



## PROCLAMATION

### OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLACERVILLE SPEEDWAY

**WHEREAS**, in 1956 the El Dorado County Fair built Anderson Field, an arena and grandstand, dedicated to the memory of Leo J. Anderson during the 1957 County Fair opening ceremony. The field was used for various fair activities and later became host to the El Dorado High School football team; and,

**WHEREAS**, eight years later, fair manager Warren Jewitt teamed up with Bruno Romani, a successful auto-racing promoter, to construct a clay racing surface around the perimeter of the football field, creating what was originally known as Hangtown Speedway and on June 18, 1965, the sport of auto racing officially arrived in Placerville, the grandstands were packed; and

**WHEREAS**, Gene Gillihan, local native and businessman, was one of the early drivers at the Speedway. "Placerville Speedway was one of the best things to happen to this county and is a great source of family entertainment. After they built that track, people took an interest in racing as families. It really involved the whole community from day one," Gillihan said. "This community is lucky to have something like that to this day." and,

**WHEREAS**, in 1968, management of "Old Hangtown" was taken over by local businessmen Al Hinds and Rich Hirst. Their commitment to the fans and area businesses built a legacy that lives 50 years strong. The pair resigned in 1973, but Hinds remained very active up until his passing in 2004. A special race takes place annually with the Thompson's Auto Center "Tribute to Al Hinds" featuring the Civil War Sprint Cars.

**WHEREAS**, after several changes in leadership, racing promotor John Padjen came aboard in 1982 at the request of the fairgrounds. Padjen molded the foothill race facility into the successful, competitive track it is today. Padjen established a consistent Saturday night program following his first race in April of 1982 to improve safety and visibility. He also changed the name of the track from "Hangtown" to Placerville Speedway, to better associate the sport with the community.

**WHEREAS**, in 2009 Handy Racing Promotions, Inc assumed promotorship of the facility. The new management team had 30 years of experience behind them. They continue to carry on family tradition and put affordable family entertainment at the top of the list. Alan and Diane Handy have put their own mark on the speedway bringing National attention back to the track in 2011 with the American Sprint Car Series, and they brought the World of Outlaws National Tour in 2015. The facility that was once known as home to a "Small Town Saturday Night" is now nationally recognized in the nation as one of the crown jewels in dirt track racing.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby recognize and applaud Placerville Speedway for their 50 years of family tradition.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held this 9th day of June, 2015.

**Attest:**

James S. Mitrison  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
by:

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Deputy Clerk

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Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair, Board of Supervisors