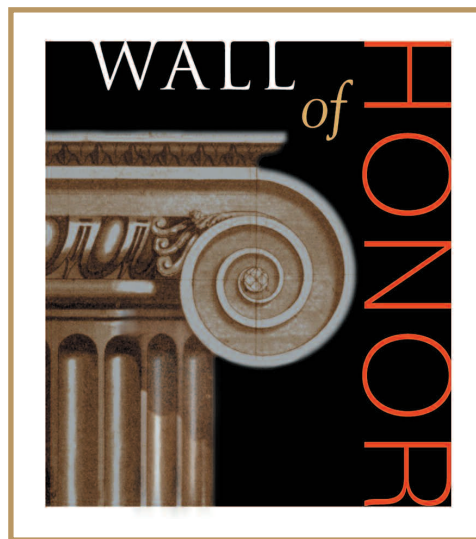


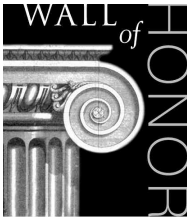
LOU & CAROL ARKO  
DR. AL BEST  
GLORIA JOHNSON  
DR. DAVID McWHIRTER &  
DR. ANDREW (DREW) MATTISON  
BERNARD (BERNIE) MICHELS  
FREDERICK (FRED) SCHOLL  
JIM WOODWARD



THE 2007 SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR

*“To understand the  
present, examine the past;  
without the past, there  
would be no present.”*

*- Chinese proverb*



*Special Thanks to*

---

BENJAMIN F. DILLINGHAM, III

JERI DILNO

GEORGE MURPHY

NICOLE MURRAY-RAMIREZ

SHARON PARKER

JUDI SCHAIM

JENNIFER C. JONES, *Director of Development, The Center*

DR. DELORES A. JACOBS, *Chief Executive Officer, The Center*

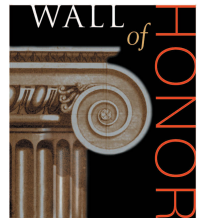
---

# THE SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR

The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor is the nation's only LGBT community memorial display dedicated to honoring and remembering important local LGBT community members. Located in The San Diego LGBT Community Center, The Community Wall of Honor was created in 2004 by Nicole Murray-Ramirez, The Imperial Court de San Diego and The Center. The Wall recognizes and celebrates those San Diego LGBT community members and LGBT community allies who have had a significant positive impact upon the San Diego LGBT community. The Community Wall of Honor is also intended to help educate community members, particularly our youth, about these significant historical persons, their contributions to the community, and their lives.

In the past our community was so busy fighting to survive that we had no time to record our history as it was happening. Today we are so focused on the future that we tend to let the past slip away from us. The Community Wall of Honor is about remembering, honoring and educating all of us about that history. It is a visible and lasting way of reminding our community of those whose efforts have brought us to where we are today.

This memorial display will enable us to honor, remember and commemorate members of our local community who have made significant contributions to our history. It is unique and special – to our knowledge no other LGBT community in the nation has taken the time to commemorate its local leaders. This unique Community History project is intended to be an evolving document recording the lives, challenges and victories of the San Diego LGBT community and is compiled with input and assistance from community members.





---

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
IMPERIAL COURT DE SAN DIEGO, INC.

Board Chair: Nicole M. Ramirez

President: Milo Angel

Interim Secretary: Carlos Silva

Treasurer: Julia Legaspi

Assistant Treasurer: Jackie Marquez

Members:

Danny Becht

Michelle Masters

Ray Portillos

*(as of July 30, 2007)*

IMPERIAL COURT PROGRAMS

Benjamin F. Dillingham III Community Grant

Nicole M Ramirez Scholarship

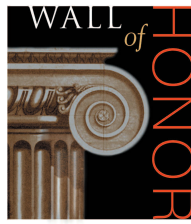
Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Fund

Queen Eddie Youth Fund

San Diego Young Positives

The GLBT Community Children's Easter Egg Hunt





## LOU & CAROL ARKO

Lou and Carol Arko became supporters of the LGBT community through their ownership of neighborhood fixtures like the The Brass Rail and Number 1 Fifth Avenue. They have been involved in countless community causes without seeking recognition for their efforts: in Carol's words: "we just went ahead and did what needed to be done."

