



**A Proclamation of the
City Council of the City of Placerville
Commemorating the 100th Anniversary
of Family Ownership of the Placerville News Company**

- WHEREAS:** Placerville News Company was first known as the Davis and Roy News Depot, where Christina Margaret Reeg was an employee of the original owner, Shelly Inch, and in 1912, she purchased the business; and
- WHEREAS:** In 1912, Mrs. Reeg-Duffey changed the name of the business to the Placerville News Company and that same year gave birth to her son, George Francis Duffey Jr., whose father had died shortly before he was born; and
- WHEREAS:** Christina married John Bayne in 1923 and they renovated the store in the 1930's, sold their ranch in Coloma, and moved into the upstairs rooms, which were used previously as a doctor's office and a photography studio; and
- WHEREAS:** Christina was also a concert pianist, taught school, served as matron at the jail and operated the store until her death in 1956 when the ownership was assumed by her son, George; and
- WHEREAS:** George, affectionately known as "Duffey", worked around the store as a young boy and lived upstairs above the store for most of his life; and
- WHEREAS:** Duffey was well known in downtown Placerville for feeding the pigeons popcorn outside the store on the sidewalk, and he served as the unofficial guardian of the Bell Tower; and
- WHEREAS:** Duffey and his wife, Violet Carins, gave birth to the current owner, Mary Meader in 1939 and she now shares the ownership duties with her son Jeff and daughter Christine; and
- WHEREAS:** George Duffey passed away on September 5, 1998 at the age of 86, and, according to an article that appeared in the Sacramento Bee, Duffey's passing "left a hole in the heart of the town"; and
- WHEREAS:** Placerville News was at one time the only Schwinn dealer in El Dorado County and it continues to carry magazines and newspapers, both foreign and domestic, local history books, greeting cards, art supplies, model paints and miscellaneous gift items.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark A. Acuna, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Placerville, State of California, do hereby commemorate the 100th year of family ownership of Placerville News Company and commend the Duffey/Meader family for their dedication in providing the Placerville community with valued service, merchandise and commitment to maintaining our Gold Rush heritage.

Mayor Mark A. Acuna

Dated: September 25, 2012

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand