

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

**NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

**Recognizing Second District Veteran of the Year Honorees**

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1918 at the end of the First World War. The purpose of the day was to honor fallen soldiers of the Great War for their bravery and sacrifice. In 1926, Congress adopted a resolution for an annual observance, and in 1938, November 11 became a national holiday in the United States (U.S.) of America. In 1954, Congress amended the Act of 1938 by inserting the word 'Veterans' and striking out the word 'Armistice,' and thus November 11 became a day to honor U.S. veterans of all wars.

This year, the Second Supervisorial District celebrates and honors our veterans for their patriotism, love of our county, and sacrifice for the common good. The 2021 Veteran of the Year honorees are as follows:

Kathy Cash is a peer support specialist with passion for advocating for women veterans. A U.S. Army Veteran, Cash has continued her service to the community by advocating for veterans' rights and teaching them the art of self-advocacy. She has dedicated her time to presenting at national and local conferences to educate the public on the needs of veterans. She prides herself as a resource guru. Cash provides hope, encouragement, and is a role model for all.

Sherman Watson, Jr. served three tours of duty in Iraq as a heavy machine gunner with the U.S. Marine Corps. He was awarded the Purple Heart on each deployment. After his service, Watson and a fellow Marine started the non-profit organization Compton

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MOTION

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

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Veterans to connect veterans returning from active duty and to revitalize underserved communities. Watson has led community service projects to restore, build, and rehabilitate public spaces, such as parks, playgrounds, and schools. He has empowered youth through his Compton Veterans Youth Boot Camp, promoting education and self-esteem. Through his work as a Housing Specialist at the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, Watson directly impacts the lives of hundreds of unhoused veterans by helping them find permanent housing and acquire skills necessary to restore their lives.

Staff Sergeant Dave Culmer joined the Montfort Point Marines in 1949, becoming one of the first African-Americans allowed to join the U.S. Marine Corps (Corps). He was a member of the last platoon to complete training at segregated Camp Montfort Point in North Carolina. Culmer served in China, Japan, Okinawa, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. After 23 years of service, Culmer retired from the Corps and went to work for the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs as a counselor. He served as a Commissioner and a Chairman of the Los Angeles (L.A.) Veterans Advisory Commission, on the board of the National Veterans Foundation, and as a Service Director for the L.A. County Council of the American Legion. Culmer received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2012 and was inducted into the Montfort Point Marine Association, Inc. Hall of Fame in 2018.

W. James Sargent, IV is an Air Force veteran who has committed his adult professional life to public service and is dedicated to uplifting, empowering, and creating opportunities for youth and communities of color. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Sargent served as an Air Force officer and as an admissions advisor in the Air Force Academy's minority enrollment office, focused on increasing the diversity of the institution. After concluding his military service, he began a legal career handling the most serious instances of violence in the L.A. District Attorney's Office. Presently a member of the Community Violence Reduction Division, Sargent serves as the District Attorney's community liaison to South L.A. where he advises law enforcement on community policing and supports community driven efforts to increase public safety.

Sterling Barbour is a U.S. Army Veteran who has dedicated his time to providing vocational training to veterans through an academy in Carson. Barbour collaborates with the local community to successfully place every veteran he trains into employment and

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ensures they gain self-sustainability. A Vietnam War Veteran, Barbour and his wife developed a non-profit organization, Veterans Advocacy Group of America, to serve Thanksgiving meals for homeless veterans. Last year alone, the group fed 200 families. Barbour dedicates his personal time to ensure that veterans are successful in their personal goals.

We express our deepest gratitude to all the honorees.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. In honor of Veterans Day 2021 in Los Angeles County, acknowledge and recognize the contributions of Kathy Cash, Sherman Watson, Jr., Dave Culmer, W. James Sargent, IV, and Sterling Barbour for their service to the United States of America and dedication to the veteran community in the Second Supervisorial District.

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