As a teenager, Lou emigrated from the former Yugoslavia to the United States to join his father in Minnesota and open a tailor store. After serving in the Army during World War II, he returned and expanded the business into two men's clothing stores. However, he tired of the cold Minnesota winters and moved to California.

Once in San Diego, Lou entered the bar business. In 1958, he purchased The Brass Rail, which was known as the city's oldest gay bar (having been open since the 1930s). In 1963, Lou moved the bar from 6th and B Streets downtown to Hillcrest, and in 1973, across the street to its current location.

Carol met Lou in 1976, after moving to San Diego from Denver. She began working with him by taking care of book-keeping for the bars. Carol became a leader in the local business community. She worked on the committee that started the Hillcrest Business Association, and served on the board for 15 years (including multiple terms as president). Twenty-four years ago, the Arkos helped found CityFest, the popular annual street festival. They repeatedly volunteered to take the most unpopular job: chalk-marking the booth locations at 3:00 in the morning!

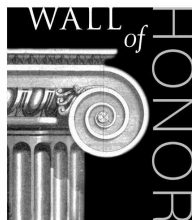
Lou and Carol are among the earliest allies to our community and have witnessed much social change: in the early days, police would come through The Brass Rail with flashlights and demand that gentlemen "put all hands on top of the bar." The bar was located next to the first Center, and Lou helped the fledgling organization in countless ways: donating supplies

for meetings and even installing the carpet. The Arkos raised money for Dr. Al Best's pioneering campaign for city council, and also helped start the annual Thanksgiving event that evolved into the Scott Carlson Memorial Dinner.

The couple was also involved in early efforts to combat the AIDS epidemic. The Brass Rail hosted AIDS benefits long before many others recognized the impact of the disease. Because bars like it served as a social hub of the gay community, they were main sources of fundraising in the days before formal organizations existed. The Arkos worked with Nicole Murray-Ramirez to help customers in need of help locate shelter, food, and medication. Later, they helped fund drug protocol research.

Over the decades, the Arkos have contributed to countless LGBT and HIV/AIDS causes and have served as civic leaders. They still own Number One Fifth Avenue, but now enjoy having more free time to travel.





## DR. AL BEST

**D**r. Al Best is a longtime leader and pioneer in politics, LGBT issues, HIV/AIDS, and community service. In 1979, Al became the first openly gay candidate to run for city council in San Diego — just months after the assassination of Harvey Milk. He came in fifth in a field of eleven, despite losing his job, facing death threats, and competing against candidates who spent five times as much.

Al was born in Pueblo, Colorado and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Colorado. His career in the airline industry started early (he began work at United Airlines while still in high school) and later took him to New Mexico, where he was named to the New Mexico State Aviation Board. He received a Masters degree from the University of New Mexico and a PhD from New Mexico State University. A National Science Foundation conference brought him to San Diego initially, and Al moved here in 1975.

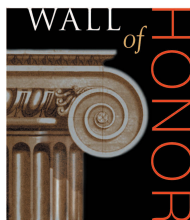
He went on to become Executive Vice President of Protocol Development for Community Research Group, one of 46 community-based HIV/AIDS clinical trials networks established by the federal government to get HIV protocols online more quickly. These efforts resulted in what is now the AIDS cocktail. Al also worked to transport HIV/AIDS drugs to people in need in Tijuana. He has been a fellow of Bio-Medical Research of America and a member of Associates of Clinical Pharmacology.

