



*Town of Yountville*

*"The Heart of the Napa Valley"*

# PROCLAMATION

## In Memory of Sally Schmitt

**WHEREAS**, Sally Schmitt was born Sarah Elizabeth Kelsoe on February 28, 1932 in Roseville, CA, and grew up in the Sacramento Valley. Schmitt was quoted, "As soon as I was ready, my mother put a paring knife in my hand, and I peeled potatoes. And when she thought I was ready for a larger knife, I was cutting vegetables by her side."; and

**WHEREAS**, Sally was a visionary chef whose cooking focused on simple, classic dishes made with fresh, local and seasonal ingredients – a style that would become known as California cuisine; and

**WHEREAS**, Sally and husband Don Schmitt were married in 1953. They moved to Yountville in 1967 to manage the Vintage 1870 retail shops. Soon after, Sally took over a hamburger-and-sandwich shop in town. Four years later, she opened the Chutney Kitchen.

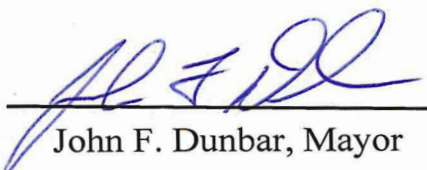
**WHEREAS**, in 1974, they purchased the stone building on Washington Street that once housed a French steam laundry business and spent four years renovating the building before opening the French Laundry in 1978. The restaurant quickly grew in popularity with Don in charge of wine service and Sally running the kitchen operation. After 16 years as a highly-acclaimed dining experience enjoyed by locals and visitors alike, the Schmitts sold the French Laundry to Chef Thomas Keller in 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, Sally and Don were true Yountvillians who left an indelible mark on the history of Yountville and launched the Town's reputation as the culinary capital of Napa Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, the Schmitts moved to The Apple Farm in Philo, CA, following the sale of the French Laundry. After a period of active retirement, Don passed in 2017. Sally died at the age of 90 on March 5, 2022.

**Now, therefore let it be resolved**, that I, John F. Dunbar, Mayor of the Town of Yountville, on behalf of the Town Council and the entire Yountville community, recognize the incredible contributions that Sally Schmitt and her husband, Don, made to make Yountville a special community and a leader in the culinary world.



  
John F. Dunbar, Mayor