



PROCLAMATION

for the County of El Dorado
Declaring May 15, 2009 as
Drug Court Commencement Day

WHEREAS, 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the first Drug Courts in the United States, an event that changed the face of the American Justice System; and,

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years, Drug Courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families, saving hundreds of millions of dollars for taxpayers across the nation and making communities safer; and,

WHEREAS, Drug Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, bring together judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, substance abuse and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement, probation staff, business and professional leaders to fight against drug abuse and criminality; and,

WHEREAS, the County of El Dorado is blessed with two Drug Courts, in Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, that are successful with the oversight, cooperation and dedication of Judges Douglas Phimister, Daniel Proud, James Wagoner, Jerald Lazarow, Steven Bailey, Presiding Judge Suzanne Kingsbury, and Commissioner Neil Shepherd; and,

WHEREAS, El Dorado County Drug Courts have successfully graduated 343 clients, saving county taxpayers an estimated \$1,715,000.00 and countless other resources provided by our non-profits, governments and the community; and,

WHEREAS, Friday, May 15, 2009, marks "National Drug Court Commencement Day", which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families; and,

WHEREAS, the graduates of the El Dorado County Drug Courts, on that special day, will have successfully completed their court requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Supervisors for the County of El Dorado does herewith declare May 15, 2009, to be Drug Court Commencement Day, recognizing and honoring the practitioners and participants, and the significant community contribution by Drug Courts in reducing drug usage and crime.

Passed and Adopted: May 12, 2009

Supervisor Norma Santiago
District V, Lake Tahoe

Supervisor Ron Briggs
Chairman of the Board