Al holds many other civic distinctions, as the first openly gay person appointed to the San Diego Equal Opportunity Commission, sworn to the Civil Service Commission, and elected president of that body. He has also served on the city's Medical Marijuana Task Force, the Congressional Crime Task Force, the Safe Neighborhoods Program, and the Chief of Police's GLBT advisory board.

Over 66 different organizations have benefited from Al's board involvement. He was a board member of The Center in the 1970s, and is a co-founder of Stepping Stone (Al created the first public listings of gay AA meetings). Al was an officer of the Harvey Milk Democratic Club in the 1980s. He and his partner, Eduardo Moncada, were very involved with Something Special Food Pantry. In 1993, the duo also co-chaired a large community benefit and the first-ever World Film Festival in San Diego.

While Al has amassed decades of service, he and Eduardo are still active, raising money for scholarship funds and working to get the downtown library built. Al was honored at the Sixth Annual Community Tribute Banquet in 2003, and he and Eduardo jointly received Pride's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 (after marching in 29 consecutive parades!). Despite all of this, Al says that he feels privileged to be part of a community that welcomed him, and that he is most proud of his twenty-year relationship with Eduardo.





## GLORIA JOHNSON

**G**loria Johnson is a nationally-recognized activist on behalf of the LGBT community, feminist issues, and Democratic politics.

Gloria first moved to San Diego in the early 1960s to attend college at then-undergraduate California Western University. She fell in love with the city's climate and proximity to the ocean, and so she returned to San Diego after three years of studying social work and psychology in the Los Angeles area. Gloria worked for San Diego County for thirty years; during the latter half of her tenure, she served as one of the first social workers in San Diego to work with people with AIDS in the AIDS Case Management Program. She retired in 1999. Gloria is a member of the SEIU labor union and the San Diego Unitarian Universalist Church.

Much of her activism has been in Democratic politics, starting in 1972 with Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm's groundbreaking campaign as the first African American to run for President (fittingly, Gloria is now working to elect another female candidate, Hillary Clinton, to the presidency). In 1976, Gloria became the first openly gay/lesbian person elected to the San Diego Democratic Central Committee, and was elected to that body again in the 1990s. She served as a delegate to the 1996 and 2000 Democratic National Conventions, and has been on the campaign staffs of Christine Kehoe, Donna Frye, and Mike Aguirre, among others!

Gloria has also been active in the LGBT community since the 1970s, and has often combined her political and community work — using, for example, connections made in party politics to push for LGBT community goals.

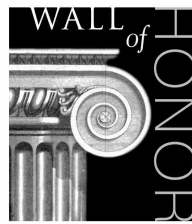
Gloria was co-chair of a committee created to defeat the Briggs Initiative (or Proposition 6), the 1978 state ballot proposition that would have banned gays and lesbians from teaching in public schools. She joined the newly-formed

San Diego Democratic Club (SDDC, an LGBT Democratic organization) in 1977, and became President of the club in 1980. Gloria served on the SDDC board once more in the 1990s, and is still a very active member of the organization. Most recently, she was Co-Chair of the California Democratic Party LGBT Caucus.

Gloria is a longtime leader on feminist issues as well: she has been a member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) for over thirty years. Gloria campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) with NOW, and she and other activists spent 48 hours in a Washington, DC jail after protesting the ERA's defeat. Just this year, Gloria helped organize the California NOW convention, which was held in San Diego.

Listed among *The Advocate's* top 400 U.S. gay leaders in 1984, Gloria has worked tirelessly for social justice over the past four decades in feminist, LGBT, and political communities.





## DAVID McWHIRTER & ANDREW (DREW) MATTISON

**D**rs. David McWhirter and Andrew “Drew” Mattison, partners for over 34 years, became international spokespeople for the LGBT community after the 1984 publication of their landmark study, *The Male Couple*. The book, based on five years of research on male couples, was translated into German and French and released in video format. David and Drew were even invited to address the International Congress of Sexology, where they were among the first gay people to discuss homosexuality in India. As the first gay couple on Oprah and countless other television and radio shows, the pair taught millions of people about gay relationships and garnered reputations as leaders in human sexuality research.

