

## STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 16, 2017

**9. WATERFOWLER'S HALL OF FAME****Today's Item**Information Action 

Recognize newly inducted members of the California Waterfowler's Hall of Fame.

**Summary of Previous/Future Actions**

FGC has annually recognized inductees into the California Waterfowler's Hall of Fame through the presentation of signed Fish and Game Commission resolutions.

**Background**

This year's inductees or their representatives will be presented with certificates by the California Waterfowl Association; inductees are Tupper Ansel Blake, Honorable Robert "Bob" Cline, Tony A. Marnell II, Larry Merlo and Ed Smith.

**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Resolution for Tupper Ansel Blake](#)
2. [Resolution for Robert "Bob" Cline](#)
3. [Resolution for Tony A. Marnell II](#)
4. [Resolution for Larry Merlo](#)
5. [Resolution for Ed Smith](#)

**Motion/Direction**

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ that the Commission recognizes Tupper Ansel Blake, Robert "Bob" Cline, Tony A. Marnell II, Larry Merlo and Ed Smith as members of the California Waterfowler's Hall of Fame.

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION HONORING

# TUPPER ANSEL BLAKE

**WHEREAS**, the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing waterfowl and their habitats in California; and

**WHEREAS**, many wildlife professionals, have dedicated their life's work to management and research to conserve waterfowl and their habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, many sportsmen and other conservationists have served a critical role in conserving our waterfowl resource by preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats, managing agricultural habitats with wildlife in mind, and implementing other land uses specifically designed to benefit the waterfowl resource; and

**WHEREAS**, some sportsmen and other conservationists have significantly benefited the waterfowl resource by advocating legislation and other policies that provide needed resources for nesting and wintering waterfowl populations;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Fish and Game Commission hereby recognizes the addition of Mr. Tupper Ansel Blake to the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission recognizes Tupper began his career in the 1970s as a professional wildlife photographer whose work was featured in numerous magazines; in 1978, conservationist Starker Leopold convinced him to undertake longer photographic surveys focusing on specific conservation issues; in 1979, Tupper launched an unprecedented photographic survey of the wildlife and wildlands of California under the sponsorship of the National Audubon Society and the California Department of Fish and Game, resulting in a traveling exhibition and an award-winning book, *Wild California*; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission further recognizes Tupper for producing four more books, as well as multiple fine art portfolios, for his major exhibitions at numerous museums, and for his multiple awards from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society and California Waterfowl.

**DATED AUGUST 16, 2017**

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Eric Sklar, President

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Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Vice President

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Anthony C. Williams, Member

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Russell Burns, Member

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Peter Silva, Member

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Valerie Termini, Executive Director

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## HONORABLE ROBERT (BOB) CLINE

**WHEREAS**, the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing waterfowl and their habitats in California; and

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**WHEREAS**, some sportsmen and other conservationists have significantly benefited the waterfowl resource by advocating legislation and other policies that provide needed resources for nesting and wintering waterfowl populations;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Fish and Game Commission hereby recognizes the addition of Mr. Bob Cline to the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission recognizes Bob for being an advocate for the outdoors and hunting; throughout his life, he has been a dove, duck and quail hunter; for over 40 years, Bob has been a member of the Colusa Shooting Club, which is dedicated to preserving natural habitat; Bob is one of the founding organizers of the Butte Sink Waterfowl Association – serving as secretary and then president; – which covers 10,000 acres of privately-owned wetlands, and has been essential to preserving and enhancing the Butte Sink and addressing issues common to clubs, including high-water trespass, water supply, drought issues, guaranteeing water flows to the Sink and enhancing habitat for ducks; Bob is a past director and life member of California Waterfowl, and continues to serve on the California Waterfowl Regulations and Traditions Committee; and he is a life member of the National Rifle Association; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission further recognizes Bob was a member of the California State Assembly from 1971 to 1980 – serving on the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee – where he was always a zealous advocate for hunters' rights and habitat preservation.

