

**FROM THE OFFICE OF  
MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN**

**PROCLAMATION**

- WHEREAS,** John Alkire grew up in Bakersfield, California and became involved in the fair industry as a child because his father served as a fair CEO and consultant for over 23 years; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Alkire's own career in the fair industry has lasted for over 26 years and has held CEO positions for Kings County, Tulare County and The California Mid-State Fair; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2004, Mr. Akire became CEO of The Big Fresno Fair and has continuously been working to improve the fair through various projects; and
- WHEREAS,** under Mr. Alkire's leadership, The Big Fresno Fair has had recent capital improvements that include the expansion of the Table Mountain Rancheria Park with the completion of the Water Tree, a permanent Landscape Seating Area, the addition of the 72 spot RV Parking Lot, and the remodel of the Kings Canyon Gate entrance; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Alkire also oversaw the expansion of the "Clean & Green" Program, which included the installation of recycled rubber flooring throughout the fairgrounds, a \$5 million solar panel project, the planting of roughly 6,100 trees throughout the grounds, and installation of 2 ½ miles of pop-up sprinklers to the horse racing track; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2009, due to the many recent capital projects and programs such as "Clean & Green" and Fair Education, The Big Fresno Fair was selected as the first-ever California Feature Fair; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Alkire has served as president of the Western Fairs Association, as a member of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, Rotary International and Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and served on the advisory boards of two Secretaries of Agriculture for the State of California; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Alkire is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Fresno Convention & Visitors Bureau and the California Authority of Racing Fairs, for which he was named Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2008; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Alkire recently became the 77<sup>th</sup> person inducted into the Western Fairs Association's (WFA) Hall of Fame at its annual conference, which was held on January 24 to 27, 2010 in Reno, Nevada; and
- WHEREAS,** the WFA Hall of Fame honors distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution to the fair industry and recipient(s) are selected by the WFA Board of Governors; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Alkire is happily married and is the proud father of three children and five grandchildren, with a sixth grandchild on the way.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, Mayor Ashley Swearengin and the Fresno City Council, do hereby proclaim February 4, 2010, to be:

**“JOHN ALKIRE DAY“**

in the City of Fresno.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed the Seal of the City of Fresno, California, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010.

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**ASHLEY SWEARENGIN, Mayor**

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**LARRY WESTERLUND, Council President**

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**BLONG XIONG, Councilmember**

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**ANDREAS BORGEAS, Councilmember**

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**CYNTHIA STERLING, Councilmember**

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**MIKE DAGES, Councilmember**

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**LEE BRAND, Councilmember**

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**HENRY T. PEREA, Councilmember**