



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE BIG FRESNO FAIR NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
FOR ITS HALL OF FAME**  
*Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame to Honor Long-Time Passionate Supporters*

**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA...MAY 18, 2009...**The Big Fresno Fair is proud to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame, which honors individuals who have demonstrated long-time continued support and extraordinary passion for the betterment of The Big Fresno Fair.

The first five members of The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame were announced during the 2007 Big Fresno Fair. Those individuals were: Arthur J. Rustigan, Doris Halemeier, Nat DiBuduo, Gary Fisher and Mark Thompson. In 2008, Monte Person, John C. Harris, Gordon Burrow, William "Bill" Almeida and Brian I. Tatarian were inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Individuals inducted into The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame must first be nominated by a community individual, Big Fresno Fair staff or past Fresno Fair Board of Directors. Nominations will then be reviewed by The Big Fresno Fair Board of Directors and final selections made at the Board's September meeting. A maximum of five individuals will be chosen each year for the Hall of Fame.

"We are pleased to continue the Fair's Annual Hall of Fame Awards," said John C. Alkire, CEO of The Big Fresno Fair. "It is a great program and opportunity for the community and our staff to recognize individuals for their continued support of the Fair and their role in helping make the traditions of The Big Fresno Fair thrive for the past 126 years."

All Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame inductees will be formally recognized at Opening Ceremonies, receive prominent visual recognition on The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame Wall, and receive an official Big Fresno Fair Horse & Jockey Bronze statue. Members of The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame will also be listed on our website. Additionally, a new "Hall of Fame"

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stakes race will be held annually at The Big Fresno Fair horse race meet in honor of the Hall of Fame inductees.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame inductees. The deadline for submission is August 15, 2009. Nomination forms are available at the Administration Office located at 1121 S. Chance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93702, or online at [www.FresnoFair.com](http://www.FresnoFair.com). There is no limit on the number of nominations an individual or organization can make.

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fifth largest fair in the State of California and represents the 21<sup>st</sup> District Agricultural Association. Nearly 550,000 people from throughout the state visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Larry Serpa, President; Tim Bakman, Vice President; Joseph De Los Santos, Secretary Treasurer; Ardie Der Manouel, Elizabeth Hudson, Debbie Jacobsen, Vernon Jones, Wangyee Vang and William White. John C. Alkire heads daily operations in his role as Chief Executive Officer. Additional information about The Big Fresno Fair can be found at [www.FresnoFair.com](http://www.FresnoFair.com).

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