

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

Declaring October 14, 2025, as the Free Speech and Public Service Remembrance Day

WHEREAS, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to speak freely, to assemble peaceably, and to participate in the political life of this nation without fear of persecution; and

WHEREAS, throughout American history, leaders and advocates from all political parties, Republican, Democrat, Independent, and others have stood for their convictions, sometimes at the cost of their own lives; and

WHEREAS, from President Abraham Lincoln to President John F. Kennedy, from civil-rights and community leaders to modern voices for civic engagement, our country has mourned the loss of men and women who sought to advance their beliefs through lawful public service and open dialogue; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, there has been a troubling escalation of violence directed toward elected officials and public figures of all political affiliations; and

WHEREAS, conservative leader Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA, was tragically assassinated in 2025 for his outspoken defense of free speech and civic participation, and former President Donald J. Trump, a Republican, survived a near-fatal assassination attempt at a campaign rally in 2024; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota House Speaker Melissa Hortman, a Democrat, and her husband were murdered in June 2025 in a politically motivated attack, and fellow Democratic State Senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette Hoffman were shot and severely wounded during related assaults targeting public servants; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Steve Scalise, a Republican, was shot and critically injured while practicing for the Congressional Baseball Game in 2017, and

WHEREAS, these tragedies serve as solemn reminders that political violence regardless of its target or ideology undermines the very principles of democracy, free speech, and civil leadership that unite the American people; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Kirk's public assassination reminds us that freedom of speech and participation in the political process remain sacred responsibilities that require courage, respect, and a collective commitment to non-violence; and

WHEREAS, Tuolumne County stands united in honoring the right to free speech and those American leaders and advocates who have sacrificed their lives for their beliefs, reaffirming our

shared duty to ensure that every citizen may speak, serve, and participate in public life free from fear or intimidation;

WHEREAS, political leaders and elected officials carry the responsibility of representing the voices, needs, and beliefs of the people who choose them, and they must be able to fulfill that duty to speak, deliberate, lead and debate without fear of violence or the penalty of death;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Tuolumne that:

1. October 14, 2025 shall be recognized as **Free Speech and Public Service Remembrance Day** in Tuolumne County.
2. This day acknowledges the assination and life taken in Charlie Kirk (1993 – 2025) and all-American leaders, advocates, and public servants who have lost their lives because of their political beliefs or public service.
3. The Board reaffirms its commitment to the principles of free speech, open debate, and peaceful participation in government as essential to our nation's strength and unity.
4. The Board encourages citizens, schools, and civic organizations to observe this day through education, dialogue, and acts of public service that promote civility, courage, and respect for differing views.
5. Finally, Supervisor Anaiah Kirk invites every citizen to reach across the political divide and find someone who sees the world differently, share a cup of coffee, and start a conversation. Step away from social media and out of isolation and sit-down face to face with a neighbor. We are human, not machines, and it's only through real connection that we are going to figure this out.