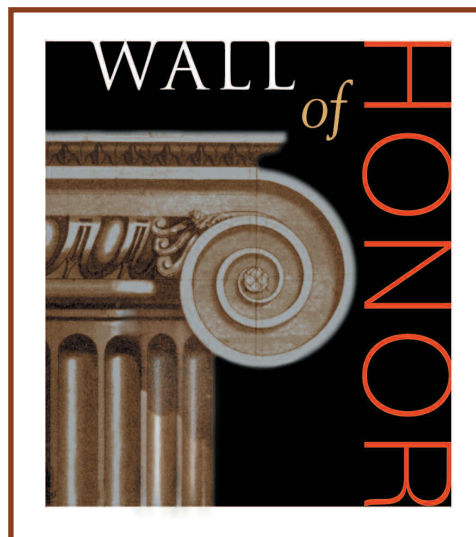


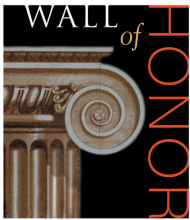
FRED ACHESON
LARRY BAZA
DR. MICHAEL CLARK
PHYLLIS JACKSON
GEORGE MURPHY
FRANK STIRITI



THE 2008 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

JEFFREY M. WERGELES, *Director of Development, The Center*

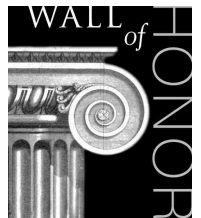
DR. DELORES A. JACOBS, *Chief Executive Officer, The Center*

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 Murray Ramirez

President: Big Mike Phillips

Secretary: Robert Conover

Treasurer: Empress X Milo Angel

Members:

Ronnie Miranda

Julia Legaspi

Raymond Portillos-Leon

Tone Puente

Duncan Stewart

Brenda Watson

(as of July 30, 2008)

IMPERIAL COURT PROGRAMS

Benjamin F. Dillingham III Community Grant

Nicole M Ramirez Scholarship

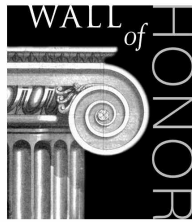
Toni Atkins Lesbian Health Fund

Queen Eddie Youth Fund

San Diego Young Positives

The GLBT Community Children's Easter Egg Hunt





ALFRED (FRED) ACHESON

Businessman and community leader Fred Acheson was 55 when he died of AIDS complications on Feb. 9, 1992.

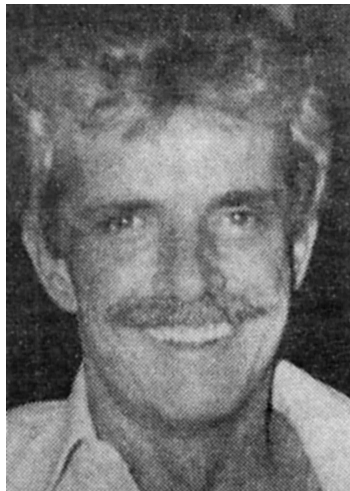
Born in Los Angeles, Acheson graduated from West high School in Phoenix and attended the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs before joining the U.S. Air Force, where he trained as a navigator. After his discharge he returned to college and earned a degree and teaching certificate, then settled in Southern California and taught in elementary schools while living in Los Angeles and Manhattan Beach. Upon deciding to change careers, Acheson raised avocados on a ranch near Ramona for 10 years before moving to San Diego.

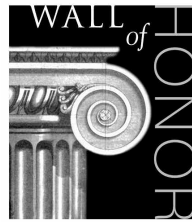
An early investor and later a partner in Update, Acheson was involved in the Greater San Diego Business Association (GSDBA), San Diego Zoological Society and Being Alive-San Diego, and helped start the San Diego AIDS Project in 1984. He was also a great country-western dancer and a founding member of the Iron Spurs dance group.

A member of The Center's board of directors when the organization was just forming, Acheson was active in the San Diego LGBT community from the early days of its organizing. He also helped The Center find its first official home as a member of the real estate partnership (which included Jess Jessop, Howard Marsa, Gary Rees, Mary Jones and Lois Lippold, as well) that purchased a lot in Golden Hill containing the house where The Center rented space before moving to Fifth and Robinson.

