MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5

DATE: September 23, 2014

SUBJECT: COMMENDATION: Approve a Commendation recognizing Norm Sayler on his 80th birthday.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve a Commendation recognizing Norm Sayler on his 80th birthday.

BACKGROUND

Norm Sayler has been a seminal figure in the snow sports industry, and a dedicated preservationist for Placer County's history. Norm has contributed by making some of his own history as well. By persevering for twenty years, Norm helped establish Highway 40 as a designated State Historic Highway, and get signage posted to that effect for the benefit of the Donner Summit community.

As Owner and General Manager of Donner Ski Ranch for forty-six years, Norm significantly contributed to the world of snow and other sports, bringing family fun and economic and recreational vitality to the Donner Summit community. Donner Ski Ranch was the first commercial ski resort in America to embrace snowboarders on its slopes, welcome the mountain bike enthusiasts, and introduce many types of competitive racing to the Summit including National Motorcycling Trail Riding competitions, Skate Boarding, Car Racing on Old Highway 40, and Equestrian Ride and Tie competitions.

Norm Sayler achieved sporting greatness of his own as the National Motorcycle Trials Winner, State Water Ski Champion, National Competitive Ski Racer, Snowmobile Racer, and through the first snowmobile franchise in California was a member of the famed Army's 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale. Norm participated as a Torch Runner in Squaw Valley's 1960 Winter Olympics, and was recognized as one of America's ski pioneers in the acclaimed ski history book, Mountain Dreamers.

Norm Sayler has contributed to the ongoing infrastructure and welfare of the Donner Summit area as an early advocate for, and serving on the board of the Donner Summit Public Utility District, and Donner Summit Fire Department (now part of the Truckee Fire District), and also worked as a fire line Caterpillar operator for fire suppression. Norm continues to be a perennial fundraiser for the Donner Trail School, and is a tireless promoter of the Summit's many film-ready locations, resulting in numerous movies, TV shows, and commercials being shot on the Summit.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

COMMENDATION FOR NORM SAYLER ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS, the County of Placer wishes to recognize Norm Sayler for his lifetime contributions to the Donner Summit region and to our County; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler has been a seminal figure in the snow sports industry and has been a dedicated preservationist for Placer County's history, and has contributed by making some of his own history as well; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler helped establish Highway 40 as a designated State Historic Highway, and has persevered for 20 years to get signage for the public posted to that effect for the benefit of the Donner Summit community; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler persisted for 20 years to get Donner Pass Road signage posted on I-80, ensuring recognition of the Summit's transportation heritage and scenic beauty, and stimulating the region's economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler identified the necessary funding to save the historic and iconic Summit Bridge in Donner Pass from destruction; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler established the State's Green Tag fees which snowmobilers and off road vehicle enthusiasts pay for using our state trail systems to support the use of trails enjoyed by all; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler co-founded the Donner Summit Historical Society and the Donner Summit Historical Museum, preserving an appreciation for the public of what is considered to be one of California's and America's most historic regions; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler saved the Norden Post Office from being eliminated by the US Postal Service on the basis of the area's historic significance; and

WHEREAS, as Owner and General Manager of Donner Ski Ranch for forty-six years, Norm Sayler significantly contributed to the world of snow sports and other sports bringing family fun and economic and recreational vitality to the Donner Summit community; and

WHEREAS, Donner Ski Ranch was the first commercial ski resort in America to embrace snowboarders on its slopes, and was in the national vanguard of encouraging other non-traditional snow sports to utilize commercial ski slopes for telemark and Nordic skiing. Donner Ski Ranch was credited by the founders of the mountain bike industry with being the first ski resort to welcome their enthusiasts to their fledgling industry; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler was responsible for introducing many types of competitive racing to the Summit including the National Motorcycling Trials Riding Competition, the Hill Climb Motorcycle Race down the Summit, Skate Boarding, Car Road Racing on Old Highway 40, and the Equestrian Ride and Tie Competitions; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler was an early advocate for a differently abled ski program in the 1960's, and was responsible for cutting many of the ski runs at the various ski resorts on the Summit; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler contributed much to the ongoing infrastructure and welfare of the Donner Summit area, as early advocate for, and serving on the board of the Donner Summit Public Utility District, and the Donner Summit Fire Department (now part of the Truckee Fire District), and also worked as a fire line Caterpillar operator for fire suppression; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler continues to be a perennial fundraiser for the Donner Trail School, and is a tireless promoter of the Summit's many film-ready locations, resulting in numerous movies, TV shows, and commercials being shot on the Summit including Misery, True Lies, Cobb, and MVP2; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler achieved sporting greatness of his own as a National Motorcycle Trials Winner, State Water Ski Champion, National Competitive Ski Racer, Snowmobile Racer, and through the first snowmobile franchise in California, was a member of the famed Army's 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale; and

WHEREAS, Norm Sayler participated as a torch runner in the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, and has been recognized as one of America's Ski Pioneers in the acclaimed ski history book, ***Mountain Dreamers.***

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN that the County of Placer Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the Citizens of Placer County, recognizes Norm Sayler on his 80th birthday for all the above contributions and many more. We look forward to another 80 years of similar success and like achievements.

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Jack Duran, Supervisor District 1,
Chairman 2014

Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2
Jim Holmes, Supervisor District 3
Kirk Uhler, Supervisor District 4
Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5