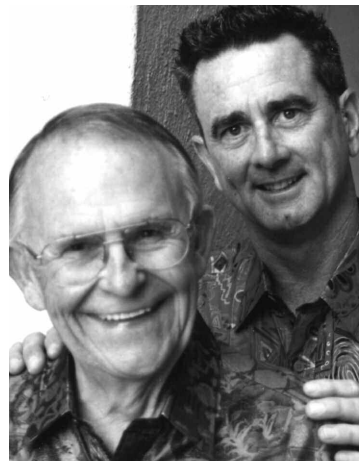
David was born in San Jose and earned a bachelor’s degree at Loyola University in Los Angeles. He went on to complete his medical degree at the University of Southern California. In 1970, David moved to San Diego, where he worked as a board-certified psychiatrist and sexologist in private practice as well as institutional and academic settings. In 1976, he became an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at UCSD. David received acclaim for his leadership in the turnaround of the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital in the late 1980s, where he was medical director. He was also medical director of the Clinical Institute for Human Relationships. David was appointed to two state AIDS task forces and also served on The Kinsey Institute’s Science Advisory Board.

Born in Brooklyn, Drew earned a bachelor’s from Fairfield University and a master’s in social work from Stony Brook University. He later moved to San Diego, where he completed a psychology doctorate at U.S. International University. Drew worked as a medical psychologist, psychotherapist, and professor. In 1989, he helped found the first federally-funded research center dedicated to studying the impact of AIDS on the brain: the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center at UCSD’s School

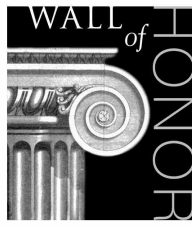
of Medicine. Drew was known for promoting collaborative relationships between researchers and the gay community, which became especially important as he undertook research on club drugs and risky sexual behavior at circuit parties. Drew also co-founded the UC Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research in order to test the effects of marijuana on patients with cancer, AIDS, and other conditions.

David and Drew were respected as scientists, educators, and civic leaders — both locally and around the world. They each served as president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, a professional organization dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about sexuality. Both Drew and David were active in political and charitable fundraising, as well as in LGBT organizations like The Center and the San Diego Democratic Club (SDDC). In 1983, SDDC roasted David at their annual Freedom Banquet in recognition of his support.

After decades of service, leadership, and activism, Drew died of stomach cancer in December 2005 at age 57, and David suffered a fatal stroke in July 2006 at age 74. Their personal and professional collections are now housed in the library of UCSD’s LGBT Resource Center.







## BERNARD (BERNIE) MICHELS

**B**ernie Michels is one of The Center's founders. With Jess Jessop, he called the very first meetings of the Planning Committee in 1972, and later became Executive Director of the committee.

Bernie was born in 1932, a middle child in a large working class family that lived in a tiny rural Montana town. As a boy he was largely neglected by his parents, leaving a major hole in his life. He still often feels like an outsider. He initially struggled in school, but eventually excelled in high school and paid his own way through college by working on farms, in construction, and at part-time jobs. He graduated from Montana State University in 1953.

After college, Bernie went into the Army and was stationed for two years near San Francisco. Although he was still living a heterosexual identity, San Francisco opened his eyes to a much bigger, more exciting world than he had known in Montana — and he never went back, except to visit family. After discharge from the military, he first worked in consumer credit, then as an officer in a Los Angeles bank, and later as a social worker.

About 1967, Bernie slowly began exploring his sexual orientation, coming out fully when he started attending early meetings of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) in Los Angeles. Participating in the GLF was both exhilarating and scary especially when demonstrating against the L.A. Police and marching in the first Pride parade in 1970. Arrest was a constant threat.