Acheson was co-owner of The Club bar for a time and was sole owner when it evolved into BULC, which he ran for seven years, until it was sold shortly before his death. He also owned the Loading Zone bar for many years, as well as Diablos, a lesbian bar. Prominent in the leather community, Acheson's bars sponsored candidates for the International Mr. Leather contests and held many fundraisers for AIDS organizations since the beginning of the epidemic.

Content in part courtesy of Update





LARRY BAZA

Larry Baza is a native San Diegan of Mexican and Chamorro (Guamanian) heritage. Raised in a close-knit and culturally rich family, he was instilled with a sense of pride and dignity in the family's multi-racial make-up. His parents were role models of community involvement, teaching the importance of civic responsibility, particularly from a civil rights perspective.

Baza became involved beginning in high school with the civil rights, Chicano and anti Vietnam War movements. Those experiences would influence him greatly when he came out of the closet. His experience in the fledgling "Gay Liberation Movement," began with the fight over the Briggs Initiative. He went on to produce Artists for Aids Assistance, the first major AIDS fundraiser in the arts community, involving 20 arts organizations.

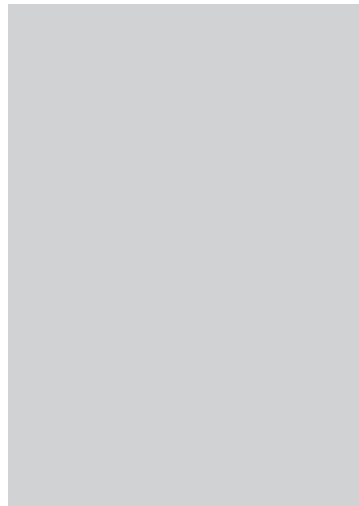
A board member of San Diego Pride for seven years, Baza served as a co-chair of Pride with Vertez Burkes as the first people of color to hold those positions. He has been honored by the San Diego Democratic Club, Gay/Lesbian Latinos con Orgullo, and by Mayor Dick Murphy's LGBT Advisory Board.

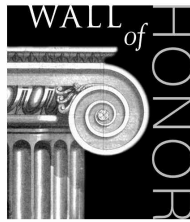
An arts administrator for 31 years, Baza has served as executive director or administrator of the County of San Diego's Public Arts Advisory Council, Community Arts of San Diego, California Pacific Theater, Sushi Performance & Visual Art, and the Centro Cultural de La Raza. He has also served on grant panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture, the San Diego Community Foundation and the San Diego Foundation for Change.

Baza has served on the boards of The National Performance Network, San Diego Performing Arts League, San Diego Coalition for Arts & Culture, San Diego Youth and Community Services, and San Diego LGBT Pride. He was appointed to the City of San Diego's Civic Events & Promotional Programs Allocation Board by then City Council Member Christine Kehoe and was the first openly gay man to serve on the Chicano Federation's board of directors.

Currently, Baza serves as executive vice president of the San Diego Democratic Club, a board member of Honor Pac (a Statewide Latino LGBT Political Action Committee), an Advisory Committee member of the Women's History Museum, a member of The Center's Latino Services Advisory Council, and as a member of the grant making committee of the San Diego Foundation for Change.

Baza and his life partner of 24 years, Tom Noel, own Noel-Baza Fine Art in Little Italy and live in North Park.





MICHAEL CLARK

Longtime community activist Michael Clark, who was known around town both for his warm heart and his brilliant political mind, passed away Jan. 19, 2007 of lung cancer.

Clark, a fifth generation San Diegan, received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of California, Davis and headed the San Diego Pet Hospital in Lemon Grove, a family business which he took over from his father.

Clark was appointed chair of the California Veterinary Medical Board by Gov. Pete Wilson, and served on the board for 10 years.

Along with his love for animals, travel and collecting art, Clark had a lifelong passion for politics. An openly gay Republican who served on numerous boards and commissions and fund-raised for AIDS and other charities throughout his adult life, he helped found the first gay and lesbian nonpartisan political action committee in San Diego, the United San Diego Elections Council, in 1980.

