



**Recognition by the Board of Supervisors
of the County of El Dorado
Chandra Sousa
For Fearlessly Saving a Life**

- ❖ On March 31, 2015 at approximately 6:30pm Chandra Sousa saved the life of Jim LaBerge.
- ❖ Chandra was working her shift at the Placerville Denny's Restaurant when a woman came out from the banquet room and yelled for someone to call 911. She also asked if anyone knew CPR.
- ❖ Chandra was entering an order in the computer and looking around could see that no one responded. "I was shocked – no one was saying anything!"
- ❖ Chandra has been working at Denny's for nearly eight years. She has been trained in CPR for eight years. She asked her supervisor to call 911, and headed to the banquet room.
- ❖ She found Jim LaBerge, sitting in a chair, head back, totally out, not breathing. He had suffered a heart attack, "he was already cold to the touch," she said .
- ❖ With assistance from another woman, they got him on the floor and Chandra performed CPR. She said her training "went out the door." Even though new CPR techniques do not involve breathing, only compressions, she did the old breathing technique. After five sets of compressions, taking about a minute, she got "one really good breath," and LaBerge started coughing and convulsing. He was alive.
- ❖ The ambulance arrived and transported LaBerge to Marshall Hospital where he underwent a successful surgery. But Chandra, still had a job to do. "I got up and had to start working. The customers wanted food." Even though a bit shaky from the medical incident, she went back to work and finished her shift.
- ❖ Through knowledge, training and instinct, Chandra bravely jumped in and saved Jim LaBerge's life. She received her teaching credential last year and believes this experience will better prepare her to be a full-time teacher and make her more confident in the classroom.
- ❖ It gives the Board of Supervisors great pleasure to recognize and applaud the brave actions of Chandra Sousa. Presented at a regular meeting of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors held on May 5, 2015.

Brian K. Veerkamp, Chair, Board of Supervisors