

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Stockton

# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS,** Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone was the first enlisted Marine in World War II to earn the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism at Guadalcanal in 1942; and,

**WHEREAS,** a native of Raritan, New Jersey, Sergeant Basilone was in charge of two machine gun sections at Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, where his actions helped stop a major Japanese attack and eliminate an enemy regiment, and,

**WHEREAS,** after arriving home to a hero's welcome, with a parade attended by more than 30,000 people and his picture on the cover of Life Magazine, Sergeant Basilone chose to return to combat at Iwo Jima; and,

**WHEREAS,** in the first wave action on Red Beach, Iwo Jima, Sergeant Basilone was killed by a mortar shell on February 19, 1945; and,

**WHEREAS,** Sergeant Basilone was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest honor for heroism in battle, and a Purple Heart; and,

**WHEREAS,** Sergeant Basilone is the only man in United States history to earn both the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross, the nation's highest military honors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GARY A. PODESTO,** as Mayor of the City of Stockton and on behalf of the Stockton City Council do hereby respectfully urge the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring Machine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone in recognition of his extraordinary heroism and valor while in action against enemy forces in World War II.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Stockton to be affixed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, Two-Thousand-and-Three.

**MAYOR GARY A. PODESTO**