Clark was active in the Republican Party, serving on the party's state central committee and as a convention delegate for Ronald Reagan twice, in 1980 and 1984. He also served on the board of the local chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans from 1984 to 1994 and served as chapter president in 1995.

Former San Diego Mayor Susan Golding appointed Clark to her transition team following her election in 1992 and then appointed him to the San Diego City Zoning Appeals Board, which he served on throughout her two terms as mayor, from 1993 to 2001. Golding also appointed Clark as chair of her Gay and Lesbian Advisory Board in 1995.

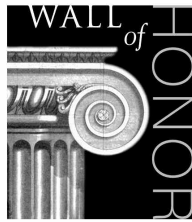
In the early 1990s, there was considerable effort by gay and lesbian community leaders to get members of the community elected or appointed to boards and commissions because it was not commonplace, said Tony Zampella, a former president of the Log Cabin chapter who also served as commissioner on the city's Human Relations Commission. He added that there was a push around that time to moderate the Republican Party by having openly gay Republicans serve in as many capacities as possible within the party, not just in the Log Cabin group, and because of that it was significant Clark was elected chair of the California Republican League — the moderate, pro-environment and pro-choice wing of the Republican Party — in 1996.

In addition to his political involvement, Clark was knighted by the Imperial Court for his many years of service in the LGBT nonprofit charity organization.

Clark is survived by Charles "Skip" Andrews, his partner of 23 years.

Courtesy of the Gay and Lesbian Times





PHYLLIS JACKSON

Phyllis Jackson moved to San Diego in 1980 for love, but when the relationship ended, she stayed to work with the community.

“I used to take a lot from the community and, in changing how I was living my life and wanting to be a better parent than I had previously been, I wanted to give back,” she explained. “I started working first with adolescents and then older youth who were troubled and on their way to juvenile hall — lesbian and gay youth, primarily — and it just took off from there.”

Currently the executive director of Karibu — the Center for Social Support and Education, Jackson has spent more than 25 years working in the fields of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS services.

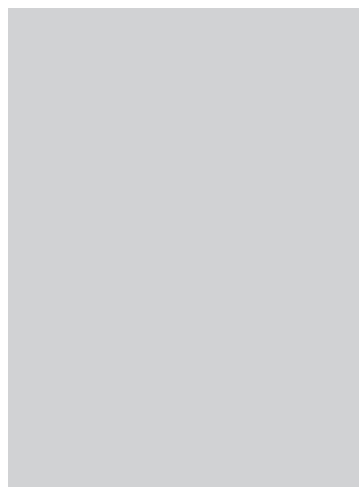
“There were a lot of people dying [in the early years], she said. “I was doing HIV 101 in the institutions and the jails and within the drug treatment programs and then so many people were dying. I wanted to get out of HIV because it was just so overwhelming and just focus on recovery and substance abuse. And then in recovery and substance abuse there were so many people dying from HIV. So I couldn’t get away from it.”

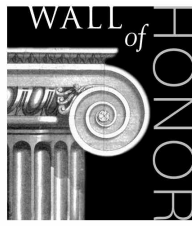
Initially her HIV/AIDS work focused on prevention, but as she watched the African-American community increasingly devastated by substance abuse and HIV, she began to focus on the African-American and LGBT communities.

“It was just painful,” she said. “Every time I would go to a conference I’d hear statistics about African-Americans in prison, substance abuse, HIV, and I wanted to do my part. The focus was white, gay men even though African Americans were dying. I had a cousin who died of HIV back in 1980 and a lot of people that I know passed away from HIV so it has been my mission to work particularly with African Americans and inside the LGBT community. And that’s what I’ve been doing ever since.

Jackson has served on the Mayor’s LGBT Advisory Board, the San Diego City Manager’s Clean Syringe Task Force, the AIDS Walk board of directors the HIV & AIDS Women’s Conference board of directors and on the board of directors of CRASH, Inc., among many others.

Asked how she would like to be remembered 50 years from now, she said, “That I’m compassionate and very strong, but I always spoke my truth. Sometimes at the risk of making people feel uncomfortable because of my directness, but I always spoke my truth.”





