

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. 81941 C.M.S.

Introduced by Council Member Jean Quan

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009 AS MARJ SAUNDERS DAY IN RECOGNITION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY AND HER INSPIRATIONAL EXAMPLE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVISM OVER MORE THAN 60 YEARS ON BEHALF OF HER BELOVED OAKLAND

WHEREAS, Marjorie Saunders has been a community activist and staunch advocate of Oakland's parks, open space, schools and other public institutions since the 1940s, when she moved to Montclair to raise her family, and helped found the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association, serving on the Board of Directors since the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, she assisted the City of Oakland in the acquisition of the former Boy Scouts Camp that became Joaquin Miller Elementary School in 1950 and Montera Middle School in 1959 and then worked to pass the bond issue that allowed construction of these schools, where she later served for many years as vice chair of the PTA at both schools; and

WHEREAS, she was one of the key leaders in defeating a proposed 4-lane highway on Skyline Boulevard, preserving it as a country road for future generations of urban dwellers to be able to appreciate the rural setting within their city; and

WHEREAS, she assisted in the re-opening of Chelton Road after the devastating rains and mud slides in the 1960s, and led appeals before the City Council and the Planning Commission on many zoning matters to preserve the quality of life in the Oakland Hills area; and

WHEREAS, she helped lead efforts to pass the Measure K Open Space Bond Measure in 1990, which resulted in construction of the Joaquin Miller Community Center where she was vice chairman of the building committee and continues to serve on the center's Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, she has been active in many volunteer efforts, including serving as a leader of the Oakland Youth Group at St. Paul Lutheran Church, past chair of Children's Hospital Redwood Chapter, fund raiser and recruiter for the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, founder of Partner in Caring (PICS) thrift shop supporting the Salem Retirement Home, former Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader, past-president and continuing member since the 1940s of the Hillside Garden Club, member of Oakland Potluck where she picked up food from grocery stores in her car and delivered it to various relief agencies in

Oakland, and most recently, helped in the efforts to preserve Beaconsfield Canyon as open space; and

WHEREAS, she has received a number of accolades and commendations over the years from the City of Oakland in recognition of her outstanding community efforts, including a 1980 award recognizing her 40 years of dedicated service and valuation contributions to the City of Oakland; a 1988 award for her valuable contributions of time and service to the community and a 1990 award from the Office of Parks & Recreation for her devotion and dedication to Parks and Recreation as a Community Service Honoree, and a 2004 Certificate of Appreciation from the Public Works Agency for her years of service to the Keep Oakland Beautiful Adopt-a-spot program; and

WHEREAS, the spot that she adopted—the 2-acre Sulphur Springs Park at the intersection of Ascot and Chelton in the Montclair hills—was renamed Marj Saunders Park in 2004 in recognition of her long-time efforts to preserve the beauty of the Oakland hills; and

WHEREAS, Marj Saunders will celebrate her 100th birthday on Saturday, May 9; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the City Council hereby proclaims Saturday, May 9, 2009 as Marj Saunders Day in recognition of her 100th birthday and her inspirational example of community activism over more than 60 years on behalf of her beloved Oakland.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, MAY 5 2009

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, DE LA FUENTE, KAPLAN, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, QUAN, ~~REID~~, AND PRESIDENT BRUNNER - 7


NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

Excused - Reid - 1

ATTEST:


LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California