

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING MAY 21, 2020, AS BEN KELLY DAY IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, Benjamin ("Ben") Jones Kelly, a native of Orange County who was born on May 21, 1993, moved to the Pleasure Point area of Santa Cruz several years ago with the love of his life, Katie, with whom he just celebrated his third wedding anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Ben and Katie made their Christian faith and love for Jesus an integral part of their daily life, worshipping at the Calvary Chapel in Capitola and at Twin Lakes Church in Aptos; and

WHEREAS, Ben and Katie started a digital marketing company called Authentic Approach that focused on serving people and helping small businesses build their brand online; and

WHEREAS, Ben began his love for the craft of hand shaping surf boards while studying in college at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa where he met Katie, and which ultimately led to the creation of his brand, Ben Kelly Surfboards; and

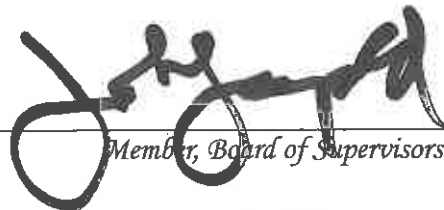
WHEREAS, just as he believed God was his shaper who used grace and love as His tools, Ben designed and hand signed every board to commemorate the crafting process before handing it off to a new owner to enjoy for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Ben practiced his belief that surfing was so much more than just catching waves – it was about the people he met and the continuous grand adventures that made it fun while blessing others along the way; and

WHEREAS, Ben made a lasting impression on his community and set an example through his adventurous spirit, his humble attitude, his readiness to admit his faults, his giving and accepting of grace, and his striving to live and love better; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2020, Ben's life tragically ended too soon when he set out to surf in the Monterey Bay waters at "The Beaches," a stretch from Sand Dollar Beach past Manresa and La Selva Beaches with a few of his closest friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Leopold, Santa Cruz County First District Supervisor, hereby proclaim May 21, 2020, as "Ben Kelly Day" in Santa Cruz County, and urge all citizens to join in the celebration of his life to honor, love and remember the loss of a legend who epitomized serving the community and always helping a friend or a stranger in need.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Leopold", is written over a horizontal line.

Member, Board of Supervisors

May 19, 2020

Date