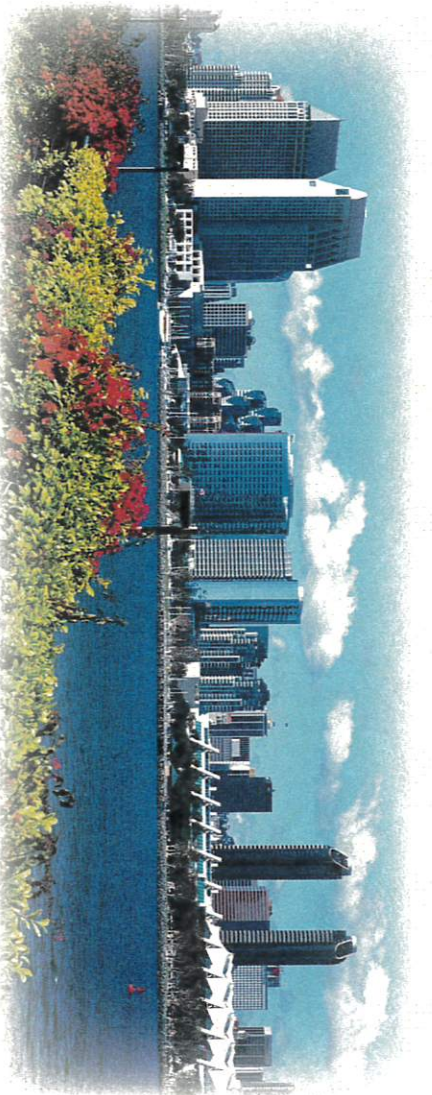




Proclamation of the City Council City of San Diego

James Neel Day

Presented by Councilmember Raul A. Campillo
July 20, 2025

WHEREAS, James Neel was born on July 20, 1925, in Turlock, California, and from humble beginnings in the orchards of the Central Valley, began a century-long journey of service, scholarship, and devotion to family and country; and

WHEREAS, James Neel answered the call of duty during World War II, serving with distinction as a heavy machine gunner in the 94th Infantry Division, landing on Utah Beach, fighting in the brutal Battle of the Bulge, enduring captivity as a prisoner of war, and receiving the Purple Heart for his sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, James Neel returned home with resilience and purpose, earning a B.S. in Soil Science from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Plant Science from UCLA, contributing to the nation's scientific advancement through his work with the Atomic Energy Commission's Fallout Research Program; and

WHEREAS, James Neel made San Diego his home in 1963 and went on to serve for over three decades at San Diego State University as a Professor of Biology and Associate Dean, inspiring generations of students and shaping the College of Sciences through his leadership and mentorship; and

WHEREAS, James Neel continued his dedication to education after retirement by volunteering for two additional decades to help young scholars pursue doctoral programs, all while being recognized with honors including the Homer Peabody Award and induction into the Modesto High School Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, James Neel, a decorated veteran, pioneering scientist, beloved husband to the late Frances A. Neel, and cherished member of the San Diego community, celebrated his 100th birthday in July 2025—a milestone reflecting a lifetime of patriotism, intellect, compassion, and profound impact; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim July 20, 2025 to be “James Neel Day” in the City of San Diego.



COUNCIL PRESIDENT JOE LACAVA

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM KENT LEE

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MAYOR TOD GIORIA

Approved by Council on the 16th Day of September, 2025.