

1 [RESOLUTION]

2 COMMENDING NEIL THOMSEN FOR HIS WORK AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND
3 RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA).

4 WHEREAS, Neil L. Thomsen is a dedicated Research Specialist who retired in July of
5 this year from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Sierra Pacific
6 Region, located in San Bruno; and,

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen has given 12 years of devoted service to the public, with
8 particular expertise in the area of Asian American historical/genealogical research; and,
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10 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen has been an incredible resource and unrelenting protector
11 of our past individual and family histories, as well of our collective heritage as native born as
12 well as immigrant Americans; and,
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14 WHEREAS, He has been instrumental in promoting public education and awareness
15 of the unique historical circumstances of our ancestors, whereby they prevailed under some
16 of the most discriminatory immigration laws and policies ever passed in U.S. history, for
17 example the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the establishment of an "Asiatic Barred Zone" which
18 excluded Japanese, Filipinos and others; and,
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20 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen's intimate knowledge and experience with Asian immigrant
21 files is unmatched by any other public official in the entire regional network of offices across
22 the nation operated by the National Archives and Records Administration; and,
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1 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen has been an undeniable "key" to "unlocking" our past --
2 which is often complicated with Chinese "paper son" identities and stories of Japanese
3 "picture brides"; and,

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen was the one to be ever ready to hand us a tissue as we
5 read the many stories and stumbled upon long lost family pictures in the hundreds upon
6 hundreds of case files resting in dusty boxes that rise to the ceilings of the concrete, bunker
7 walls housing the regional National Archives in San Bruno; and,

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen did this not just for us in the Asian American community but
9 for all others, from all other communities and all walks of life as well; and,

10 WHEREAS, His departure will leave a huge chasm in the National Archives, not only in
11 expertise and experience in regards to the files he managed, but also in the way he has
12 helped to educate others about the value, integrity, and treasures that reside in the files; and,

13 WHEREAS, As busy as he was, he never thought any inquiry was too tough or trivial
14 to handle or any 'story' mundane or less than fascinating in its own right; and,

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomsen has been a great protector of our interests to maintain public
16 access and preservation of these historic treasures, these heirlooms of our national family,
17 sometimes at great risk to his own personal welfare and interests; and,

18 WHEREAS, He continues to be a passionate advocate of maintaining public access to
19 and preservation of the many historic treasures housed at the National Archives and Records
20 Administration, particularly at the Pacific Regional Center in San Bruno; and,

1 WHEREAS, Our community of San Francisco, including all ethnic groups of the City
2 and County of San Francisco are indebted to him for preserving our historical materials and
3 protecting our public access to our collective past; now, therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
5 on behalf of the citizens of and the visitors to this City do hereby express our deep
6 appreciation and bestow this commendation with these words: Thank you for a job well done.
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** SUPERVISOR LELAND Y. YEE, PH.D. **
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



City and County of San Francisco

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San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails

Resolution

File Number: 991791

Date Passed:

Resolution commending Neil Thomsen for his work at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

September 27, 1999 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng,
Yaki, Yee

Absent: 1 - Brown

File No. 991791

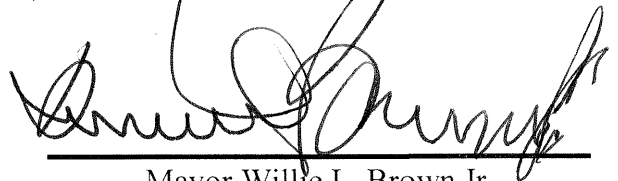
I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on September 27, 1999 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

OCT - 8 1999

Date Approved



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.