

2022 Induction Dinner October 2, 2022

HELD AT

**FOUR POINTS by SHERATON
Ventura Harbor Resort**

“The best teachers are those who
show you where to look but don’t
tell you what to see.”

Alex K. Trenfor



VENTURA COUNTY
EDUCATORS'
HALL OF FAME

VENTURA COUNTY
EDUCATORS'
HALL OF FAME
Class of 2022

The Hall of Fame Injuctees are:



Sam Kane



Richard Mahlke

A Tribute to Marilyn Bjork

Marilyn was the quincennial teacher. Teaching at Los Altos Middle School for 34 years until she retired at 78 years old. Where by her students, she was lovingly and respectfully known as "BJ", a nick-name was quickly adopted by friends and colleagues. She loved teaching and she loved her students. She won numerous prestigious awards, city, county, state, and national, but most importantly, she inspired thousands of her students to reach for and to excel in their chosen dream, and take responsibility to make it happen. What is impressive is what she accomplished helping students improve their poise, confidence and self-esteem. A sentiment echoed many times from many students and their parents.



Marilyn was an adventurer in all the seasons of her life. She travelled to Europe, Africa, Australia, Asia, she was always on the go. She took 19 trips abroad with 20-25 of her Middle School students.

She loved life through grief and joy. She loved God with a faith that never faltered. Marilyn is preceded in death by her first husband, Richard, her son Kim, her daughters Jan and Lyn, and her grandson Chance. She is survived by her second husband and the love of her life, Anthony Zamarripa, who was also her partner in adventure for 9 loving years, her son Ryk, 5 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren and the many students that went through her classes.

1927-2022

INDUCTED 2007

Sam Kane

Sam Kane served more than 51 years in education until his retirement after the 2020-2021 school year. He began his career in 1970 with the Conejo Valley District where he rose from teacher to counselor to administrator. Sam earned the praise of his colleagues, who celebrate his heart for kids, his amazing brain, and his willingness to do "Whatever it Takes!"

Sam taught math at Sequoia and Colina Middle Schools, Westlake High School, and Moorpark and Oxnard Colleges. He served as Sequoia's Counselor from 1979 to 1983, then as Colina's Counselor from 1983 to 2008. From 2009 through February 2021, he served as Counselor and Evening Administrator at Conejo Valley Adult School.



Known as a dedicated educator, Sam often extended himself far beyond his role as school counselor. For example, at Colina Middle, he conducted some 10 annual contests, including American Junior High School Math Contest, Cal Math League, and "Bees" in Spelling, Geography, History, Science, Art, and Music.

Sam initiated, and for 25 years sponsored, extracurricular student assistance groups/ programs: Special Friends (helping special needs student through mainstream experiences), Peer Helpers, Peer Tutors, Teen Topics, and Career Speakers.

At Colina Middle, in addition to being a full-time counselor, Sam created a comprehensive database and communication system that was used schoolwide from 1993 to 2006. He was Webmaster of ColinaMiddle.org, for 15 years, expanding school news to the community at large. He further extended community outreach by sponsoring a field trip to the Museum of Tolerance, every year from 1993 - 2008, for 100 students in the 8th grade.

In 2009 Sam became the counselor and evening administrator at Conejo Valley Adult School, as well as Coordinator of the Learning Center (for earning an Adult High School Diploma) and Test Center (GED, IT, CBEST, CSET), and SAT Prep Program. He advanced the use of technology, establishing online registration, email marketing, social media interaction, in addition to serving as Webmaster of ConejoAdultSchool.org for 12 years. The website and email outreach allowed for community needs surveys, as well as the promotion of programs to reach various sectors of the community.

Sam was a three-time chairperson of the Adult School's WASC Accreditation application, each resulting in the school's receiving maximum accreditation status.

Along with his many talents in the math classroom and as a counselor, Sam was at the technological forefront in the CVUSD, where he developed and implemented innovative programs that provided information between students, teachers, and parents. And at the Adult School, Sam was able to connect students and their educational experiences in the classroom to their aspirations and professional goals in the business world. When students were not sure where to turn next, he was able to offer a path forward.

Sam's dedication to education led him to take on a leadership role as Counselor-Evening Administrator at the Adult School and his knowledge of community resources made him an invaluable asset to the students and staff alike.

His countless awards pay tribute to the five decades Sam devoted to his students, colleagues, and the community at large.

Richard Mahlke

Richard "Dick" Mahlke dedicated 39 years to the Pleasant Valley School District before retiring in 1989.

He started in 1960 at Camarillo Heights where he taught sixth grade and served 17 years as the school's Principal from 1964-1976. He went on to become Principal at the following schools: Las Posas (1976-1978), Los Nogales (1978-1987), and El Descanso from 1987-1989. After retiring from the Pleasant Valley School District, Dick supervised student teachers for several years at California Lutheran University.



