

**Resolution  
Honoring the Retirement of  
Superior Court Judge John Nho Trong Nguyen**

WHEREAS, At the age of 16, John Nguyen, his family, and more than one-million North Vietnamese made their way south, away from communist forces, following the partition of Vietnam per the 1954 Geneva Accords. More than 20 years later, he made his second escape from communism by boarding a helicopter on the roof of the American Embassy an hour before the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; and

WHEREAS, The first in his family to be college-educated, John put his engineering degree in forestry to use as an infantry officer in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam; he later served on the National Assembly of (South) Vietnam where he was elected as an Associate Justice on the Constitutional Special Supreme Court of South Vietnam, dedicating himself to spreading political and economic justice while enacting some of the most important land reform bills in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Arriving at a refugee center at Camp Pendleton after his flight from the U.S. Embassy, he soon found a job as a handyman's assistant while completing his MBA from Cal Poly Pomona; in 1981 he earned his Juris Doctor from Western State University College of Law, passing the Bar exam the same year; and

WHEREAS, He began his legal career as a Deputy Public Defender, later, Deputy Attorney General for the California Department of Justice; in July 2000 he was appointed to the Superior Court of California in Orange County by Governor Gray Davis—the first Vietnamese-American judge in Orange County—from where he officially retired on September 25, 2013; and

WHEREAS, His humanitarian endeavors include aiding in the resettlement of more than 1,000 Southeast Asian refugees in the U.S., and honors that include 2001 induction into the Western State University College of Law Hall of Fame; 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sister City Association of Garden Grove; and named Judge of the Year in 2005 by the West Orange County Bar Association and in 2008 by the Orange County Asian American Business Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Garden Grove City Council does hereby venerably honor Judge John Nho Trong Nguyen on the occasion of his retirement, commending his professional career, humanitarian actions, and inspirational life story.

Approved for Agenda Listing

**November 12, 2013**

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Bruce A Broadwater, *Mayor*

  
**Matthew Fertal**  
City Manager

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Dina Nguyen, *Mayor Pro Tem*

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Steven R. Jones, *Council Member*

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Kris Beard, *Council Member*

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Christopher V. Phan, *Council Member*