



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THE BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HALL OF FAME AWARDS & THE 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS AWARDS**

*Honoring those who have demonstrated extraordinary support for The Big Fresno Fair & Fresno County*

**FRESNO, CALIFORNIA...September 21, 2015:** The Big Fresno Fair is proud to announce the recipients for two of its most prestigious recognition programs – its Hall of Fame, which is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, and its Community Champions Awards, now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year.

The Big Fresno Fair **Hall of Fame** honors individuals who have demonstrated long-time continued support and extraordinary passion for the betterment of the annual Big Fresno Fair. This awards program is a way to thank those and officially recognize those individuals for their continued efforts to preserve the longstanding tradition that is The Big Fresno Fair.

The 2015 Hall of Fame inductees will be formally honored at the 2015 Opening Ceremonies on October 7. Additionally, all Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame inductees will receive prominent visual recognition on the Fair's Hall of Fame Wall at the Fairgrounds and an official Big Fresno Fair Horse & Jockey Bronze statue. A Hall of Fame stakes race will also be held at the 2015 Fair's horse race meet in their honor. The following individuals have been selected as 2015 Hall of Fame inductees:

- Electric Motor Shop
- Frank and Florence Caglia Family
- Mike Kludjian

“The Hall of Fame provides an opportunity for the community and our staff to publicly display our appreciation for those individuals who have shown the highest level of commitment to the Fair,” said John C. Alkire, CEO of The Big Fresno Fair. “It is because of them that the traditions of Fair continue to thrive year after year.”

The 2015 Hall of Fame inductees join the following individuals who were inducted into The Big Fresno Fair Hall of Fame in year's past: Arthur J. Rustigan ('07); Doris Halemeier ('07); Gary Fisher ('07); Mark Thompson ('07); Nat DiBuduo ('07); Brian I. Tatarian ('08); Gordon Burrow ('08); John C. Harris ('08); Monte Person ('08); William “Bill” Almeida ('08); Christopher Korby ('09); Nick Bowles ('09); Walter "Fritz" Lauritzen ('09); David Hill ('10); Lucy Warren ('10); Roy Isom ('10); Ruby Hefley ('10); Table Mountain Casino ('10); Table Mountain Rancheria ('10); Kenneth L. Maddy ('11); Carolee Boele ('11); Larry Fortune ('11); Chief Jerry P. Dyer ('11); Mike Dages ('11); Ardie Der Manouel ('12); Butch Butler ('12); Chris Pacheco ('12); Dale Ikeda ('12); Louis C. Brosi ('12); Tim Bakman ('13); Gary Nelson ('13); Mike Fitzgerald ('13); Robert Smittcamp ('13); and Marvin A. Meyers ('13); Carol Chandler ('14); Carol Blasingame ('14); Mr. & Mrs. Louie Brosi, Jr. ('14); Stephen J. Chambers ('14); and Alvin Quist ('14).

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The Big Fresno Fair is also proud to announce the recipients of the 2015 Big Fresno Fair **Community Champions Awards**, which were established in 2008 to formally recognize individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary passion for the betterment of Fresno County as a whole. All Big Fresno Fair Community Champions Award-winners receive prominent visual recognition at the Fairgrounds, as well as receive a special Community Champions Award plaque at Opening Ceremonies. The following recipients will be honored as 2015 recipients:

- Captain Dwaine and Deborah Breazeale – Community Champion, Volunteer
- George Milutinovich – Community Champion, Humanitarian
- Jim and Jennifer Yovino – Community Champion, Educator
- Pete Dern – Community Champion, Special Award

“We are honored to announce the winners of the 2015 Community Champions Awards,” said John C. Alkire, CEO, The Big Fresno Fair. “We are excited to continue to recognize those individuals who represent ‘the best’ of Fresno County and thankful they have served our community with passion and dedication – truly an inspiration for others.”

The 2015 Community Champion Award recipients join past year’s winners which include:

- Volunteer: Mark Thompson (‘14), Teri and Ken Penfold (‘13), Maria Gutierrez (‘12), Eloise Pantages (‘11), Eugene & Juanita Junette (‘10), Francine Vindiola (‘09) and Larry M. Fortune (‘08)
- Humanitarian: Phyllis Jensen Craigan (‘14), Sharon Johnson (‘13), Larry Powell (‘12), Beth Caffrey (‘11), Pauline Middleton (‘10), Israel Lara (‘09) and Paul Rodriguez and Ray Appleton (‘08)
- Educator: David Lopes (‘13), Randy Perry (‘12), Marcus P. Johnson (‘11), Dr. Mark Wilson (‘10), Alfred Sanchez (‘09) and Mike Jarman (‘08)
- Youth: Sharon Ross (‘11), David Robinson (‘10), Caz Ashjian (‘09) and Taytum Rose Popp (‘08)
- Special Awards: Perry Huffman (‘14), Jerry Turner (‘14), Al Smith (‘13), Mark Hudson (‘12), De Young Properties (‘10) and “Reno” the Fresno County Sheriff K9 Officer (‘08)

Individuals for both the Hall of Fame and Community Champions were nominated by community members, Big Fresno Fair staff or past Fair Board of Directors. Nominations were reviewed by The Big Fresno Fair Board of Directors and voted on at the August 2015 board meeting.

#### **About The Big Fresno Fair:**

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fifth largest fair in the state of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. More than 650,000 people from throughout the State visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest annual event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Leta Ciavaglia, President; Debbie Jacobsen, Vice President; Jerry Pacheco, Secretary/Treasurer; Elizabeth Hudson; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Larry Serpa; Ricky Vang; Dora Westerlund and William White. John C. Alkire heads the daily operations in his role as CEO. The 2015 Big Fresno Fair will run October 7 – 18. For more information about The Big Fresno Fair, please visit [www.FresnoFair.com](http://www.FresnoFair.com).



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