

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** the City of Torrance recognizes with great pride, Hans Stierle, who founded the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) in 1964; and
- WHEREAS,** Hans Stierle organized youth soccer games for the Los Angeles German Soccer Club in North Hollywood. He wanted to get children in his own community of Torrance, California interested in the sport. So one day, Hans took a bag of soccer balls over to Jefferson School field and kicked a ball around with neighborhood kids; and
- WHEREAS,** the first AYSO league started with nine teams and rapidly grew as Hans went to surrounding communities recruiting teams and even sponsors, one of the first being Sunkist; and
- WHEREAS,** Hans Stierle wanted to make sure all players had a good time, so he created the “Everyone Plays” concept. He designed a lineup card that divided the game into quarters to ensure that each child played at least half the game. Hans also designed the traditional AYSO logo and the “PLAYSOCCER” slogan; and
- WHEREAS,** Hans Stierle served AYSO in a variety of capacities, including its first Chairman and first President and also Executive Director and National Director of Public Affairs; and
- WHEREAS,** as a result of his tireless hard work and unwavering commitment as AYSO President, Hans Stierle was named one of “20 Men of Influence” in American soccer by Soccer America magazine in 1991; and
- WHEREAS,** today, AYSO has more than 50,000 teams, more than 650,000 players and is supported by more than 250,000 parents across the nation, who passionately dedicate their time and talents as coaches, referees, team parents, administrators and sponsors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANK SCOTTO, as Mayor of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby honor, commend and express sincere appreciation to

HANS STIERLE

for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the youth of the community. Hans Stierle has made a positive and lasting impact on many lives and serves as an inspiration for all citizens.

Signed this 15th day of September 2009.

Mayor Frank Scotto

ATTEST:

Sue Herbers, City Clerk