



Celebration of San Bernardino  
Native Son

*Swede Savage*  
Saturday, June 24 at 10:00am

Orange Show Speedway  
689 South E Street (use main entrance, follow signs)  
San Bernardino, California

Fifty years ago, in the 1973 Indianapolis 500, San Bernardino native, Swede Savage, drove his race into the lead, only to suffer fatal injuries in an inexplicable and devastating crash. Join us in memorializing the charismatic and beloved native son with the dedication of a memorial marker on the grounds of the National Orange Show, where Swede's racing career began.



Presented by American Racing Memorial Association



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## **SPECIAL EVENT AT THE NATIONAL ORANGE SHOW**

A memorial marker honoring San Bernardino native Swede Savage will be dedicated on the grounds of the National Orange Show on Saturday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m. Savage was a “shooting star” in the world of motorcycle and automobile racing during the late 60’s and early 70’s. He began as a Soap Box Derby racer at age 5. Eventually, he moved up to Quarter Midget cars and raced at the track on the grounds of the National Orange Show.

A graduate of Pacific High School, he was an exceptional athlete and participated in many sports at the school. Savage was disqualified from playing on the football team because he was already competing in motorcycle races and winning prize money. He no longer had “amateur status!” Racing was his passion!

Eventually, Swede Savage came to the attention of legendary race driver Dan Gurney who had spent part of his youth living in Riverside. Gurney was already an internationally recognized driver who had participated in Indy car racing and Formula 1 racing in Europe. He took a liking to Savage and provided him with mentoring and eventually a position as a driver on his racing team. Gurney appreciated Swede’s natural talent, sharp intellect, humility, eagerness to be coached and obvious charisma.

After participating in races in NASCAR, TransAm and sports cars Swede Savage stepped up to Indy car racing. He raced at Ontario Motor Speedway and later won the Bobby Bull Memorial 150-mile race at Phoenix International Raceway in 1970. Savage raced at the Indianapolis 500 in 1972 and dropped out after having mechanical problems.

In 1973, Savage shattered the Indianapolis Motor Speedway track record during qualifying. After several rain delays, the race was run on Wednesday, May 30th. Savage held the lead from laps 43 to lap 54 then made his first pit stop. He emerged from his stop with 70 gallons of additional fuel and a fresh right rear tire. On lap 58 Savage’s car twitched back and forth and then crashed into a wall head-on. The force of the impact with the car carrying a full load of fuel caused the car to explode. Savage somehow survived the horrendous crash and was taken to a local hospital in Indianapolis. Thirty-three days later, Swede died as a result of his injuries. He was 26 years old. Savage is interred at Mountain View Cemetery in San Bernardino.

Savage’s family was well known in the Inland Empire. His grandfather was a physician and was one of the founders of St. Bernardine’s hospital which opened in 1931. Two of his uncles were prominent physicians in the region. Swede’s own father was a well-thought of veterinarian in San Bernardino. July 2nd of this year will be the 50-year anniversary of his death. Come join us as we honor Swede Savage’s life and career.

For more information please contact: Leslie Bischoff – Director of Marketing & Public Relations  
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