

**Hesperia Recreation and Park District**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**GARY “GRIZ” DRYLIE AWARDED  
THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICTS  
(CARPD) OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER - AWARD OF DISTINCTION  
AND  
THE CALIFORNIA PARK AND RECREATION SOCIETY (CPRS)  
CHAMPION OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Hesperia Recreation and Park District is happy to announce that Hesperia Area Recreation District Foundation Chair Board Member, Gary “Griz” Drylie, has been awarded for his outstanding work as a volunteer in our community. He was recently recognized by the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) with the Champion of the Community Award. Next week, the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) will be recognizing him at their annual conference in Lake Tahoe as its Outstanding Volunteer – Award of Distinction winner.

Griz Drylie has been an active and valuable volunteer in the community of Hesperia, with his work mainly focused around the Harrison Exhibit Center, 16367 Main Street, (becoming known as the Hesperia Museum), and his related outreach projects. His efforts for the preservation of Hesperia’s rich history guarantee a connection between future generations and the past. His dedication to the community is evident in the various programs and activities that he provides.

Griz has been serving on the Hesperia Area Recreation District (HARD) Foundation since February 2006. He specifically has spearheaded programs centered on the history of Hesperia and the surrounding community. His extensive knowledge of history has made all of the following programs possible: “Then and Now” postcards with photos of local historical sites in the past and present, “Hesperia Hall of Fame” honoring significant Hesperians who’ve made the community a better place for all, “Route 66, Old Government Road, and National Old Trails Road” education, the addition of the Stratton House to the Hesperia Historical Marker Tour, Scale Models, a Morse Code machine for a more interactive experience, meetings with school administrators, presentations to schools and the District’s Kids Kamp, and more. As a dedicated volunteer, Griz is the docent at the Harrison Exhibit Center which provides a glance into Hesperia’s past for all different kinds of patrons. Local historical societies, school groups, and citizens have all

benefited from the amazing history lessons that Griz has provided. On top of that, Griz has pursued grants for museum restoration, museum displays, and historical preservation. Griz has also recently led an effort to submit a grant request to the California Cultural and Historical Endowment for over \$85,000 for museum capital improvements and to enhance display features at the Harrison Museum.

Griz not only runs the physical side of Harrison Exhibit Center but also the virtual side with the “Hesperia’s Historic Preservation Group” on social media. The social media page is full of historical photos and videos that everyone can enjoy. He goes the extra mile by also live streaming from the museum and giving the community one-of-a-kind history lessons.

His commitment to the preservation of Hesperia’s history is contagious and deeply appreciated. He energetically brings Hesperia’s distant past to life. For his dedication to the community, the Hesperia Recreation and Park District nominated Gary “Griz” Drylie for these awards and expresses our support and gratitude for his contributions.

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