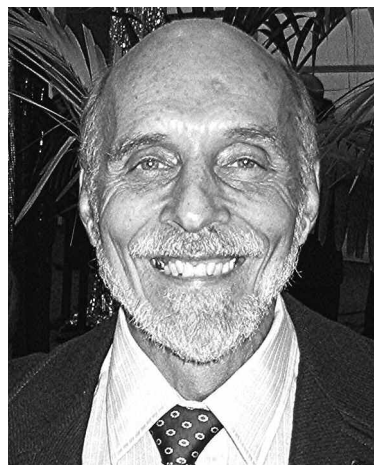
Bernie moved to San Diego in 1971 to attend San Diego State University, where he was the first openly LGBT student in the School of Social Work. In 1974, he completed a master's degree thesis: "Social Scenes of the Male Gay Community of San Diego" (copies available at SDSU, UCSD, and Lambda Archives). He also presented the city's first

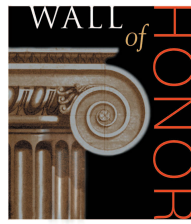
LGBT studies course in 1974 at SDSU: "Myths and Realities Concerning Gay People."

Looking back, Bernie says, "I am amazed at what I was able to accomplish. Some was pure luck, but much of it was due to having the complete support of my partner, Thom Carey, along with the courage and hard work of people like Peggy Heathers, Cynthia Wallace, Jess Jessop, and others. I value them so much."

Bernie and Thom moved to Boston in 1976 so that Bernie could pursue a doctorate. He graduated with a PhD in Social Policy from Brandeis University in 1987. Since 1988, he has been an adjunct professor of sociology at UMass, Boston, where he focuses on social inequality.

In Boston, he has demonstrated and lobbied at the Massachusetts State House to both obtain and preserve same sex marriage, has organized an AIDS Walk team each year, and is an active member of Prime Timers. Despite living in Boston, Bernie still considers himself a San Diegan, and says that he is "immensely proud of what LGBT people have accomplished in San Diego." He returns for each of The Center's important anniversaries.





## FREDERICK (FRED) SCHOLL

**F**red Scholl helped build many of San Diego's most important LGBT institutions. Fred was born in San Diego but lived in Germany as a child, and lost both of his parents in World War II. Members of his family were active in the White Rose, an anti-Nazi organization. Fred returned to the United States at age 8, and went on to earn his first degree from San Diego State University. He served in the US Air Force as an intelligence officer in Europe, the Middle East, and Vietnam — earning two Purple Hearts, among numerous other military honors.

Over the years, Fred was involved in many different parts of the LGBT community. He co-founded The Center and served on its early board of directors. Fred was also the volunteer director of The Center's Prisoner, Parole and Probation Services and Legal Services programs for almost two decades. He worked to help create the San Diego Coalition for Human Rights, which grew into the Greater San Diego Business Association (GSDBA). Fred also co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Latino Organization, which later became Orgullo. He wrote for several local gay publications, including the San Diego Son, Update, and the Gay and Lesbian Times.

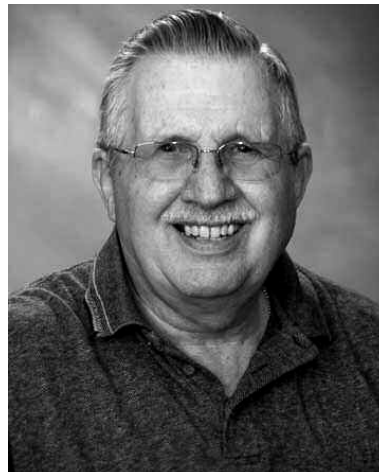
Fred is also a co-founder of Stepping Stone, San Diego's alcohol and drug recovery agency for LGBT communities: he wrote the articles of incorporation and even gave the group its name. He has also been active in AIDS-related causes. Fred co-founded Auntie Helen's, a laundry service for people with AIDS and thrift store. He helped initiate Clinica ACOSIDA, the first Mexican AIDS clinic, and served as its volunteer pharmacist for 17 years.

