



VENTURA COUNTY
EDUCATORS'
HALL OF FAME

Presents

2021 Induction Dinner
October, 2 2021

HELD AT

FOUR POINTS by SHERATON
Ventura Harbor Resort

Future Influencers

“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell
where his influence stops.”

Henry B Adams



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WINE CELLARS



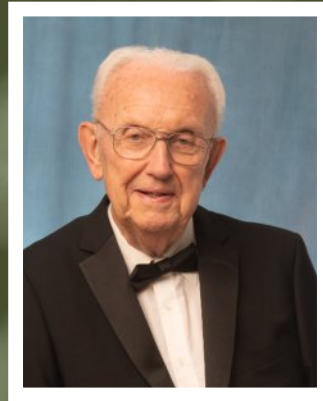
VENTURA COUNTY **EDUCATORS'** HALL OF FAME

Class of 2021

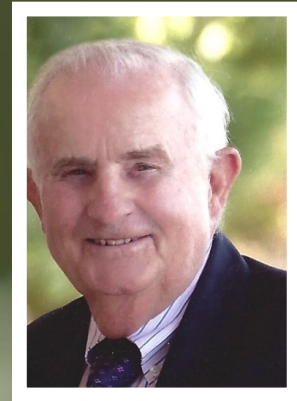
The Hall of Fame Injuctees are:



Athol Wong



Curt Luft



Fred J. Phipps

ed·u·ca·tion

,ejə'kāSH(ə)n/

noun

1. the process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at school or university. "a new system of public education"

synonyms: teaching, schooling, tuition, tutoring, instruction, coaching, training, tutelage, guidance.

2. an enlightening experience. "a day with those kids was an education in patience and forbearance"



A Tribute to Mary Parrent

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, Mary Parrent went home to be with her Savior.

Mary was born on September 22, 1940 in McAlester, OK to John D. and Margaret Troussel. She dedicated much of her time to volunteer and non-profit groups including the Camarillo Boy's and Girl's Club and the Co-founded the



Buenaventura Chapter of Children's Village USA (later known as ChildHelp USA) in 1978 and served as its President in 1983 and 1984. She was runner up for Camarillo Woman of the Year in 1983.

Mary was preceded in death by her son Jerry Bob (1996) and is survived by her husband of almost 60 years, Jerry, her daughter Rhonda, her sons, Michael, their spouses, James and Darrin as well as ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Mary is also survived by her older brother, Johnny Troussel of Corcoran, CA.

Mary and her husband Jerry started and operated Parrent Security (1971-2005) and resided in Camarillo, CA from 1972-2005 and moved to Fallon, NV in 2005.

In 1992 Camarillo Boy's and Girl's Club awarded her the club's highest honor, the Joel McCrea award. She was the first non-board member to receive it. In 2007, Mary, along with Les Meredith and her son, Darrin, co-founded the Ventura County Educators' Hall of Fame. In 2014, she was proclaimed a Dona of the Pleasant Valley Historical Society. In her free time, she enjoyed jigsaw puzzles and crocheting. Mary deeply loved her family and friends. She left a huge impact on her community.



FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON



DOWN BY THE WATER

WALK TO THE HARBOR FROM THESE TWO HOTELS

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Next door, **Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor Resort** (fourpointsventuraharborresort.com) is also a quick stroll from the harbor, and most rooms have balconies with water views. We know how strenuous it can be to kayak and paddleboard the harbor — relax by the hotel's pool or soak those tired muscles in the hot tub. Here on a Sunday? Don't miss the indulgent champagne brunch at Alexander's Restaurant. Cheers to an unforgettable harbor stay!

Curt Luft

Curt Luft began his career in education in 1965 and is known by longtime colleagues as a man of integrity, and for always being a strong leader who stood for doing the right thing during his 34 years in education in the Conejo Valley Unified School District. He retired in 1999 after 17 years at Westlake High School.

Through the years, Curt earned many awards that speak to his fine qualities as a teacher and Principal.

Among his many honors and awards, in 1986 Curt was presented with the Westlake High School Scholarship Foundation Outstanding Service Award.

He was given the Ventura County Math Council Award for Outstanding Mathematics Educator for Support of Quality Mathematics Education. He was also recognized by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) in 1982 for outstanding service as Region XII Vice President, Programs. He was given the ACSA-Service Award in Recognition and Service to Education for 1994-1995.

