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(R-2009-560)

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 304504

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE DEC 15 2008

WHEREAS, On October 25, 2008, the City of San Diego Human Relations Commission is presenting its first annual "Keith Turnham Humanitarian Award"; and

WHEREAS, Keith Turnham is a purple heart honoree who flew seven strategic bombing missions in Germany from June to July, 1944 and when his plane was involved in a mid air collision, bailed out only to be captured and sent to a German prison camp; and

WHEREAS, Keith detailed his story in his book, Death Denied, and recounts that during those World War II years as a POW, he would suffer incredible injuries and mistreatments by his captors, face starvation, watch his comrades shot and find everything he ever believed in on the verge of eradication; and

WHEREAS, through pure determination, the encouragement of fellow captives and the grace of God, Keith made it through this horrific ordeal and lived to return home to California; and

WHEREAS, Matthew Holley was the son every parent hopes for – a smart, handsome, creative and purpose-filled young man who could have excelled in any profession he chose – Matthew chose to follow in his parents' footsteps and a long proud family line of veterans and became a soldier, serving his country as a Combat Medic in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, in November, 2005, John and Stacey Holley, Matthew's parents, heard the ring of the doorbell that would forever change their lives – on that day they learned that their son

and only child had been killed halfway around the world in Taji, Iraq when an IED exploded under the humvee he was traveling in; and

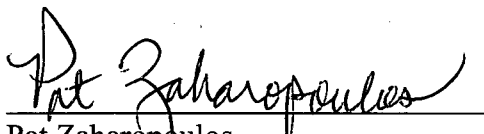
WHEREAS, in the first year after learning of their son's death, John and Stacey Holley channeled their emotional upheaval into action for our fallen heroes and their families and with help from Congressman Duncan Hunter, they were able to advocate for a change in the way our fallen service members are honored for their last measure of devotion to our great nation; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the Holley's diligent efforts, our fallen heroes are now returned home to their families aboard charter jets instead of in the cargo holds of commercial airlines – their caskets met by honor guards in white gloves and crisp uniforms instead of baggage handlers with forklifts; and

WHEREAS, the legislation, signed into law by President Bush in October, 2006, is called the "Holley Provision" in honor of Matthew Holley; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the citizens of San Diego, extends it's grateful appreciation for the Holley Family for their advocacy on behalf of fallen soldiers and their families and hereby proclaims October 25, 2008, as "**JOHN AND STACEY HOLLEY DAY**" in the City of San Diego.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE, City Attorney

By 
Pat Zaharopoulos
Deputy City Attorney

PZ:cw
10/30/08
Or.Dept:Council President Pro Tem-Jim Madaffer
R-2009-560

R 304504

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of DEC 2 2008.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND
City Clerk

By 
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: 12-15-08
(date)


JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: _____
(date)

JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

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