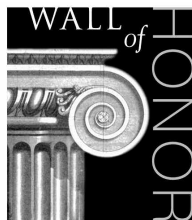
Fred was an important early figure in building a relationship between the LGBT community and the police department. He co-founded the Gay and Lesbian Police Liaison Committee and served as its chair for about ten years.

Fred also designed and taught sensitivity training for cadets at the San Diego Police Academy and led the Police/Community Relations Advisory Board.

Importantly, Fred's activism goes beyond the LGBT community. He was the first openly gay president of the local American Civil Liberties Union, a co-founder of the Centro Legal for Spanish-speaking communities, and treasurer of the San Diego County Bail Fund. He has also been a volunteer pharmacist with the International Red Cross and the Cruz Roja of Mexico.

A former U.S. Air Force covert intelligence officer, Fred speaks a dozen languages and holds two doctorates (as well as an MBA, a Masters in Public Health, and a Masters in Economics). He has six children and five grandchildren. Now, Fred is semi-retired and splits his time between San Diego and Germany, where he teaches at the Deutsche Welle Academies in Bonn and Berlin, and at Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main.





## JIM WOODWARD

Jim Woodward is a nationally-recognized hero of the movement to assist gay and lesbian servicemembers and to allow them to serve openly. He was born in Connecticut and grew up in New Hampshire. Jim came out during his senior year at Williams College, where he earned a BA in Economics with a Latin American Area Studies emphasis. In 1972, he graduated and joined the Navy, which brought him to San Diego the following year as a Naval Flight Officer specializing in Airborne Tactical Data Systems.

In 1973 and 1974, Jim became involved in San Diego's gay community through the Metropolitan Community Church and The Center. After meeting several gay men who were out to their shipmates on the USS Constellation, Jim formally came out to his Commanding Officer and requested that he be allowed to serve openly. However, he was separated to inactive duty. With the help of Gary Rees, then The Center's military counseling coordinator, Jim found legal counsel and pursued the right to serve for fifteen years. In 1989, the Supreme Court refused to take his case.

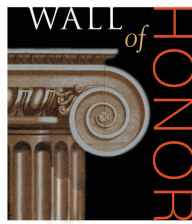
Jim also helped other enlisted men and women. He coordinated The Center's military counseling program (a national model for other organizations) from 1975 through the mid-1980s and published a manual about counseling gay servicemembers. At one point, he supervised five volunteer counselors who handled nearly 300 discharge cases (and discharge upgrades) a year — about a quarter of the Navy's discharge cases!

In 1985, Jim founded the San Diego Veterans Association for LGBT veterans, and represented it on the United Veteran Council of San Diego until 1991 (which he also chaired in 1987-1988). During the first gay and lesbian March on Washington in 1987, Jim met with other activists from around the country and co-founded the Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America, a national group. Around this time period, Jim was named a San Diego Pride parade marshal.

In the 1990s, Jim continued his community service as a volunteer with The Center and a board member for AIDS Walk San Diego. In 2000, he moved to Temecula, where he went on to found a chapter of PFLAG and to serve on the coordinating committee for Democracy for America-Temecula Valley. Jim's papers are now housed at Lambda Archives.

After leaving the Navy, Jim went on to a distinguished career as a firefighter, one of San Diego County's first paramedics, and a public health executive in San Diego and San Bernardino County. He and his partner of 32 years, Seldon "Sal" Griego, retired to Costa Rica last year and are currently building their dream house near the beach, in the company of their beloved dogs.