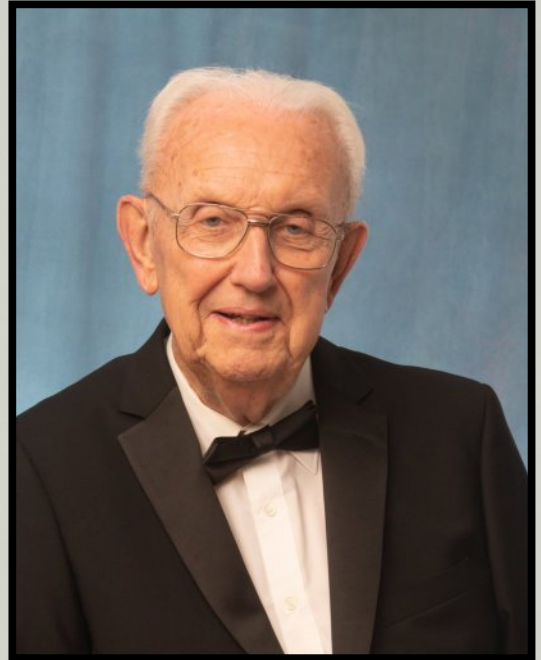
In 1996 he earned The California Department of Education's Award for Extraordinary Direction, Leadership and Innovation as Principal of Westlake High School, a California Distinguished School.

The ACSA also gave Curt the following awards: Outstanding Service as Charter President. (1979-1980); Outstanding Service as Region XIII Committee Chairperson, Secondary Education (1995); Secondary Principal of the Year for the Tri-County Area (1994); and the Administrative Excellence Award for Conejo, Las Virgenes, Oak Park Districts (1994-1995). Prior to Westlake, he worked at Thousand Oaks High School for 17 years.

The 1970, the Thousand Oaks Lancer yearbook was dedicated to Curt in appreciation of his five years of service up to that point. Those he taught described him as possessing a unique quality which helped bring history to life; to makes it more relevant to today. The senior class bestowed on him the title, Mr. TOHS Teacher.

While at Thousand Oaks, Curt served ten years as student government advisor. He was responsible for the inception of the student government and under his advisership, the student government transformed into an entire school involvement. His interest in school affairs motivated his affiliation with the California Teachers Association. He served as president of the branch for Oxnard Union High School District in 1970.

After retiring Curt served for six years as an Interim Administrator for various school districts in Southern CA. He also served as Principal at Oaks Christian, then as a consultant for a year and helped lead the school to become certified. He also supervised student teachers at California Lutheran University for five years.





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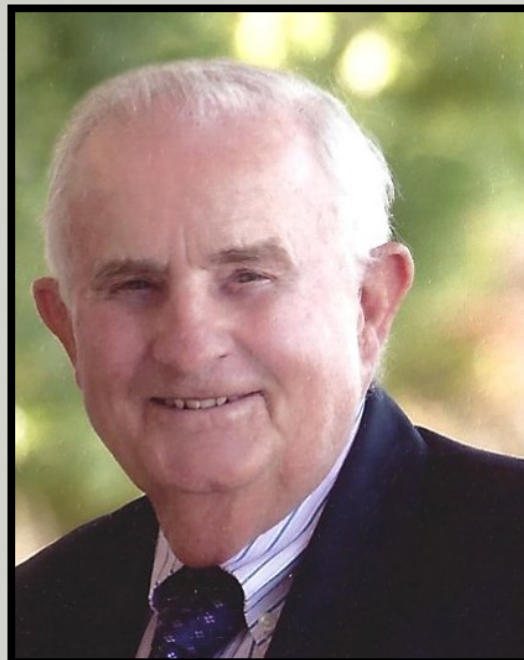
*The Educators' Hall of Fame wishes to thank Streamline Office Solutions
for their generous contribution of the event program.*

Fred J Phipps

Fred J. Phipps has dedicated his life to teaching and lifelong learning. Those who know him well say he is natural born mentor who has left his mark on the Camarillo educational community.

As an administrator, he made school a happy and productive place for his students and staff. As an educator he motivated his students to achieve their best.

Fred started as a 6th grade teacher in the Hueneme School District and taught 8th grade in the Pleasant Valley School District prior to becoming an administrator. He also had a two-year district office assignment in the Pleasant Valley School District.



After his retirement he became the Director of the Oxnard Center for California Lutheran University and a Supervisor of Elementary student teachers.

Prior to the formation of Region 13, ACSA, he was President of the Oxnard Plain Elementary Administration Association. (OPEA). He was the Administration representative for the Ventura County Reading Teachers Association for three years.

