

WHEREAS; the Blue Flame Rocket Car was the first rocket-powered car to reach the pinnacle of speed, earning the title of “Fastest Car on Earth” at Utah’s Bonneville Salt Flats on October 23, 1970; and

WHEREAS; 50 years ago today, Blue Flame driver Gary Gabelich recorded International Automobile Federation certified World Land Speed Records of 622.407 miles per hour – or 1,001.667 kilometers per hour – for the flying mile and 630.388 miles per hour – or 1,014.511 kilometers per hour – for the flying kilometer; and

WHEREAS; the 37-foot long, eight-foot high, and seven-foot eight-inch wide Blue Flame Rocket Car was built by local motorsports enthusiasts, racers, and craftsmen at Reaction Dynamics in Milwaukee, at a level of quality that rivaled multinational corporations; and

WHEREAS; Reaction Dynamics partners Pete Farnsworth, Ray Dausman, and Richard Keller worked together – along with a team that included Ray Besasie, Sr., Gerard Brennan, Fred Butze, Dave Bykowski, George Callaway, Jim Deist, Dix Erickson, Leah Farnsworth, Dana Fuller, Larry Henkel, Mike Hopkins, Dick Huebschen, Ken McCarthy, Mark Neubauer, Dave Petrali, Butch Reynolds, Chuck Suba, Jr., Chuck Suba, Sr., the Institute of Gas Technology, Micro Industries, and Illinois Institute of Technology faculty and students – to design, fabricate, sponsor, and coordinate publicity on the Blue Flame Rocket Car, ultimately taking two years from concept to creation to build and test the 4,000 pound speed machine; and

WHEREAS; at a time when rocket design was primarily the task of the military and government, the Blue Flame Rocket Car’s innovative program underscored the ingenuity and spirit of invention in our state, and even set into motion a sponsorship relationship method that has since become the bedrock of motorsports, private business, and all levels of government; and

WHEREAS; for his land speed record in the Blue Flame, along with his work as a boat racer and Apollo test astronaut, Gary Gabelich was posthumously inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America at Daytona International Speedway in 2016, as part of its 28th class of inductees; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin pays tribute to the innovative spirit of all Wisconsinites as we celebrate 50 years of the Blue Flame Rocket Car, which remains the fastest American designed, built, and campaigned hot rod in history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 23, 2020, as

BLUE FLAME DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 15th day of October 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State