



# PROCLAMATION

## Declaring September 8, 2022 “Roots of Peace Day” in Yountville, California

**WHEREAS**, Roots of Peace is a humanitarian non-profit organization founded in September 1997 by San Francisco Bay Area residents Heidi and Gary Kuhn to fulfill their vision to transform “Mines to Vines” by replacing minefields with sustainable agricultural farmlands around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Roots of Peace is to identify existing challenges in war-torn regions through engagement with local farmers and community members, design intervention aimed at improving safety, quality and production of agricultural lands, increase crop exports to support economic vitality, and generate peace and prosperity through economic independence; and

**WHEREAS**, as Chief Executive Officer, Heidi generated initial support from famed Napa Valley vintners including Robert Mondavi, Miljenko “Mike” Grgich, and Diane Disney Miller, to replace fields ravaged by landmines with vineyards and other agricultural crops; and

**WHEREAS**, Roots of Peace has been recognized for its humanitarian efforts by the United States Government, the United Nations, World Bank, and Rotary International. Heidi and her dedication have been recognized by numerous world leaders including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UN Chef de Cabinet E. Courtenay Rattray, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, His Holiness Pope Francis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and many heads of state and government officials; and

**WHEREAS**, Heidi published her book, “*Breaking Ground*” in April 2020, which is both a memoir and a call to action in her quest to eradicate landmines and plant the roots of peace worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, Roots of Peace celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cultivating peace through agriculture and cultural partnerships. The organization has impacted more than 1 million farmers and families across eight countries, and has helped generate over \$1 billion in agricultural production in those nations; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the September 8 launch of World Affairs Napa Valley, a new chapter of the global affairs organization that was founded in the United States in 1947, Heidi Kuhn will give the keynote address on behalf of Roots of Peace and its global humanitarian effort.

**Now, let it be resolved**, that I, John F. Dunbar, Mayor of the Town of Yountville, declare September 8, 2022 “Roots of Peace Day” in the Town of Yountville. We honor and celebrate the 25 years the organization has dedicated to replacing landmines for grapevines and other crops to support peace and prosperity around the world.

John F. Dunbar, Mayor

Dated: Sept. 8, 2022