

Fair Dedication



Jimmy Sheehan

Posthumously awarded to long time friend of the fair Jimmy Sheehan.

In 1956, Jimmy Sheehan and his brother Dennis turned part-time jobs servicing gumball machines into the largest vending and catering business in the area. Sheehan Brothers continues to be a family owned business with the third generation now actively involved in managing the business. After leaving active management, Jimmy felt called to serve the community he loved, winning office as County Commissioner in 1992, a position he ably held for twelve years. He then served as Chief Financial Officer for Avetec from 2005 to 2011.

While not a farmer by calling, Jimmy enjoyed watching things grow. He recognized the inherent value of the Clark County Fairgrounds as a learning place for our youth, a place of recreation for all, the wide draw of livestock competition and entertainment for all ages and walks of life. It was during his full-time tenure at Sheehan Brothers Vending that Jimmy spearheaded major capital improvements on the livestock buildings and paving.

As a Clark County Commissioner, Jimmy's fondness for the fairgrounds was enhanced by his abiding friendship with his fellow commissioner, Gordon Flax, a life-long and well-respected Clark County farmer. At that time, the Clark County Fairgrounds suffered from delayed maintenance and mounting costs. In response, Jimmy consulted with the Agricultural Society,

and pledged to make the fairgrounds a top priority if they would develop a set of priorities for the needs of the fairgrounds. From that understanding, the Clark County Commission allocated the funds to create sorely needed new bathroom facilities in the main buildings, repaired the grandstands, replaced leaking roofs, updated the electrical service, increased the electrical service to the camping areas thereby allowing for additional camp sites and paved the roadways.

Throughout his tenure, Jimmy worked cooperatively with the fairground's leadership and key constituents for the betterment of the fairgrounds. He was relentless in staying on top of issues until they were resolved. In addition to advocating for funding to address critical deferred maintenance needs, Jimmy was heavily engaged in important programs that grew the Fairgrounds' programs for the community most notably the establishment of the Champions Center, and bringing the fireworks show to the fairgrounds. Also, Jimmy recognized the natural link between the agricultural community and the Clark County Heritage Center (another county owned facility) and sought ways to strengthen their mutual interests.

Jimmy worked tirelessly to help achieve and bring the fairgrounds to the foreground of public assets in Clark County. His contributions to the betterment of the fairgrounds will continue to benefit generations to come.