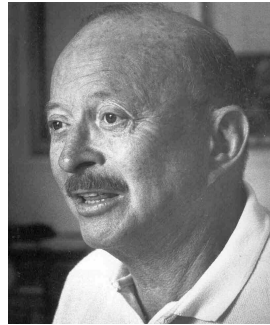




## 2006 HONOREES



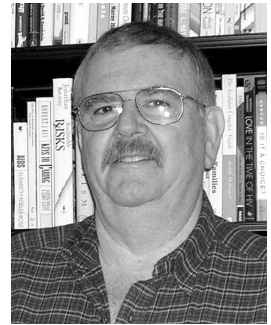
*Ms. Muriel Fisher*



*Mr. Herb King*



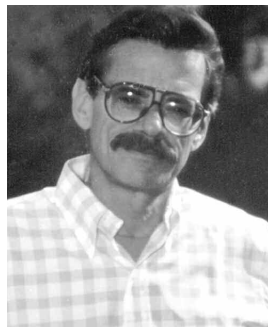
*Mr. Patrick Mcarron*



*Mr. Doug Moore*



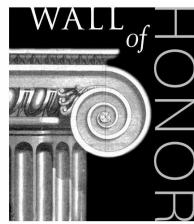
*Ms. Maria Plasencia*



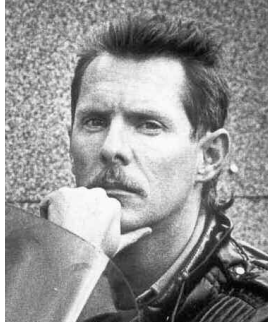
*Mr. Ron Umbaugh*



*Ms. Bridget Wilson*



## 2005 HONOREES



*Albert Bell*



*Jim Cua*



*Jeri Dilno*



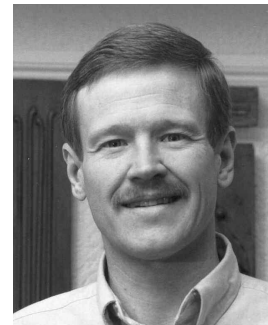
*Darl Edwards*



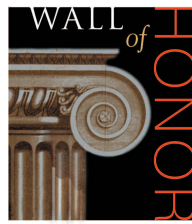
*David Farrell*



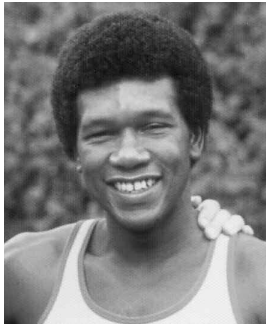
*Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace*



