

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF AMADOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION HONORING GEORGE RICHARD “DICK”)
COOPER UPON BEING NAMED AMADOR COUNTY) RESOLUTION NO. 14-130
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS PERSON)
OF THE YEAR)

WHEREAS, George Richard “Dick” Cooper was born on August 24, 1939 to Hank and Ruth Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Dick moved with his parents to Amador County from Calaveras County in 1940 and grew up in Shenandoah Valley with his sister Bonnie; and

WHEREAS, Dick attended local schools, participated in Future Farmers of America and Farm Mechanics and learned the art of farming and ranching on family property in the Shenandoah Valley; and

WHEREAS, Dick was raised being a steward of the land and has passed this virtue onto his daughters and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dick farmed with his father for many years during which time he began an equipment sales and rental business branching into custom vineyard management and subsequently leased the ranch from his Father; and

WHEREAS, Dick was instrumental in bringing the Barbera grape varietal to the Shenandoah Valley and planted five acres of the varietal in 1980 which has flourished into over forty acres of Barbera today and earned him the moniker “Godfather of Barbera”; and

WHEREAS, Dick had a vision of opening a winery and began a planting program stressing older California varietals as well as Rhone varietals that would offer a unique niche; and

WHEREAS, Dick served as the acting Agricultural Commissioner while the County was searching for a permanent Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, Dick served as the Livestock Manager of the Amador County Fair for three years and Manager of the Amador County Fair for five years; and

WHEREAS, Dick is one of the original founders and past President of the Amador County Grape Growers Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2004 the doors of Cooper Vineyards tasting room were opened and the business continues to thrive today; and

WHEREAS, Cooper Vineyards is the venue for many charitable events every year including but not limited to, the Barbera Festival sponsored by the Amador Community Foundation, The Spaghetti Western benefitting cancer research at UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center as well as a benefit dinner in memory of Laura Spinetta supporting the Library Fund at Plymouth Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dick has four daughters Jennifer, Rochelle, Jerry and Chrissy who are all involved in essential components of the winery, tasting room and ranch operations; and

WHEREAS, Dick has five grandchildren, Marcus Swift who authors the very clever and descriptive tasting notes, Eric Swift who is the resident IT expert, Rose Cooper-Housler who keeps tasting room guests entertained with her wine knowledge and contagious wit, and Cooper and Peyton Cheetham who are soon to follow in the footsteps of their older cousins and continue the tradition of family involvement in the winery and ranch; and

WHEREAS, Dick Cooper is an Amador County legend, a friend to all, and is always willing to sit down with a glass of Barbera and share his knowledge of ranching, love of cooking for friends and family or just reminiscing about the "good 'ol days".

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador, State of California that said Board does hereby adopt this resolution recognizing and honoring Dick Cooper as the 2014 Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 4th day of November, 2014 by the following vote:

- AYES:** Theodore F. Novelli, Brian Oneto, John Plasse, Louis D. Boitano and Richard M. Forster
- NOES:** None
- ABSENT:** None


Theodore F. Novelli, Chairman

ATTEST:
JENNIFER BURNS, Clerk of the
Board of Supervisors, Amador County, California


Deputy