After serving on various ACSA committees, Fred was awarded the Region 13 Outstanding Elementary Administration Award in 1983.

Early in his career he was honored by the Mexican-American Educators Association in 1968, and in 1969 he received a PTA Honorary Lifetime Membership.

His involvement in community activities has given him a large circle of friends that speak highly of him, and he has been recognized by many organizations for his contributions and giving freely of his time.

Fred has been very active in the community as a charter member of the City of Camarillo, and a founding member of the Boys and Girls Club where he served for 27 years. He received the Joel McCrea award in 1988 from the Boys and Girls Club. He was also a founding member of Christians Acting Together and served as treasurer for three years. In 1997 he was named a Don by the Pleasant Valley Historical Society.

Fred received a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Education degree at Central State University, Edmond, OK. He completed additional graduate work at Cal State Northridge University and USC.

Fred was in the U.S. Navy Reserve 1950-1954. Two years active duty and two years inactive. He received an Honorable discharge and a letter of commendation for outstanding performance of duty from the base commanding officer.

Richard Mahlke, who has known and worked with Fred for over 60 years said, "I had the experience of attending many educational meetings with Fred. Fred made many helpful comments in these meetings. He had a gift of expressing himself well and was an asset to all attending meetings. Fred is a people person and was well liked by all who knew him. He was always encouraging his teachers as well as the students and had a very positive personality with parents and with all he would meet in the community."



VENTURA COUNTY
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Athol Wong

Athol Wong dedicated her time as an educator to expansion and growth in her schools and in the lives of her students.

While she was Principal at Newbury Park High School, from 2006 to 2014, Athol Wong created a positive culture shift that led to success for her students, colleagues, and staff. She instituted “watch words” to encapsulate her mission and vision for all students: Nobility (do what is right because it is right), Potential (try to do better even when it might not result in success), Humanity (respect differences, look for common ground, and treat others with kindness and dignity), and Scholarship (recognize the importance of learning in many forms beyond test scores and college admission).



In 2006, she received the National Blue Ribbon School award as Principal and recognition from Region XIII of the Association of California School Administrators. During her eight-year tenure, she oversaw the development and/or expansion of many programs: School-to-Career (including the opening of Panther Café, an on-campus restaurant staffed by students); the addition of Mandarin Chinese and American Sign Languages in Foreign Language offerings; and the Visual/Performing Arts to include student murals on campus.

She launched the “Every 15 Minutes Program” (to promote safe driving) and it became a bi-annual offering just before Prom. Also, during her tenure, National Honor Society was instituted, and unprecedented numbers of students qualified for recognition on Honor Roll, earned increased numbers of college scholarships and other honors in the process.

As a teacher, Athol made projects and assignments relevant to the lives her students were living. She also knew how to have fun. Along with Ellen Kersey, Athol was the emcee of several End-of-the-Year Luncheons where they dressed up as old retirees named, Myrtle and Maude. Together, they enjoyed poking fun at those who were retiring each year and serenaded them with corny songs.

Among her many awards and accomplishments, Athol was selected as a Mentor teacher twice. She was awarded a South Coast Writing Project (SCWriP) fellowship in the summer of 1997. She wrote the first successful California Distinguished School application for Adolfo Camarillo High School in 1997. She wrote the successful National Blue Ribbon School application for the same school in 1998.

She was selected as site and District Teacher of the Year in 1996, received the Outstanding Customer Service Award in 1997, and the Superintendent’s Inspirational Service Award in 1998.

She was the Assistant Principal for Athletics at Thousand Oaks High School, 2000-2004. During that time, she oversaw the school’s successful WASC Accreditation, and wrote a successful National Blue Ribbon application in 2002.

She began her career as an English teacher for grades 7- 9 at Fort Miller Junior High School, Fresno, CA, after she earned a Bachelor of Arts, Suma Cum Laude, in English from California State University Fresno, in 1976, and a MS in Administrative Services from Pepperdine University in 1999.

Congratulations

**Mia Rogers 2021 Ventura County
Teacher of the Year.**

**Mia teaches 2nd grade at Glen City
Elementary School in Santa Paula.**



Nominate Someone



Go to our website,
download the nomination
form and nominate a
teacher today.

vceh.com



Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan

Photo: Corbis/Getty Images

“The Miracle Worker”

Many parents have probably felt at one time or another that one of their child’s teachers was a “miracle worker,” a teacher who somehow gets results where other teachers have failed. Although the idea of a miracle worker has entered common parlance, the phrase was coined by Mark Twain to describe one particular person. In fact, the term has become almost synonymous with her name. That person is Anne Sullivan, the teacher of Helen Keller.

