

- k. Adopt Posthumous Commendation for Colonel Tran Thanh Dien for his service in the Republic of Vietnam Navy and contributions to the Vietnamese American community. (Chavez) (ID# 24-5510)

- WHEREAS,** Colonel Trần Thanh Điền was born on November 18, 1938, in the Sóc Trăng Province of Vietnam. In 1962, he graduated from the Vietnam Naval Academy Class 10 and served on Gunboat HQ 327. In 1964, he studied Transportation and Traffic Management at the United States Naval School in Oakland, California. He then returned to Vietnam and served as a Transportation Officer at the Republic of Vietnam Navy Headquarters;
- WHEREAS,** Colonel Trần Thanh Điền's strong leadership and command of his naval officers gave rise to an illustrious military career. In 1967, Trần Thanh Điền was promoted to Commanding Officer of the 28th River Assault Division. From 1968 to 1970, Trần Thanh Điền served as a Navy Aide to President Nguyễn Văn Thiệu of the Republic of Vietnam. In 1970, Trần Thanh Điền was selected to attend the Senior Officer Intelligence Course at the U.S. Army Intelligence School at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1975, Trần Thanh Điền was promoted to the rank of Naval Captain and appointed Chief of Security by President Nguyễn Văn Thiệu;
- WHEREAS,** after the Fall of Saigon, Colonel Trần Thanh Điền resettled in America and continued his service to country and community. In 1983, he served as the Director of Security, Operations, and Training for the 8th Special Support Group, California State Military Reserve. From 1987 to 1989, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff for the Civil Military Operations, North Area Command, California State Military Reserve;
- WHEREAS,** since 1994, Colonel Trần Thanh Điền served as an advisor to the former South Vietnam Armed Forces Alliance. Since 2015 he served as President of the Vietnamese Mutual Assistance Fund, which provides financial and community support to the surviving family members of veterans of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces. Colonel Trần Thanh Điền also served as President of the Sóc Trăng Province Association; and
- WHEREAS,** Colonel Trần Thanh Điền, a decorated veteran, war hero, community activist, and beloved leader of the Vietnamese American community, passed away on March 8, 2024.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara does hereby posthumously recognize and commend

## Colonel Trần Thanh Điền

for his valor and service to the Vietnamese people at home and abroad. He will be deeply missed by the community and residents of Santa Clara County who have benefitted from his contributions and leadership.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED,** by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Clara, State of California, on this Sixteenth Day of April, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four by unanimous vote.

Susan Ellenberg  
President, Board of Supervisors

Sylvia Arenas  
Supervisor, District One

Cindy Chavez  
Supervisor, District Two

Otto Lee  
Supervisor, District Three

Approved as to form and legality:

S. Joseph Simitian  
Supervisor, District Five

  
Tony LoPresti  
County Counsel

Attest: Curtis Boone  
Acting Clerk, Board of  
Supervisors

County of Santa Clara  
Supervisory District Two



24-5510

**DATE:** April 16, 2024

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Cindy Chavez, Supervisor

**SUBJECT:** Posthumous Commendation for Colonel Tran Thanh Dien

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Adopt Posthumous Commendation for Colonel Tran Thanh Dien for his service in the Republic of Vietnam Navy and contributions to the Vietnamese American community. (Chavez)

Adopted: 04/16/2024