**DATED AUGUST 16, 2017**

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Eric Sklar, President

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# TONY A. MARNELL II

**WHEREAS**, the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing waterfowl and their habitats in California; and

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**WHEREAS**, many sportsmen and other conservationists have served a critical role in conserving our waterfowl resource by preserving, restoring, and enhancing natural habitats, managing agricultural habitats with wildlife in mind, and implementing other land uses specifically designed to benefit the waterfowl resource; and

**WHEREAS**, some sportsmen and other conservationists have significantly benefited the waterfowl resource by advocating legislation and other policies that provide needed resources for nesting and wintering waterfowl populations;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Fish and Game Commission hereby recognizes the addition of Mr. Tony Marnell II to Waterfowler's Hall of Fame; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission recognizes Tony, who acquired the 5,200-acre Mandeville Island in the San Joaquin River Delta where no clear refuge had previously existed, and established a virtual Eden for wintering and breeding waterfowl and other wildlife; this effort led to establishment of the Tuscany Research Institute, which provided a critical scientific basis for programs Tony was to embark upon; a founding and longtime supporter of California Waterfowl's Mallard Legacy Program, he acted on early research results, which showed a huge potential to increase mallard production in California; he funded years of waterfowl population monitoring efforts conducted by California Waterfowl; Tony's waterfowl passion led him to engage and serve as the lead and major donor for Ducks Unlimited's Pintail Initiative, a partnership project with California Waterfowl and the U.S. Geological Survey that used newly developed satellite telemetry to answer management questions related to migration and habitat use; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the further recognizes Tony for taking on the most difficult conservation issues; much of his passion for conservation is on display in his photo-documentary book, *Mandeville Island: A Fine Balance*.

**DATED AUGUST 16, 2017**

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# LARRY MERLO

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**WHEREAS**, some sportsmen and other conservationists have significantly benefited the waterfowl resource by advocating legislation and other policies that provide needed resources for nesting and wintering waterfowl populations;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Fish and Game Commission hereby recognizes the addition of Mr. Larry Merlo to the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission recognizes Larry, who as a young teenager became so good at vocally calling geese that he was offered a job guiding on the Mallard Pond at Llano Seco, the start of a career in waterfowl guiding; he started the Butte Creek Gun Club on the Adams Ranch near Durham and, a decade later, Ken Hofmann purchased the ranch and renamed it Rancho Esquon; Larry would remain at the ranch for the next eighteen years as habitat and hunt program manager and Ken's personal guide; Larry's knowledge and skill helped him develop waterfowl habitat with innovative techniques, becoming one of the most influential practitioners of habitat management for waterfowl and wetlands in North America and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission further recognizes Larry for being a man of all seasons, as was reflected in his longtime involvement and support of California Waterfowl; he also took a leadership role in forming the local Durham area chapter of Ducks Unlimited; perhaps his greatest contribution to the future of our natural resources was introducing hundreds of newcomers, especially youth, to waterfowl hunting and wetland conservation; and, as a conservation giant, his vision for a healthy environment and abundant wildlife will extend far beyond the distant horizon.

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Anthony C. Williams, Member

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Russell Burns, Member

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Peter Silva, Member

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Valerie Termini, Executive Director

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# ED SMITH

**WHEREAS**, the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame was established in 2006 to recognize those individuals who have made significant contributions to enhancing waterfowl and their habitats in California; and

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**WHEREAS**, some sportsmen and other conservationists have significantly benefited the waterfowl resource by advocating legislation and other policies that provide needed resources for nesting and wintering waterfowl populations;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the California Fish and Game Commission hereby recognizes the addition of Mr. Ed Smith to the Waterfowler's Hall of Fame; and

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission recognizes Ed for his achievements early in his career while working for the California Department of Fish and Game where, in 1971, Ed became manager of the Mendota Wildlife Area in Fresno County; soon he was promoted to wildlife management supervisor for Region 4 in Fresno, where he researched and developed wetland management techniques to promote the growth of waterfowl food plants (moist soil management); these techniques were adopted and put into practice by private ducks clubs, other state wildlife areas and national wildlife refuges, work that persists today across California and the western U.S. where wetlands are routinely managed; additionally, Ed was instrumental in establishing the 25-shell limit on state wildlife areas, directed botulism control efforts in the Tulare Basin, and was a supporter of youth hunts; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Commission further recognizes Ed for his leadership as chairman of the Wildlife Area Habitat Committee, which was instrumental in developing and implementing wetland management plans on 13 state wildlife areas; Ed took a special interest in pheasant biology and population dynamics and, in retirement, became a consultant to both state and private landholders on pheasant habitat management.

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Valerie Termini, Executive Director