KARBASSI**, Councilmember, District 2

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**MIGUEL ARIAS**, Councilmember, District 3

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**BRANDON VANG**, Councilmember, District 5

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**NICK RICHARDSON**, Councilmember, District 6