Biography.com



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In honor of our unforgettable members of the Ventura County Educators' Hall of Fame

Previous Classes

Class of 2019

Mary E. Samples
Nancy Bowman
John Walker

Class of 2018

Deloris Carn
Wanda Dziuk
Craig Myers

Class of 2017

Jerry Miller
Richard Bellman
Roland Glover

Class of 2016

Gordon Woods
Jeannette Jennett
Gerald K. Swanson
Susan Andrews
Betsy Potts

Class of 2014-15

Dr. Bruce Colell
Anna Merriman
Patricia Craig
Jeanne Davis
Cecilia Coe
Raelene Manzer

Class of 2013

Bill Seaver
Christopher Bark
Fran Berman
Judy Crenshaw
Madeline Miedema

Class of 2012

Barbara Collins
Dennis Gillette
Sharon Harada
Joe Perata
Edward Phillips
Juanita Sanchez-Valdez
Manuel Valdez

Class of 2011

Tom Ragan
Dr. Stephen Lefevre
Keith Barker
Chuck Andrews
Larry Jones

Class of 2010

John Devine
Jim Lane
Andy McEuen
Leslie Meredith, Jr.
Charles Mozley

Previous Classes

Class of 2008

Ken Benefield
Jeanne Adams
Richard B. Haydock
Dale Ackerman
Christine Brown
John Van Zant
Patrick Rooney
William Lawson

Class of 2007

Marilyn Bjork
James Cowan
Javier Gomez
Lynnell Hankins
Elmont Michaelson
Jack O'Connell
Thomas O'Neill
Wilma Turchik
Barbara Wagner
Rose Wisuri

Congratulations 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees



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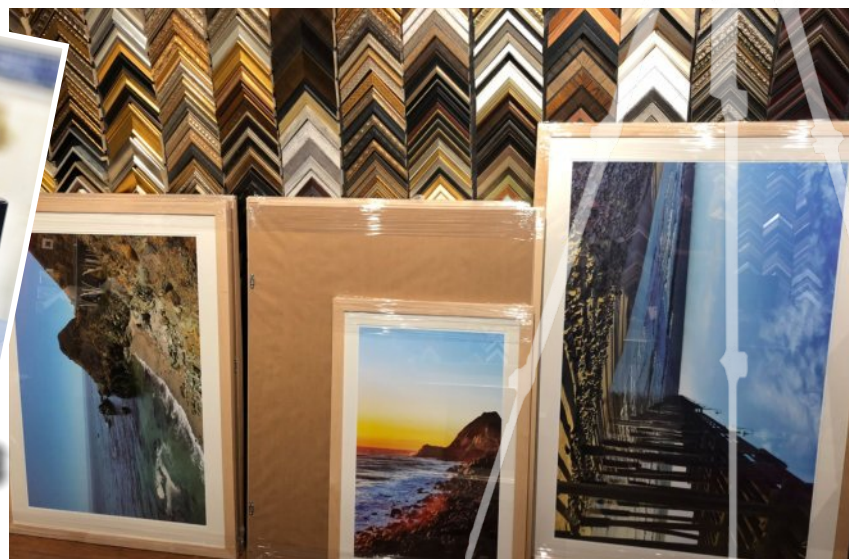
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VENTURA COUNTY **EDUCATORS'** HALL OF FAME

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throughout the year to make this very special night
and event come together.

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BACK THE BADGE U.S.A.

Supporting Our First Responders

Tax ID #82-2570042

Back the Badge U.S.A. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to recognizing and assisting our communities' first responders and their families.

What We Do:

- Provide scholarships to the dependents and families of first responders
- Establish financial and individual resources, locally and nationally, for first responders
- Assist with equipment and training needed
- Promote community involvement and interaction
- Recognition of community service and achievement

How You Can Help:

- Visit **backthebadgeUSA.com**
- Volunteer at our events
- Inform us of those individuals or groups in need of assistance

Summary of Who We Are:

As a 100% volunteer organization, Back the Badge U.S.A. needs your help recognizing and supporting our first responders. For every dollar donated, Back the Badge U.S.A. will implement 90 cents on the dollar to those areas identified by our heroes in blue.

Mission Statement

Back the Badge U.S.A. has been organized to provide meaningful support to our communities' first responders and their families as our expression of appreciation for their protection and service.

Address: 277 Novina Place, Camarillo, CA 93012 Phone: (805) 857-8824

backthebadgeUSA.com