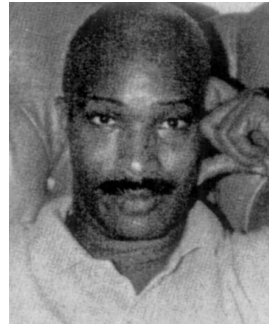
*Doug Scott*



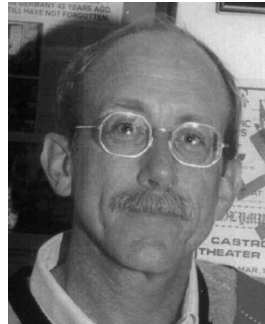
## 2004 HONOREES



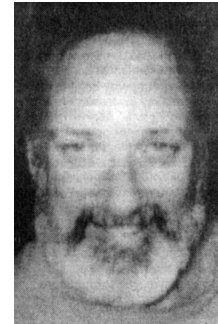
*Thomas "Thom" Carey*



*Don Edmundson*



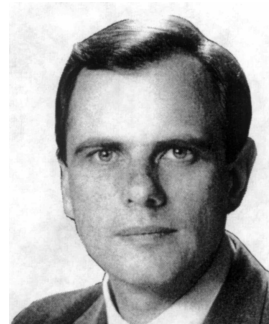
*Robert "Jess" Jessop*



*Robert "Rob" Shepard*



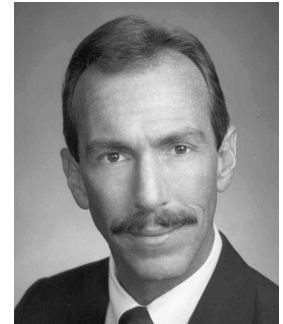
*John Ciaccio*



*Neil Good*



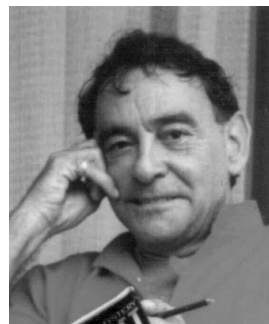
*Clint Johnson*



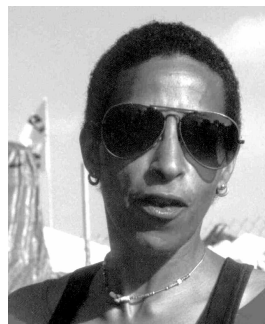
*Dr. A. Brad Truax*



*Barbara Crusberg*



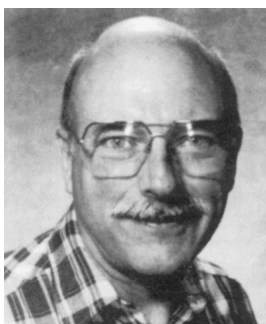
*Don Hauck*



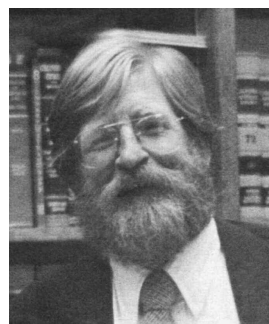
*Corrine "Martie" Mackey*



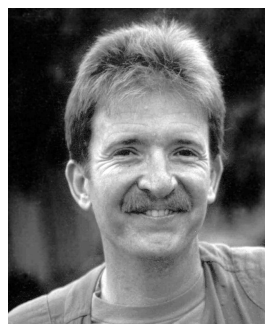
*Robert Walsh*



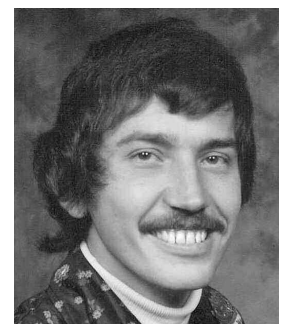
*John Eberly*



*Tom Homann*



*Gary Rees*



*Jerry White*

# SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR CRITERIA

The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor is intended to recognize persons who, while residing in San Diego County:

1. Have made a notable contribution toward the advancement of LGBT equal rights.
2. Have played a significant role in establishing/leading/enhancing businesses, nonprofits, professional offices, clubs and/or individual efforts that have benefited LGBT San Diego.
3. Have fulfilled a role of historic significance in promoting the need for LGBT equality.

4. Have served as an exceptional role model for all citizens to emulate and/or admire.

## WHERE TO MAIL

Nomination Forms and all accompanying nomination materials should be mailed to:

The San Diego LGBT Community Wall of Honor Committee  
c/o The Center, P.O. Box 3357,  
San Diego, CA 92163

---

## SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY WALL OF HONOR NOMINATION FORM

Please type or block print legibly. Please complete all of the information requested (front and back) and attach a brief biography of the nominee, with a minimum of one black & white photo of the nominee.

Date of nomination submission \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Name of community member making the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address of community member making the nomination \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number of community member making the nomination (Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number of community member making the nomination (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address of community member making the nomination \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the enclosed San Diego Community Wall of Honor criteria do you believe this nominee meets?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the ways you believe the activities and community contributions made by the nominee meet these criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe anything else about the activities and contributions of this nominee that you believe should be considered.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Information complete

Date nomination received \_\_\_\_\_

Committee member responsible for nomination packet  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date community member nominating was contacted to  
acknowledge receipt \_\_\_\_\_



The San Diego LGBT Community Center

3909 Centre Street, San Diego, CA 92103 • 619.692.2077

Mailing address: P.O. Box 3357, San Diego, CA 92163

[www.thecentersd.org](http://www.thecentersd.org)