

1 [Resolution Commemorating the Cliff House Restaurant on its Centennial of the 1909  
2 Building]

3 **Resolution Celebrating the Cliff House on its Centennial of the 1909 building.**  
4

5 WHEREAS, The Cliff House was first built in 1863 by Senator John Buckley and C.C.  
6 Butler; and

7 WHEREAS, People are drawn from all over the world to visit this exceptional restaurant  
8 and its spectacular views; and

9 WHEREAS, The Cliff House was renovated in 1868 and became known as the meeting  
10 place for local politicians as well as a popular destination for less than savory citizens from  
11 across the Barbary Coast; and

12 WHEREAS, Local philanthropist Adolph Sutro purchased the Cliff House in 1883 and  
13 directed his management to eliminate scandalous behavior and bring back local families; and

14 WHEREAS, The Cliff House was damaged when an abandoned schooner loaded with  
15 dynamite crashed into the rocks below the Cliff House in 1887, and a chimney fire engulfed  
16 the property on Christmas day in 1894; and

17 WHEREAS, Sutro then spent \$75,000 to fashion the Cliff House into a French Chateau  
18 style; and

19 WHEREAS, Visited by two U.S presidents, William McKinley and Teddy Roosevelt,  
20 and many other famous citizens from around the globe, Sutro's aspiration to share the  
21 splendor of the Cliff House gathered crowds and remained a local favorite for many San  
22 Franciscans; and

1           WHEREAS, After the death of Adolph Sutro in 1898, his stunning Cliff House was  
2 leased to John Tait of Tait's at the Beach, who put in extensive remodeling for its opening  
3 day; and

4           WHEREAS, After surviving the 1906 earthquake, this architectural beauty succumbed  
5 to a fire in 1907 where it burned down to its base; and

6           WHEREAS, Adolph Sutro's daughter, Dr. Emma Merrit, joined with John Tait to rebuild  
7 the Cliff House estate after the fire; and

8           WHEREAS, A traditional and modest Cliff House reopened in 1909 designed into a  
9 neoclassical style in which 100 years later still stands today; and

10           WHEREAS, After decades of being shut down, renovated, leased and owned by  
11 several investors, the Cliff House was acquired by Golden Gate National Recreation Area in  
12 1977; and

13           WHEREAS, Dan and Mary Hountalas, the 35 year long proprietors of the Cliff House,  
14 joined with the National Parks Service to renovate the property to its original 1909  
15 neoclassical design and build a new wing housing Sutro's restaurant and looking over Sutro  
16 Baths; and

17           WHEREAS, The Cliff House continues to serve San Francisco residents as well as  
18 citizens from all the over the world who visit for its rich history, elegant atmosphere,  
19 magnificent food, and charming views of the Pacific Ocean; now, therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
21 does hereby pay tribute to the Cliff House on its Centennial Celebration of the 1909 building.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 091256

Date Passed:

Resolution celebrating the Cliff House on its Centennial of the 1909 building.

November 3, 2009 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 10 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Elsbernd, Mar,  
Maxwell, Mirkarimi

Absent: 1 - Dufty

File No. 091256

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on November 3, 2009 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

11-10-09

Date Approved

Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom