

1 [Honoring the Life and Legacy of Basalle Wong]

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3 **Resolution honoring the remarkable life and legacy of Mrs. Basalle Wong, a true San**
4 **Franciscan who embodied the spirit of hard work and the opportunities of home**
5 **ownership as a cornerstone of a prosperous family life; and extending condolences to**
6 **her family and loved ones.**

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8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Basalle Wong, a longtime San Franciscan and pillar of the Chinese
9 American community, the mother of four, a grandmother of ten and the great grandmother of
10 seven, passed away on March 13, 2026 at the age of 96; and

11 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong and her husband, Harlin Wong, a WW II veteran, immigrated
12 from China and began their family in San Francisco in 1947, putting down roots in the
13 Richmond District; and

14 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong became the proprietor and operator of the “27th Avenue
15 Market”, a corner grocery store in the Richmond District in San Francisco in 1959, while her
16 husband served as an agent with the U.S. Treasury Department who later became the first
17 U.S. Customs Inspector of Chinese descent in the U.S. Mainland; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong raised four children, proud products of the San Francisco
19 public school system and graduates of UC Berkeley, who later established respectable
20 careers in law, medicine, and real estate; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite limited formal education in the United States, Mrs. Wong launched
22 a trailblazing career as one of the first Chinese American women realtors in San Francisco in
23 1965; and

1 WHEREAS, With her keen business acumen and social and bilingual skills, she
2 became a legendary real estate agent who helped enabled scores of emerging middle-class
3 Chinese Americans to realize their dream as first time homeowners; and

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong maintained an uninterrupted active real estate licensure for 60
5 years and founded her own real estate and management brokerage, Basalle Wong Realty,
6 Inc., with offices in the Richmond District, serving San Franciscans for over 50 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong's professionalism and dedication to service was acknowledged
8 by her peers as a past president of the Chinese American Real Estate Association, a founding
9 member of the Gateway Savings and Loan Bank, and other business ventures; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong was one of the founders of the Chinese Grace Baptist Church
11 in San Francisco's Richmond District, providing bilingual faith-based services for multiple
12 generations; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wong, who never retired, always preferring a good hard day's work to
14 unstructured leisurely days, has continued her uninterrupted career through age 96 when a
15 brief illness in January 2026 resulted in her precipitous but peaceful passing; and

16 WHEREAS, On March 13, 2026, Mrs. Wong was surrounded by her proud and loving
17 family, marking the end of a remarkable life of contribution in making San Francisco a thriving
18 place for diverse communities; and now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors recognizes the life and legacy of Mrs.
20 Basalle Wong, a true San Franciscan who embodied the spirit of hard work and the
21 opportunities of home ownership as a cornerstone of a prosperous family life and expresses
22 its gratitude and condolences to her family and loved ones.

