

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Supervisor Pickard

PHONE: 966-3222

**RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Resolution supporting the naming of a High Sierra peak for Dr. Carl W. Sharsmith.

A draft formal resolution is attached, along with a letter of September 12, 2006 from Len McKenzie.

**BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

Len McKenzie presented information on this request to the Board under Public Presentation on September 12, 2006, and the matter was referred to former Supervisor Stetson to work with the committee and to bring back an agenda item. This request is now formally moving through the naming process. Additional information is available on the following website at [www.name4carl.org](http://www.name4carl.org).

**ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Financial Impact? ( ) Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? ( ) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$		Formal resolution
Source:		Letter from Len McKenzie of 9-12-06
Internal Transfer		
Unanticipated Revenue	4/5's vote	
Transfer Between Funds	4/5's vote	
Contingency	4/5's vote	
( ) General ( ) Other		

**CLERK'S USE ONLY:**

Res. No.: 07-548 Ord. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Absent: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved  
 Minute Order Attached ( ) No Action Necessary

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Requested Action Recommended  
 \_\_\_\_\_ No Opinion  
 Comments:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board  
 County of Mariposa, State of California

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy

CAO: \_\_\_\_\_

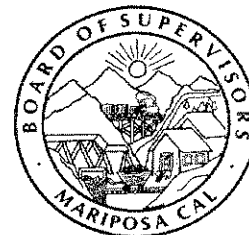


# COUNTY OF MARIPOSA

P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222

JANET BIBBY, CHAIR  
LYLE TURPIN, VICE CHAIR  
BRAD ABORN  
DIANNE A. FRITZ  
BOB PICKARD

DISTRICT III  
DISTRICT II  
DISTRICT I  
DISTRICT IV  
DISTRICT V



## MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### MINUTE ORDER

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TO: SUPERVISOR PICKARD

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution supporting the naming for a High Sierra Peak for Dr. Carl W. Sharsmith

RESOLUTION 07-548

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

ADOPTED THIS Order on November 27, 2007

#### ACTION AND VOTE:

B) Adopt a Resolution Supporting the Naming for a High Sierra Peak for Dr. Carl W. Sharsmith  
**BOARD ACTION:** Supervisor Pickard introduced former Supervisor Lee Stetson and Len McKenzie, who is also a director of the Mariposa Resource Conservation District. Speaking on behalf of the Name4Carl Committee, they presented the request for support for naming a high Sierra peak for Dr. Sharsmith and provided information on the process. Lee Stetson noted that Ron Mackie was also present in support of this request. Discussion was held.

Input from the public was provided by the following:

Ron Mackie stated he was a trail crew wilderness ranger for about 37 years in Yosemite; and he provided input on the naming process with the Domestic Names Committee of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names.

Lee Stetson provided input on the legislative process that is also available.

(M)Pickard, (S)Aborn, Res. 07-548 was adopted supporting the request, with direction for County Counsel to review that everything is grammatically correct; and with direction that a cover letter accompany the resolution to the U. S. Board of Geographic Names, with a copy to be sent to the following: Tuolumne County, Madera County, Mono County and any other surrounding counties of Yosemite, Senator Boxer, Senator Feinstein, and Congressman Radanovich/Ayes: Unanimous.

Cc: File

RESOLUTION NO. 07- 548

A RESOLUTION OF THE MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ENDORSING THE INITIATIVE PROPOSING THAT THE DOMESTIC  
GEOGRAPHIC NAMES COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES BOARD ON  
GEOGRAPHIC NAMES OFFICIALLY APPLY THE NAME "SHARSMITH PEAK"  
TO A FEATURE ON THE CREST OF THE SIERRA NEVADA

WHEREAS, Mariposa County encompasses a substantial portion of Yosemite National Park and is integrally tied to the park's human history, culture, scenery, natural resources, visitation and operations; and

WHEREAS, most Yosemite National Park personnel and their families are residents of Mariposa County; use and benefit from the services and amenities provided by county government, county schools, local businesses and community-based organizations; vote and pay taxes in the county; and participate in many community activities; and

WHEREAS, most visitors to Yosemite travel through Mariposa County on either or both of two major state highways that provide vehicle access to the park, and, as a result, the county's residents, businesses and service providers benefit financially from this geographic nexus; and

WHEREAS, over a span of 64 summers beginning in 1931, Dr. Carl Sharsmith worked as a seasonal ranger-naturalist in Yosemite, primarily at Tuolumne Meadows, where he led nature walks, hikes and field seminars; conducted campfire programs and did original research on the botany of the High Sierra; and

WHEREAS, during his years in that capacity Dr. Sharsmith passionately promoted preservation of Yosemite's wilderness values and influenced countless thousands of

park visitors from around the world to “climb the mountains and get their good tidings” and to cherish America’s national parks; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharsmith made innumerable friends for Yosemite and the National Park Service as a revered ambassador for national park values and personally built a constituency that has become a powerful collective voice of advocacy for the park; and

