



Marin County
Board of Supervisors
RESOLUTION

**COMMENDING
DIPSEA RACE
UPON ITS CENTENNIAL**

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race will celebrate its 100th running this June 13, 2010, having been staged annually since 1905 (except for six years during the Great Depression and World War II), making it the oldest sporting event in Marin County and the second oldest major footrace in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Trail, from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach, used by the Race before any part of it was in the public domain but now entirely protected as parkland or via easement, is currently under review for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in an era when women were barred from competing in any long distance events, the Dipsea Women's Hikes of 1918 through 1922 were pioneering events in the history of women's sports in this country; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race has been, and continues to be, a leader in providing equal opportunities for runners of all ages and for women, with champions as young as nine years and as old as 70 years, along with 17 female winners; and

WHEREAS, the charitable, non-profit Dipsea Race Foundation, founded in 1993, has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to dozens of high school seniors and to building projects on the Dipsea Trail, including the Dipsea steps in Mill Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race has been managed ever since its inception by unpaid volunteers, now numbering in the hundreds, and without corporate title sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race has spawned numerous other races and events in Marin County, including the Double Dipsea, Quadruple Dipsea, Practice Dipsea, and Dipsea Zero Breast Cancer Hike/Run; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race has contributed materially to the economies of Stinson Beach, Mill Valley, and other Marin communities for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race has been responsible for more twisted ankles and cases of poison-oak than all other athletic events in Marin County combined; and

WHEREAS, the Dipsea Race is a unique, beloved, and enduring part of the experience and memory of more than 50,000 runners, and their families, in Marin County and beyond, across many generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin extends its greatest appreciation to the runners and volunteers and organizers, past and present, of the Annual Dipsea Race, and does hereby encourage them to ensure this unique heritage continues for the next century of runners.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held this 18th day of May 2010.

Charles McGlashan – Supervisor, District 3

Steve Kinsey – Supervisor, District 4

Judy Arnold – President

Diane Patterson
Clerk

