

Resolution Honoring Armstrong Redwoods 75th Anniversary

Whereas, Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve is celebrating its 75th Anniversary as a State Park of California in 2009; and

Whereas, Colonel James B. Armstrong purchased the land known today as Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve in October 1874, cared for the land and developed a plan for a trust to save his redwood forest for public use; and

Whereas, following her father's death in 1900, Lizzie Armstrong Jones chose a tree in the redwood grove to honor her father, calling it the "Monarch of the Forest", which was measured at 308 feet in 1970 and is approximately 1400 years old; and

Whereas, in 1907 Harrison LeBaron, his six sons, and Luther Burbank joined the fight to preserve Armstrong Grove. In 1908 Harrison LeBaron was given an option on part of this grove; and

Whereas, in August 1916, Lizzie Armstrong, Senator Price, and the LeBaron Estate Company launched a concerted effort to save Armstrong Woods; and by election in 1916 a proposal to purchase Armstrong Woods by the County of Sonoma passed by a two-to-one margin, and in 1917 the property became a County Park; and

Whereas, Armstrong Woods was acquired by the State of California as part of the purchase of Sonoma Coast State Beach 75 years ago in 1934; and

Whereas, in 1964, the redwood grove was designated as Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve to provide for a higher level of protection; and

Whereas, in 1985 Stewards of Slavianka (now Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods) became a cooperating association for State Parks supporting volunteer interpretive programs in the Russian River District; and

Whereas, in 2008 the Park was renamed Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma commends California State Parks and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for their work in preserving the largest old growth redwood grove open to the public in Sonoma County, and for their continued efforts to promote education and stewardship for our treasured natural and cultural resource heritage.