



Lifetime Achievement Award

HONORING

Domenick “Cookie” Bianco

WHEREAS, beginning at age of “almost 16” when his father assigned him work in a table grape vineyard in Bakersfield, California, Domenick “Cookie” Bianco has dedicated himself to the growth of his family’s farming operation and to the development of a world class table grape industry;

WHEREAS, amidst the heartbreaking loss of the family business through unfair actions of outside actors, Cookie, in partnership with his brother Robert “Bobby” Bianco and the support of his wife and life partner Edith Bianco, found the courage to start over by working for others, slowly saving money to buy land of their own;

WHEREAS, years of hard work turned the shared family vision of a reclaimed legacy into a multi-commodity, vertically integrated, farming operation that contributed to the development of a world class table grape industry while providing economic opportunity for workers and generations of growers with an example of what vision, hard work, long-term planning, smarts, and perseverance can achieve;

WHEREAS, Cookie has lived his belief that growers must work together to address issues too big for any of them to manage successfully alone and accordingly by his retirement from service in 2025 will have served on the California Table Grape Commission board for a total of 39 years and will have been a member of the California Fresh Fruit Association for 48 years;

WHEREAS, Cookie is an icon in the table grape industry, someone who is revered for his passion and commitment, for his belief in taking the fight to the enemy – whoever that enemy might be – for his savvy survival skills which include living to fight another day, and for his belief in working with his neighbors and competitors through industry organizations;

HEREBY LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the California Fresh Fruit Association and California Table Grape Commission Board of Directors, express their deepest admiration for Domenick “Cookie” Bianco – for all he has achieved over a lifetime of hard work and for the examples he has provided of what it means to be of steadfast service to a family, a community of growers and employees, an industry, and a state.

PRESENTED THIS 11TH DAY OF MARCH, 2024

WAYDE KIRSCHENMAN, CHAIRMAN
CALIFORNIA FRESH FRUIT ASSOCIATION

JON ZANINOVICH, CHAIRMAN
CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPE COMMISSION