

**PROCLAMATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PITKIN COUNTY,
COLORADO HONORING**

Rick Stevens

WHEREAS, Rick Stevens was two-term Mayor of Basalt, Colorado, and on numerous other community committees. Rick could have rested on his laurels after that kind of public service but he continues to look for ways to improve life in the Roaring Fork Valley; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, when the Trustees of the Town of Basalt made the decision to return more than two million dollars in property taxes to property owners because of a Tabor Amendment oversight, Rick believed that some property owners would see their refunds as a windfall and a way to contribute directly to their community; and

WHEREAS, like any creative and "out of the box" idea, some said it couldn't be done. Others said it shouldn't be done. But done it was and Rick Stevens, with the help of a four-member committee, created a grassroots community-wide effort called "Basalt Area Gives"; and

WHEREAS, Rick Stevens inspired the support of a small but prominent group of local businesspeople to serve on the Basalt Area Gives committee including Bennet Bramson, Jim Light, Gino Rossetti, and Jon Fox Rubin; and

WHEREAS, using their connections in the community and by circumnavigating bureaucratic red tape, the Basalt Area Gives team succeeded in raising more than \$415,000 for nonprofits. The largest contributions came from a part-time resident who offered to match contributions made by his fellow owners of Roaring Fork Cabins of the Roaring Fork Club; and

WHEREAS, the primary beneficiaries were the Roaring Fork Conservancy and the Roaring Fork Pre-Collegiate Program. The Aspen Community Foundation helped to award remaining funds to other nonprofits including Growing Years, and The Arts Campus at Willits; and

WHEREAS, Rick Stevens will be the first to shower his fellow team members with credit for the success of this program, but it was Rick's leadership that created the inspiration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED the Pitkin County Commissioners and the people of Pitkin County are honored to recognize Rick Stevens with the Pitkin County Cares "One Time Exceptional Event" award.

Dated this 12th day of October 2021

County Manager

Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners

Jon Peacock

Kelly McNicholas Kury - Chair