



RESOLUTION NO. 60-2010
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO
Pony Express 150th Anniversary 1860-2010

WHEREAS, on the evening of April 3, 1860, one of the most historical and remarkable horse and rider feats to come out of the American West was the Russell, Majors & Waddell mail service known as the Pony Express, connecting the east to west, covering approximately nineteen hundred sixty-six miles of trails in ten days from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California; and

WHEREAS, those trails are significant to the history of El Dorado County and have been recognized as a part of the Federal, National Historic Trail System, and the Pony Express National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS, the Pony Express spirit lives on, with the annual carrying of the mail and the exchange of the mochila mail pouch, during a commemorative re-ride event by the National Pony Express Association, in California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri; and

WHEREAS, El Dorado County, the Pollock Pines, California, U.S. Postal Service and National Pony Express Association share in its own Pony Express historical event, commonly known as the Slide Ride, when in April 1983 an avalanche occurred in the American River Canyon blocking vehicular travel and mail delivery service through the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and the National Pony Express Association contracted with the U.S. Postal Service to carry first-class mail through the back country of the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the trails in El Dorado County; and

WHEREAS, the National Pony Express Association, and a handful of its El Dorado County residents, had the honor of participating in the 1996 Atlanta, Georgia Summer Olympic Games by carrying special commemorative mail in a re-ride event, commonly known as the Olympic Ride, beginning May 13, 1996, in Julesburg, Colorado, continuing across the states of Nebraska, Kansas, and arriving on May 16, 1996, in St. Joseph, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, a unique Olympic Torch that would present the Olympic Flame from being extinguished was specifically designed for the Pony Express Rider to carry on this Olympic Ride; and

WHEREAS, it is now one-hundred-fifty years later and the past Pony Express Rider spirit continues to be a part of living history with the National Pony Express Association, and the historical ten day run will be extended to a twenty day run to allow celebrations acknowledging this commemorative event of the Pony Express, and will result in thirty-two exchanges from one Pony Express Rider to another in El Dorado County; and

WHEREAS, the Pony Express Riders, with the mochila, will leave San Francisco by boat on June 6, 2010, arrive at the Sacramento river dock and leave Old Town Sacramento at approximately 11:00 a.m., on June 7, 2010, and arrive in El Dorado County with the mochila exchange at the Green Valley Center in El Dorado Hills at approximately 3:38 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, further that evening El Dorado County exchanges will be made along historical sites such as the Pleasant Grove House at approximately 4:20 p.m., the Rescue Post Office at approximately 4:50 p.m., the Shingle Springs Corral at approximately 5:28 p.m., including planned celebrations in the town of El Dorado at approximately 6:06 p.m., and the Hangtown Chamber of Commerce in Placerville at approximately 7:10 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the re-ride continues on the El Dorado Trail to Carson Road arriving at the Camino Post Office at approximately 8:30 p.m., and at approximately 9:00 p.m. to a special event at the historical Sportsman's Hall on Pony Express Trail, the site of the only Pony Express Homestation in California, and from there on to the final destination at Fresh Pond where the Rider will rest for the evening; and

WHEREAS, the morning of June 8, 2010, at 5:45 a.m. the Pony Express Rider will leave Fresh Pond, ride past Pacific House to the American River, and the back country of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, where the Rider will come to an abrupt stop at a river crossing, the historical site of the missing 1860 Brockless Bridge and the 1926 Blair Bridge, the missing link in the Pony Express National Historic Trail; and

WHEREAS, the motto of the Pony Express is "the mail must go through," the Pony Express Rider carefully ties the mochila onto a rope, while another Rider across the canyon, slowly and carefully pulls the mail pouch over the canyon and raising river via a pulley, and upon arriving safely the mochila is untied and the Rider places it over the saddle, mounts the waiting horse and off they go; and

WHEREAS, other exchanges are made in the backcountry until the Pony Express Rider at approximately 11:41 a.m. crosses Highway 50 for the exchange at Strawberry Lodge, and higher into the Sierras, over Luther Pass, to Pickett's Junction, to the final El Dorado County exchange at approximately 4:00 p.m. at Woodford's, California, the mail is handed off to the Nevada Pony Express Rider; and

WHEREAS, upon the final handoff to the Nevada Pony Express Rider as the rider heads out, tradition continues as shouts are heard loud and clear, **GO PONY EXPRESS RIDER!**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as the Pony Express approaches its 150th anniversary of this great and historic feat of the American West, it is hereby proclaimed by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors that the 150th Pony Express be recognized and designated as an official El Dorado County Historic Loan and an official El Dorado County Historic Event, to be honored and preserved into the future.

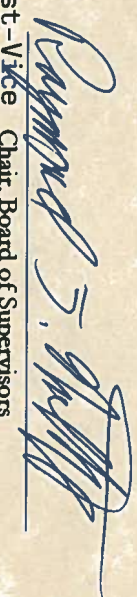
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 25th day of May, 2010, by the following vote of said Board:

Attest

Suzanne Allen de Sanchez
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Ayes: Knight, Nutting, Sweeney, Briggs, Santiago
Noes: None
Absent: None

By: 
Cindy Johnson
Deputy Clerk


Raymond S. Galt
First-Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors