



Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1948, Ken Riggs founded an ambulance service that would become a cornerstone of emergency medical care, including being the first ambulance service in California to stock oxygen onboard, significantly advancing prehospital treatment; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, the service further elevated standards of care by requiring Advanced First Aid training, demonstrating an early and lasting commitment to professional medical education; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Ken Riggs was appointed County Coroner, a position he held longer than any other individual in California history, reflecting exceptional dedication to public service; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Ken Riggs was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson to the National Highway Traffic Safety Advisory Board, where he contributed to the national advancement of emergency medical systems; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification became a requirement, and Ken Riggs was appointed by President Gerald Ford to the Committee of Emergency Medical Services, which played a critical role in implementing medical network radio frequencies that remain in use today; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, leadership of the company transitioned to Kraig Riggs, who guided the organization for the next 34 years, continuing its legacy of innovation and excellence; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, Kraig Riggs required Mobile Intensive Care Paramedic certification for pre-hospital providers, transitioning Riggs Ambulance Service into an Advanced Life Support service, further strengthening emergency medical care for the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW SERRATTO, Mayor of the City of Merced, on behalf of the City Council hereby recognizes and honors Riggs Ambulance Service, Ken Riggs, and Kraig Riggs for their pioneering leadership, unwavering commitment to emergency medical services, and lasting contributions to public health, safety, and the advancement of prehospital medicine.

Signed this 17th day of February 2026.

Matthew Serratto, Mayor of Merced