GEORGE MURPHY

George Murphy was born on February 29, (Leap Year) 1940 in Peru, Indiana. He grew up on a farm and had a 'traditional family' — two parents and one brother.

He attended Ball State University in Muncie Indiana and graduated with a teaching degree in Business 1962. In 1965 he received a MS Degree from the University of Michigan in Guidance and Counseling. Murphy came out after moving to Detroit, where he taught and counseled in public junior high and high schools, and joined the new Wayne County Community College as a counselor/administrator. While in Detroit, he was active in school union activities, civil rights efforts, church activities and local community improvement associations.

In 1971, Murphy and his then-partner John Eberly moved to San Diego in search of better weather. This was when their social activism and involvement really took hold. They discovered the Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego that same year and became active members. Murphy has since served as a lay minister and deacon for more than 11 years.

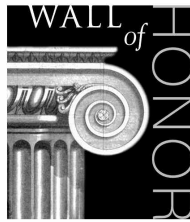
Murphy was hired by Grossmont College/ROP to set up and direct the Adult Career Guidance Center in downtown El Cajon in 1972. In 1978 he was hired as a founding member of Cuyamaca College in El Cajon, where he was a Counselor and International Student Advisor/Program Coordinator until his retirement in 2002.

A founding member of The Center, Murphy has served as a board member, treasurer, member of the senior outreach team and member of the senior housing task force. He is also a founding member of the San Diego Democratic Club, Lambda Archives and the San Diego AIDS Foundation, helping to form the San Diego LGBT community as it exists today.

Asked how things have changed over the last 37 years, Murphy said, "In the beginning there were only four gay organizations [in San Diego] — MCC, Dignity, the Imperial Court and The Center. The newspaper wouldn't let us put the word gay in the newspaper and the phone company wouldn't let us say the Gay Center in the phone book.... We had to sleep overnight at times at The Center because people would throw rocks through the windows. Someone threw something burning on the front porch, but it went out real quick. It was that sort of stuff.

"Now I feel like a proud parent. I go to events and I don't know too many people, and I'm so happy, thinking, 'Where did all these people come from?' It's great because the rest of us now can sit back a little bit. I'm proud of what I've done."





FRANK STIRITI

Frank Stiriti first came to San Diego in 1968, when he was stationed here with the Navy before being sent to serve in Vietnam. While in Vietnam he met his future business partner, Don Schermerhorn.

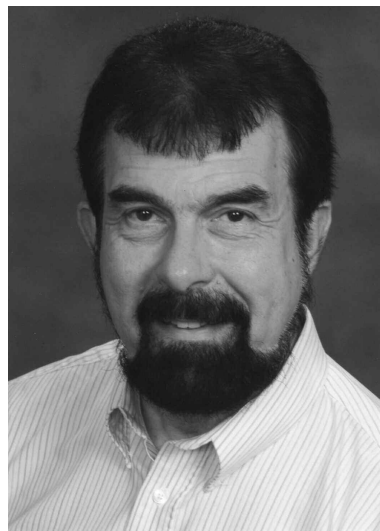
After completing his military service, Stiriti returned to San Diego with his then-partner Joe O'Toole. In 1974, with the help of Schermerhorn and many other friends, he opened Vulcan Steam & Sauna. At that time, many members of the LGBT community found it impossible to be open at work, or in business, or at all.

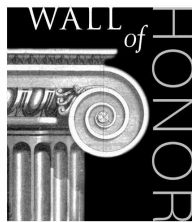
“It was an era when gay people wanted to be independent of the straight community,” Stiriti explained. “That was a very prevailing attitude — they wanted to own a gay business where they didn’t have to hide who they were. That’s how we got involved in our business. And along with that we got involved with people like Jess Jessop from The Center and a lot of others who had that personal drive to want to be gay and out. But we realized there were a whole lot of people who weren’t in a position to be out. That’s what started to motivate us to try and help people in the community — so they wouldn’t have to hide who and what they were. This was pre-AIDS and everything, and the attitudes were far more buoyant than they are now. It was easier. I think for people now, especially young people, it’s more difficult to experience that feeling.”

A founding member of the Greater San Diego Business Association and a major supporter and donor to many LGBT and HIV organizations for many years, Stiriti has been closely involved in the San Diego LGBT community for decades. Active in HIV/AIDS fundraising and in raising awareness from the early days of the epidemic, he continues to be an active proponent of HIV/AIDS prevention measures.

Despite the progress the LGBT community has made on so many levels, Stiriti believes that there is still a need for places such as Vulcan, places where gay men can feel safe and surrounded by community. “I think that’s what continues to motivate me,” he said. “People need a place where they feel safe being who and what they are.”

Stiriti is also a member of the Little Italy Association board of directors and is a longtime supporter of the Little Italy Business District, an area that is dear to him. Also dear to him is his other half, David Hardin, with whom he has lived for more than 30 years.





2007 HONOREES



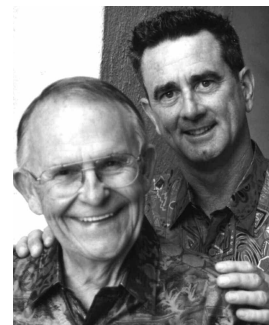
Lou & Carol Arko



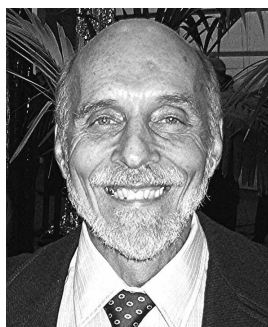
Dr. Al Best



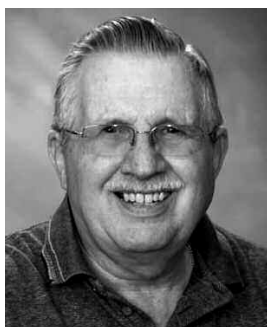
Gloria Johnson



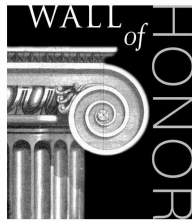
*Drs. David McWhirter &
Andrew (Drew) Mattison*



Bernard (Bernie) Michels



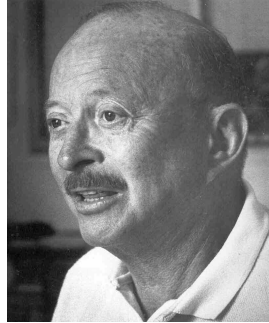
Frederick (Fred) Scholl



2006 HONOREES



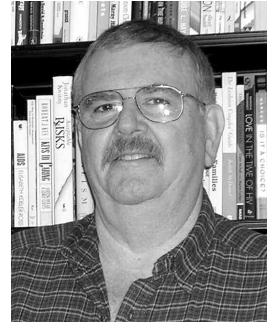
Ms. Muriel Fisher



Mr. Herb King



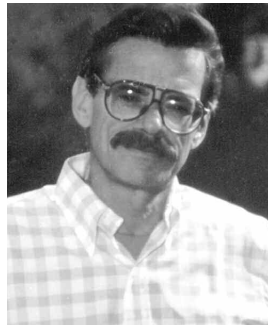
Mr. Patrick Mcarron



Mr. Doug Moore



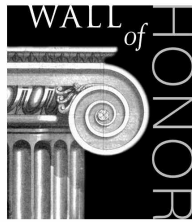
Ms. Maria Plasencia



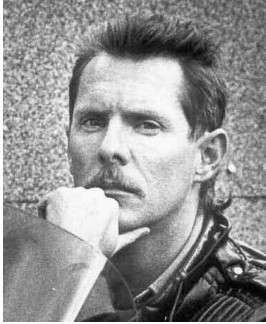
Mr. Ron Umbaugh



Ms. Bridget Wilson



2005 HONOREES



Albert Bell



Jim Cua



Jeri Dilno



Darl Edwards



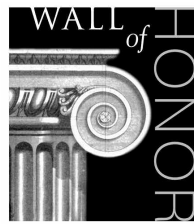
David Farrell



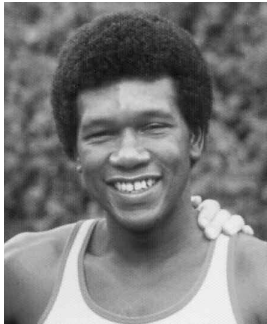
Cynthia Lawrence-Wallace



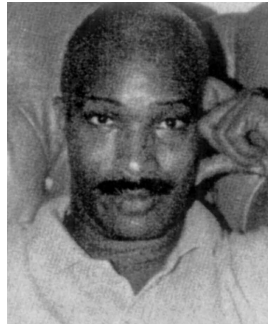
Doug Scott



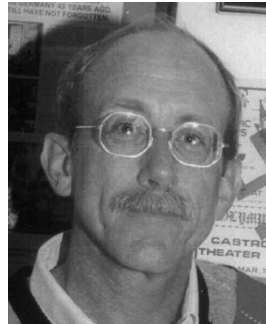
2004 HONOREES



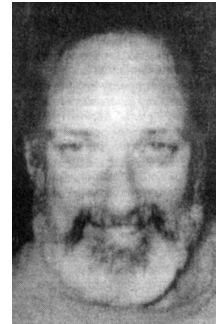
Thomas "Thom" Carey



Don Edmundson



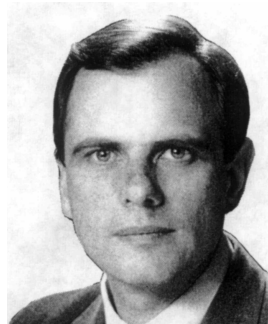
Robert "Jess" Jessop



Robert "Rob" Shepard



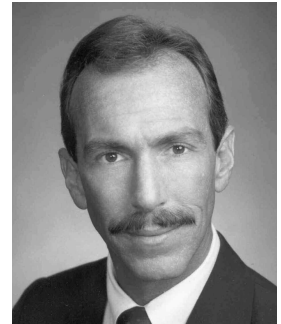
John Ciaccio



Neil Good



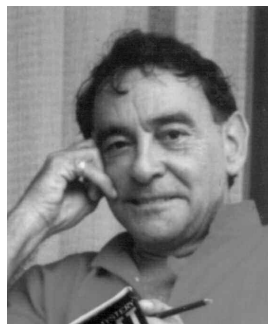
Clint Johnson



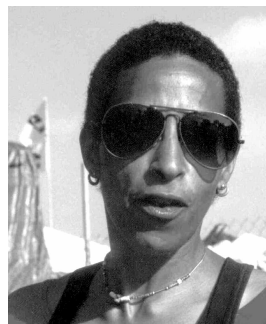
Dr. A. Brad Truax



Barbara Crusberg



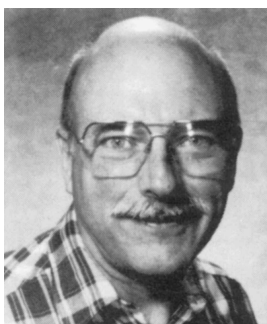
Don Hauck



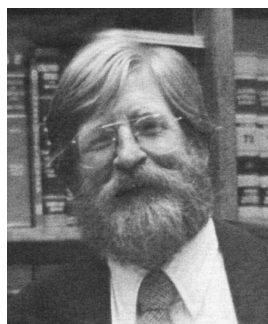
Corrine "Martie" Mackey



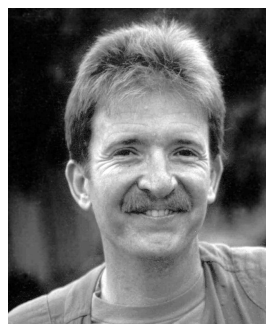
Robert Walsh



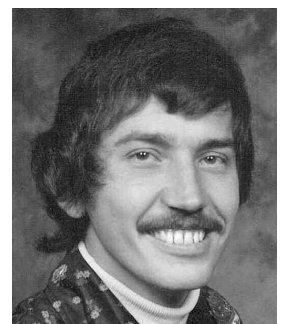
John Eberly



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