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,		Board Item No	36

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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[Oliver W. Sipple Day - September 22, 2011]

Resolution declaring September 22, 2011, as Oliver W. Sipple Day in San Francisco to honor a gay American hero, who on September 22, 1975, saved the life of President Gerald Ford outside of St. Francis Hotel in Union Square in San Francisco.

WHEREAS, February 2, 2011, marked the 22nd anniversary of the passing of Oliver W. Sipple, a working class, gay, disabled, veteran who became a heroic resident of the City of San Francisco; and

WHERAS, On September 22, 1975, Oliver W. Sipple intervened by lunging towards Sara Jane Moore and diverting the direction of the gun she fired in an attempt to assassinate President Gerald Ford as the President was leaving the St. Francis Hotel in Union Square; and

WHEREAS, In the national spotlight after his heroic act, the press exposed Mr. Sipple as a gay man, contrary to his wishes; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sipple had to face the scorn of his parents who refused to talk to him when they discovered his sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sipple fought back, by filing an invasion of privacy lawsuit against seven newspapers for violating his request to maintain his private life private; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sipple was also a decorated US Marine and Vietnam veteran who was forced to end his tour of duty prematurely when he was injured by shrapnel during combat; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors recognizes Oliver W. Sipple as a gay American veteran and hero; and, be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED, In recognition of the special contributions of Mr. Sipple to our city and country, the San Francisco Board of Supervisor declares September 22, 2011, Oliver W. Sipple day.

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