

**Yolo County
Board of Supervisors**

Resolution No. 25-26

***Honoring Fire Chief Cherie Rita for Her Exemplary Leadership with the
West Plainfield Fire Department***

WHEREAS, Fire Chief Cherie Rita has devoted 42 years of dedicated service to the West Plainfield Fire Department, beginning as a volunteer in 1982, and demonstrating unwavering commitment, resilience, and leadership throughout her distinguished career; and

WHEREAS, Chief Rita's early accomplishments, including becoming a Fire Lieutenant in 1987 and playing a critical role in standardizing rural addresses in Yolo County, exemplified her dedication to improving safety and organization for her community; and

WHEREAS, Chief Rita made history in 1994 when she became the first female Fire Chief in Yolo County, setting a trailblazing example for future generations of public safety leaders; and

WHEREAS, Chief Rita's leadership extended beyond the West Plainfield Fire Department, as she took on influential roles within state and county fire organizations, elevating the profession and setting an unparalleled example in the organization; and

WHEREAS, Chief Rita was instrumental in establishing the California Community College Public Safety, Ethics, and Leadership Program in 2003, a legacy that continues to shape the next generation of public safety leaders; and

WHEREAS, Chief Rita served in leadership roles with the Fire Districts Association of California, and as the Region IV Operational Area Coordinator, shaping the response to emergencies in Yolo County and throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, the West Plainfield Fire Department entered into a Joint Operating Agreement with the Willow Oak and Winters Fire Departments, expanded staffing and services, and secured crucial funding to improve fire and emergency response, ensuring the safety of countless individuals in the community; and

WHEREAS, Chief Rita's legacy as a mentor, leader, and trailblazer will continue to inspire both the members of the West Plainfield Fire Department and the broader community, having left an indelible mark on the safety, well-being, and success of all those she served.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors hereby commends and thanks Fire Chief Cherie Rita for her remarkable 42 years of volunteer service to the West Plainfield Fire Department and her unwavering commitment to the betterment of the community and wishes her all the best in her well-deserved retirement and in her future endeavors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of March 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Allen, Barajas, Villegas, Frerichs, Vixie Sandy.

Mary Vixie Sandy, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors