

JOINT PROCLAMATION REMEMBERING THE 2011 TOHOKU EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 11, 2011 a great earthquake with a magnitude of 9.1 struck off the coast of Northern Japan's Tohoku Region; and

WHEREAS, the shaking went on for several minutes, and was with such great force that people in the communities closest to the epicenter had a difficult time standing; and

WHEREAS, the great earthquake damaged roads, crippled utilities including phone networks and electricity; and otherwise destroyed critical infrastructure, including the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant; and

WHEREAS, a tsunami notification was issued by the Japanese Meteorological Society within minutes, warning of a tsunami up to 10 feet high and encouraging evacuation of coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the tsunami that followed was much larger than what was forecast, over 45 feet in some locations, creating widespread destruction, loss of life, and sorrow.

WHEREAS, the disaster claimed 15,894 lives, left 2,546 people missing, created 341,411 evacuees and refugees, caused nearly \$300 billion in damages, and left Japan with multiple crises across social, economic, and political sectors; and

WHEREAS, the 24,000-plus residents of the coastal City of Rikuzentakata, Iwate Prefecture was one of the areas hit hardest by the 2011 disaster. Minutes after the 9.1 earthquake a tsunami more than 45 feet high leveled the City, devastating five square miles of the low-lying town, and

WHEREAS, the tsunami also resulted in approximately \$50 million in damages to the Crescent City Harbor, and the loss of one life in Del Norte County; and

WHEREAS, on April 7, 2013, a little over two years after the Tohoku earthquake, a lone boat washed ashore in Crescent City, California. The boat belonged to Takata High School in the City of Rikuzentakata, and

WHEREAS, through the leadership of local students and community members, the boat "Kamome" was cleaned and returned to Rikuzentakata, becoming a symbol of hope and a catalyst for relations between high schools; and

WHEREAS, a formal “Sister School” relationship was signed in 2017, followed by a joint agreement of the City of Crescent City, County of Del Norte and City of Rikuzentakata forever joining us as Sister Cities; and

WHEREAS, the Sister City agreement signed by both the City of Crescent City and the County of Del Norte memorializes the mutual desire of our communities to strengthen ties of friendship; and to develop collaborative activities and efforts in the areas of business, culture, emergency planning and disaster recovery; with the hope of contributing toward peace and prosperity in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Futoshi Toba has a vision of rebuilding Rikuzentakata as a global city of purposeful inclusion; a grant was secured through the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo and administered by the Del Norte County Board of Education to bring 30 residents of Rikuzentakata to Crescent City for an immersive training workshop to help further this goal; and

WHEREAS, through this relationship economic opportunities have begun to develop in both Rikuzentakata and Crescent City; and

WHEREAS, many lessons were also learned from the natural disaster that have forever changed tsunami modeling, public education, warning methods and evacuation planning; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that March 11, 2021 be a day of REMEMBRANCE in the City of Crescent City and County of Del Norte, California; that our citizens are encouraged to engage in friendship and kinship with those in our Sister City of Rikuzentakata; that from this great disaster and ensuing hardships we forge new awareness, understanding, and kindness; and that we do not let the lessons learned go unnoticed and thereby commit to take measures to enhance our own preparedness, so that we may respect the lives lost and protect those lives we have in our keep today.



Jason Greenough
Mayor, City of Crescent City

Chris Howard
Chair, Board of Supervisors