## LEGENDARY DRIVER WILL GIVE HOT LAPS AROUND INFINEON TRACK Raceway answers national appeal with blood drive featuring Mario Andretti

SONOMA - Motor sports enthusiasts will be given the rare opportunity to ride with a racing legend at Infineon Raceway on Wednesday, Jan. 28, and at the same time aid the Northern California Region of the American Red Cross, which is facing critically low blood supplies during this winter season.

Mario Andretti, the only driver in history to win races in five different decades, will be part of the 3rd annual Infineon Technologies High-Speed Blood Drive on Wednesday, Jan. 28, from noon-6 p.m. Andretti will give a pre-determined number of fans a lap around the world-famous 12-turn, 2.52-mile road course at full speed, and all it will cost is a pint of blood.

The blood drive couldn't come at a better time as national inventory levels have dropped well below a safe and adequate blood supply. Certain blood types are nearing depletion, and in some areas of the country elective surgeries have been postponed or cancelled.

"Throughout January, blood supplies in the Bay Area have been critically low. We always operate on a narrow margin, typically keeping a two-day blood supply on hand. Recently, we've had less than a day's supply of blood available to meet the needs of patients. The situation is starting to impact patient care. Therefore I am particularly happy about the Infineon Raceway blood drive. We need more of these voluntary business initiatives to encourage people to donate blood," said Philippe Bureau, Director of Donor Recruitment for the American Red Cross Blood Services, Northern California Region.

Said Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy G. Thompson: "The nation is facing critical shortages in communities across the country. If blood supplies do not immediately increase, patients, accident victims and those whose lives depend on regular transfusions, are at risk for not getting the blood they need."

(More)

Fans are invited to the raceway to help the American Red Cross meet its constant need for blood donors, and at the same time, they can meet Andretti, the 1978 Formula One world champion, four-time CART champion and winner of both the Indianapolis 500 and Daytona 500.

In addition to the American Red Cross and Infineon Technologies, Infineon Raceway will again partner with The Bone 107.7 FM on this worthwhile event. Hospitals around the country use a total of 38,000 units of blood each day, with demand increasing each year.

Bob LeFort, president of Infineon Technologies North America, is pleased to host the event and will make Andretti (Infineon Technologies spokesman) available.

"I am really proud that Infineon is again supporting this year's blood drive at the raceway since the demand for blood supply is very high. I am particularly pleased that we again have Mario Andretti to help us make this event both a lasting memory for all participants and contribute to the overall success of the blood drive," LeFort said.

According to the American Red Cross, it is estimated that 60-percent of the United States' population is eligible to donate blood, however only 2-3 percent of Bay Area residents donate blood. This is lower than the national average, which is only 5-percent of eligible donors.

To help get hearts pumping before giving blood, those who visit the raceway between noon and 5 p.m. will be treated to a "hot lap" around the 12-turn Infineon Raceway road course. Andretti, as well as professional drivers from the Jim Russell Racing Drivers School, will administer the laps at speed around the 2.52-mile circuit. Because of an anticipated high donor turnout, only the first 50 donors to make an appointment on www.beadonor.com will receive hot laps with Andretti. Laps with Andretti will also be given away on The Bone 107.7 FM, so be sure to listen. Andretti will also be available for autographs.

After a lap around the track, participants will complete a brief health history questionnaire with a Red Cross representative to ensure eligibility. For information on donor eligibility, please visit <a href="www.beadonor.com">www.beadonor.com</a>. Complimentary cookies and juice will be available.