

1 [Declaring May 12, 2009 as John Ross Day]

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3 **Resolution commending John Ross for his service to San Francisco over the past 45**  
4 **years as a writer, poet, journalist, speaker, teacher, and community organizer, and**  
5 **declaring May 12, 2009 to be John Ross Day.**

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7 WHEREAS, John Ross is an author, poet, teacher, journalist, and long-time  
8 community activist and organizer; and,

9 WHEREAS, John Ross has written ten books of fiction and nonfiction, including the  
10 Upton Sinclair Award-winning *Murdered By Capitalism: 150 Years of Life & Death on the*  
11 *American Left* and *Rebellion from the Roots: Zapatista Uprising in Chiapas*; and,

12 WHEREAS, John Ross, as a younger beat poet, produced nine chapbooks of poetry,  
13 greatly contributing to a homegrown San Francisco tradition; and,

14 WHEREAS, John Ross has traveled to some of the most remote and politically  
15 unstable places, putting himself in constant danger, to file journalistic reports for the San  
16 Francisco Bay Guardian, Pacific News Service, Counterpunch, the old San Francisco  
17 Examiner, and other publications and has told stories nobody else could or would tell; and,

18 WHEREAS, John Ross moved to San Francisco in 1964, and became a tenant  
19 organizer and a civil rights activist, fighting for improved housing conditions for low-income  
20 residents of the Mission and participating in historic actions including the sit-ins for black  
21 workers at the Sheraton Palace Hotel and the anti-discrimination protests on Auto Row; and,

22 WHEREAS, John Ross served two and a half years in a federal penitentiary as a  
23 prisoner of conscience after refusing, on moral grounds, to be drafted into the Vietnam War;  
24 and,

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1           WHEREAS, His parole officer told John Ross, as he left federal custody, that he had  
2 “never learned how to be a prisoner,” which sums up Ross’ thirst for freedom for all  
3 oppressed people; and,

4           WHEREAS, John Ross ran for San Francisco Supervisor in 1967, but was removed  
5 from the ballot because of his record of civil disobedience and his role as a war resister, and  
6 was not refunded his filing fee; now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, That the city of San Francisco honors John Ross for his 45 years of  
8 literary and journalistic work and his political principles and passion; and, be it

9           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
10 Francisco urges the Department of Elections to research the 1967 election and give John  
11 Ross a refund, if he is due one; and, be it

12           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the May 12, 2009 Poems Under the Dome poetry event  
13 be held in honor of John Ross and his exceptional contributions to San Francisco’s literary  
14 scene; and, be it

15           FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San  
16 Francisco hereby declares May 12, 2009 to be John Ross Day.

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