**WHEREAS**, as a role model and mentor, Dr. Sharsmith graciously shared his knowledge, insights and passion for Yosemite with successive generations of other ranger-naturalists, inspiring them to perpetuate the mission and traditions of the National Park Service and helping develop the core competencies and esprit-de-corps that made Yosemite the flagship in NPS interpretation; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharsmith is remembered as one of California’s preeminent botanists whose work in the field of alpine botany is unparalleled, who discovered four previously unknown species of alpine plants in the Sierra, who collected more than half of the specimens in the Yosemite Museum herbarium and whose original research on alpine meadows in Yosemite and Sequoia/Kings Canyon national parks became a cornerstone of park management policies for those ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1956 the Department of the Interior recognized Dr. Sharsmith’s record of public service with the National Park Service by bestowing on him its Meritorious Service Award, its second-highest employee award, and in 1977 San Jose State University, where Dr. Sharsmith was professor emeritus of botany, dedicated its herbarium, established years earlier by Dr. Sharsmith, as the Carl W. Sharsmith Herbarium; and

**WHEREAS**, the idea to name a peak for Dr. Sharsmith dates back to 1976, when the Yosemite Natural History Association launched a campaign to honor him in this way,

and a resolution entered into the Congressional Record in 1979 recognized his labor of love in educating park visitors on the park's natural and human history; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sharsmith's contributions to the "Yosemite experience" and to the preservation of this special place warrant commemoration of him in perpetuity with the naming of a geographic feature in the mountain range he so loved; and

**WHEREAS**, to honor Dr. Sharsmith for his work and achievements, a group of his admirers have formed the Name4Carl Committee and resumed the earlier effort to have a peak in Yosemite officially named for him; and

**WHEREAS**, the name Sharsmith Peak is already in informal use for a summit just north of Tioga Pass on the crest of the Sierra Nevada, straddling the boundary between the legislated wilderness of Yosemite National Park and the Inyo National Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of the goal to formalize this designation in the interest of mountaineering safety, public education and inspiration, and name consistency, the Name4Carl Committee has provided this Board with materials it has prepared and compiled as part of its peak-naming effort, and has asked this Board to join therein; and

**WHEREAS**, among those materials are the criteria that must be met in order for the Domestic Names Committee of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to officially name a feature depicted on federal maps, that committee being the entity within the U. S. Geological Survey with authority to take such action; and

**WHEREAS**, upon review of those materials and criteria, this Board of Supervisors finds and believes it would be entirely appropriate and fitting for a Sierra Nevada peak to be named "Sharsmith Peak," and further finds that the peak proposed to be so named, on the Yosemite National Park border with Mono County, is ideal for that purpose.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors hereby declares its support for and joins in the effort to have the Domestic Names Committee of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names officially bestow the name "Sharsmith Peak" on the otherwise-unnamed Peak 12,002 on the crest of the Sierra Nevada, north of Tioga Pass and south of Mount Conness, as shown on the 1956 Tuolumne Meadows 15-minute quadrangle, located at latitude N37° 56.194' and longitude W119°17.615'.

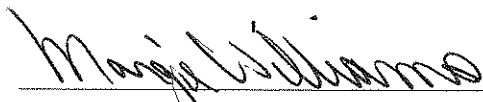
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Board is directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to the Executive Secretary of the Domestic Geographic Names Committee of the United States Board on Geographic Names.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 27th day of November 2007 by the following vote:

AYES: ABORN, TURPIN, BIBBY, FRITZ, PICKARD  
NOES: NONE  
ABSTAIN: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Janet Bibby, Chair

**ATTEST:**

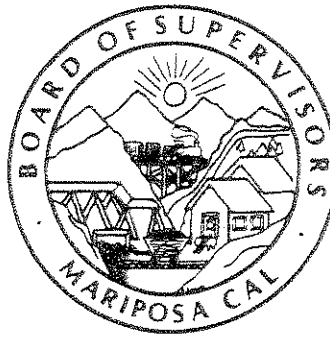
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Margie Williams, Clerk of the Board

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Guarino, County Counsel

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ..... BRAD ABORN  
District 2 ..... LYLE TURPIN  
District 3 ..... JANET BIBBY  
District 4 ..... DIANNE FRITZ  
District 5 ..... BOB PICKARD



RICHARD J. BENSON  
County Administrative Officer

MARGIE WILLIAMS

Clerk of the Board

P.O. Box 784  
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FAX (209) 966-5147  
[www.mariposacounty.org/board](http://www.mariposacounty.org/board)

December 3, 2007

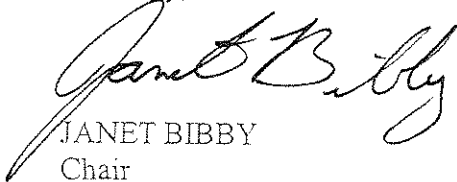
Roger L. Payne  
Executive Secretary of the Board  
And for Domestic Names Committee  
U. S. Board on Geographic Names  
U. S. Geological Survey  
523 National Center  
Reston, VA 20192-0523

Dear Mr. Payne:

At its meeting on November 27, 2007, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 07-548 supporting the naming of unnamed peak No. 12,002 on the crest of the Sierra Nevada, north of Tioga Pass and south of Mount Conness, as "Sharsmith Peak" in recognition of Dr. Carl Sharsmith's contributions to the "Yosemite experience" and to the preservation of Yosemite's wilderness values and as a botanist.

You will find a certified copy of the formal resolution enclosed.

Sincerely,



JANET BIBBY  
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors  
Madera County Board of Supervisors  
Mono County Board of Supervisors  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Congressman George Radanovich  
Governor Schwarzenegger  
File