

## **Kunkle Field Proclamation**

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Authority is responsible for overseeing and exercising all power, privileges and duties vested in the Airport Board; and

Whereas the Kunkle family has been an integral part of the operation, growth, safety, and expansion of the airport, as well as service to the community for many years; and

Whereas James K. Kunkle is a highly decorated World War II pilot who saw service in the European Theater where he shot down two German Luftwaffe Aircraft before being shot down in his P-38 aircraft over Aachen, Germany in September, 1944 suffering severe burns to his face and hands, a broken back, and missing front teeth resulting in 16 weeks in the hospital; and

Whereas he continued his service to the nation in the post war Air Force including testing and flying the newest jet aircraft, and remained in the Air Force until 1948; and

Whereas James K. Kunkle is a highly decorated veteran earning the Distinguished Service Cross, France's Legion of Honour, Belgium's Croix de Guerre, Air Medal with ten clusters and the Purple Heart; and

Whereas his son James W. Kunkle began his aviation career at the age of eight, working with his father, James K. Kunkle around airplanes and airports his entire life; and

Whereas James W. Kunkle worked on his dad's airport construction projects throughout California, relocating in 1976 to the Santa Ynez Valley where he became a tenant of the Santa Ynez Valley Airport, and was responsible for numerous hangar construction projects on site over the years; and

Whereas James W. Kunkle was elected to the Santa Ynez Airport Board of Directors and served as its President and Airport Manager for over 18 years serving on numerous ad hoc committees, helping oversee the retirement of the original airport debt, and creating, sustaining, and supporting the special character and culture of Santa Ynez Valley Airport; and

Whereas James W. Kunkle was a long-time pilot with multiple private and commercial ratings in fixed wing, float planes, and helicopters who often undertook numerous missions to assist downed or missing flyers; and

Whereas James W. Kunkle was a tireless advocate and supporter of all things related to the airport including updates of its facilities and outreach to the community on behalf of the airport while being totally focused on the betterment of the Santa Ynez Valley Airport; and

Whereas father and son together with grandson Chris Kunkle, also a pilot, maintaining and promoting the legacy of open, friendly, and inclusive spirit, have fostered a very special family feeling at the Santa Ynez Airport;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Board of Directors of the Santa Ynez Valley Airport Authority take this opportunity to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to James K. Kunkle, James W. Kunkle, and Chris Kunkle for their combined years of dedication and valued service to the airport by renaming this facility Santa Ynez Valley Airport – Kunkle Field.**

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