

## **RESOLUTION 2025-09**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY APPROVING THE NAMING OF THE STREET THROUGH MEMORIAL PARK FROM OAK STREET TO RACE STREET AS "LOU CONTER WAY"**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Grass Valley is committed to recognizing distinguished community members and military heroes who have made significant contributions to the nation and local community; and

**WHEREAS**, Lou Conter (1921–2024) was a highly decorated U.S. Navy veteran and a longtime Grass Valley resident, whose heroic actions and military service exemplify courage, dedication, and sacrifice; and

**WHEREAS**, Lou Conter was the last surviving crew member of the USS Arizona, which was tragically lost during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and on that day, he displayed exceptional bravery in aiding and evacuating wounded shipmates; and

**WHEREAS**, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Lou Conter continued his distinguished military career through service in World War II and the Korean War, earning the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic role in rescuing 219 Australians in New Guinea; and

**WHEREAS**, Lou Conter further served as an intelligence officer and advisor to Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson and played a pivotal role in developing the U.S. Navy's Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) training program; and

**WHEREAS**, among his many honors, Lou Conter received the Navy Commendation Medal and was the first recipient of the USS Arizona Medal of Freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, after retiring as a Lieutenant Commander in 1967, Lou Conter dedicated his life to educating future generations through veterans' ceremonies and student lectures, ensuring that the sacrifices of those who served would never be forgotten; and

**WHEREAS**, naming a street in Memorial Park in his honor serves as a fitting and lasting tribute to his legacy, ensuring that his service, heroism, and dedication to the nation and the Grass Valley community are memorialized for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed street renaming has been reviewed and recommended by City staff, and the minor cost associated with signage and administrative updates will be covered under the existing city budget for park maintenance and improvements.

### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

The City Council of the City of Grass Valley hereby approves the naming of the street through Memorial Park, from Oak Street to Race Street, as "Lou Conter Way" in honor of Lieutenant Commander Lou Conter's distinguished service and contributions to the community and the nation.

**ADOPTED** as a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Grass Valley at a regular meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025 by the following vote:

AYES: Council Member

NOES: Council Member

ABSENT: Council Member

ABSTAINING: Council Member

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Hilary Hodge, Chair

ATTEST:

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Taylor Whittingslow, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Michael Colantuono, City Attorney