

WHEREAS, Ivan Sutherland was born in 1938 in Hastings, Nebraska, the son of a civil engineer and teacher who encouraged an appreciation for learning, a trait which cultivated Ivan’s visual thinking skills into an astounding and pioneering career in computer graphics and advanced technology; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Sutherland’s career includes academia, government and industry, and included a wealth of accomplished colleagues, aspiring scientists, friends and family, including his wife Marly Roncken, two children, Juliet and Dean, brother Bert, and four grandchildren; many of them will share in the celebration of Ivan’s 70th birthday this year; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Sutherland’s accomplishments began at an early age; as a young student he favored geometry as a tool of visual imagery which enabled him to learn computer programming, a skill seldom found in high school students at the time; Ivan went on to earn a B.S. from Carnegie Mellon University, a M.S. from California Institute of Technology, and a Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where his dissertation produced “Sketchpad,” a unique program which became the foundation for what is now commonly known as a Graphical User Interface; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Sutherland’s career has spanned a tour of duty in the Army, faculty positions at Harvard University, the University of Utah, and the California Institute of Technology, founding of innovative companies which witnessed longevity and success; Ivan currently holds the prestigious position of Vice President and Fellow of Sun Microsystems, and holds more than 60 patents, authored over 50 publications, is a member of the most elite professional academies, and is known as having given the world concepts such as 3-D computer modeling, visual simulation, and helped launch computers into use as household and commercial tools; and

WHEREAS, Ivan Sutherland’s legacy as a mentor is unequalled, sharing his skills and knowledge, offering positive and constructive feedback, as well as introduction to challenging projects; throughout the years he listened without judgment, evaluated fairly, accepted flaws, praised appropriately, honored confidentiality, and always exhibited respect and sensitivity to people and issues; Ivan has empowered individuals to reach their full potential, and therefore, has made the world a better place;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California does hereby honor and commend

Ivan Sutherland

for his creative vision and pioneering accomplishments as an engineer, and for his thoughtful and insightful mentorship to students, colleagues and friends.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this Twentieth Day of May , Two Thousand Eight by unanimous vote.

Pete McHugh, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Donald F. Gage
Supervisor, District One

Blanca Alvarado
Supervisor, District Two

Ken Yeager
Supervisor, District Four

Liz Kniss
Supervisor, District Five

Attest: Phyllis A. Perez
Clerk, Board of Supervisors