

Memorandum

September 21, 2018

To: MJC College Council

From: George Boodrookas, Executive Director, MJC Foundation

Subject: Naming of the MJC Veteran Resource Center in Honor of Mr. Ron Tingley

It is with great pleasure that I write to recommend the naming of the Modesto Junior College Veteran Resource Center in memory of Mr. Ron Tingley. This recommendation is made pursuant to Yosemite Community College District Policy and Administrative Procedure 6620. The “criteria for naming” section of the administrative procedure states that “from time to time the District may want to honor the extraordinary, distinguished contributions to the Colleges and/or the District. Such naming opportunities shall be proposed no earlier than five years from the time of the individual’s separation from the District or, if the person is deceased, from the time of their passing.” Ron Tingley certainly made an extraordinary contribution to our college. He was a true force in community college education and counseling at Modesto Junior College. He helped thousands of students over a 41 year career.

Ron Tingley was a beloved counselor at Modesto Jr. College from 1971 until 2014. Upon his retirement in 2006, Ron continued with part-time counseling service to the college until his passing on September 9, 2014. Ron Tingley attended MJC from 1965-67. He earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology and a Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology from Calif. State University San Jose. He loved the range of diverse student backgrounds and interests energizing and was greatly fulfilled by his work helping students. He was highly committed to a student-centered philosophy in all aspects of his service.

Ron Tingley was instrumental in the creation, establishment, and operation of the MJC Veteran Resource Center. An excerpt from his obituary reads, “Ron started the Veteran Resource Center three years ago as a permanent place for vets to meet, study, and share camaraderie. It was a passion for him to remain connected with and support the heroes of our

country.” Ron joined forces with community partners and resources to provide assistance and support to veterans. He established peer and spousal support groups and trained veterans to co-facilitate these groups. Ron could always be counted on to manage crisis events and resolve issues that allowed veteran students to stay in school and sometimes keep them vibrant and positive about life. Indeed, at times, Ron saved students’ lives.

Ron Tingley also was the instrumental force behind the MJC Re-Entry Program. Through his diligent, hard work in designing, then redesigning courses and program operation, he successfully enabled Modesto Junior College to open its doors to embrace returning students into the foreign world of college again.

A special subcommittee of the MJC Foundation Board of Directors has approved this naming recommendation. Now we ask the College Council for its support for this naming opportunity. All YCCD procedures for college naming opportunities including signage will be followed meticulously. We ask for approval on September 24, 2018, so that we might submit a formal agenda item request to the YCCD Board of Trustees by Tuesday, September 25, 2018. Thank you all for your consideration.