His former colleagues praise him as an exceptional human being and educational leader. Often described as a "gentle giant," Dick was known as "having heart," and caring deeply for each student and staff member. He knew their names and the issues impacting their lives. Many recall that he went out of his way to make every staff member, teacher, student, and parent feel truly cared about. He remains friends with many to this day and was a faithful attendee of the CHS retirees' lunches.

One of Dick's many talents was singing in the school plays and his church choir. In addition, he taught himself to play several instruments. Among his many volunteer roles, he was also active with the Friends of Camarillo Library.

As a Principal, Dick was known to encourage creative and adventurous teaching techniques that helped new teachers gain confidence and establish a firm foundation for their careers. His gentle sense of humor and willingness to guide them made their job a joy. His former teaching staff remembers that while he was Principal everyone got along. The school had a pleasant atmosphere for the students and faculty alike. Knowledge blossomed schoolwide under Dick's leadership.

Dick was known as a warm, fair, and caring Administrator. Each student was equal and worthy of his unique ability to reach them all. He took time during recess and lunch to get to know his pupils. As a result of his dedication, his students honored him when he transferred from Camarillo Heights Elementary School in 1976 to become Principal at Las Posas. When he left, the students sang a song to their departing Principal: "Everyone knows Mr. Mahlke is the finest man around..."

In addition to his service in the field of academics, Dick taught Sunday School at Peace Lutheran Church and led the Sunday School Program with his wife, Rhoda. There he was recognized as an outstanding leader. Dick also served his community at the Pleasant Valley Historical Society.



VENTURA COUNTY
EDUCATORS'
HALL OF FAME



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Congratulations

Shannon Keeman



2022 Ventura County Teacher of the Year

**Shannon teaches science at
Camarillo High School.**

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

Previous Classes

Class of 2021

Athol Wong
Curt Luft
Fred J. Phipps

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

Previous Classes

Class of 2010

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

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 2022 Hall of Fame Inductees



Ventura County Division 28

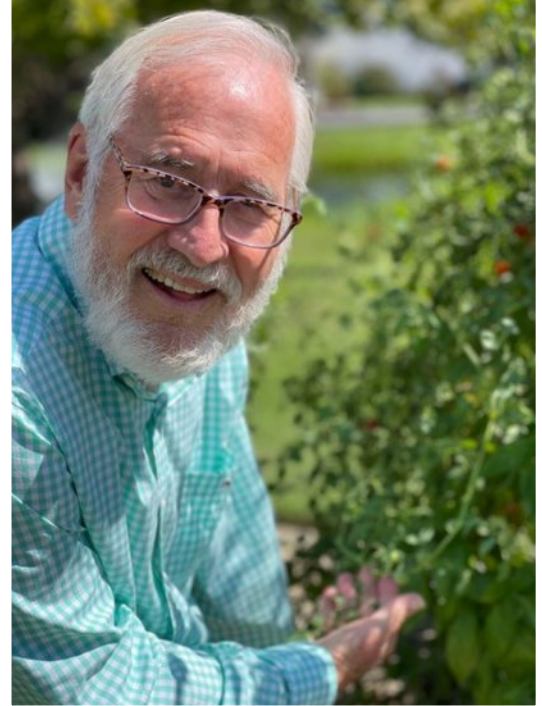
Visit us at <http://div28.calrta.org>

**Protecting
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Benefits
Of
All Educators
For Over
90 Years**

Join a growing number of retired Ventura County educators to protect pensions and support education.

A Tribute to Chuck Andrews

Chuck Andrews graduated from Woodbury College with a BA in Journalism, and embarked on a career as a journalist with the Oxnard Press Courier. Changing his career, Chuck obtained a Master's in Education from Stanford University and a Master's in Counseling and Guidance from California Lutheran University. Chuck's first teaching job was in 1964 as an English Teacher at Thousand Oaks High School though he continued his journalism career for 16 summers. In 1967 he married Susan ('Sooze') and the couple settled in Camarillo.



During his career he was recognized for his devotion to his students and involvement in activities such as coaching soccer, announcing basketball and football games, and volunteering at track meets. Chuck received awards for Ventura County Teacher of the Year, Ventura County Counselor of the Year, California Teacher of the Year, California Counselor of the Year, and was inducted into the Ventura County Educators' Hall of Fame in 2011. Chuck was named a Don of Camarillo in 2009.

Upon retirement from Westlake High School in 2000, Chuck spent his time as a Ventura County Master Gardener, served on the Board of the Camarillo Ranch Foundation, and was an active church member at St. Columba's Episcopal Church, where he served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden. Chuck and Susan spent half of each year traveling the United States and Europe, visiting Robbie in Alaska and Oregon, and Charlie and Pam on the Eastern Shore. In 2016 Chuck and Susan moved to Londonderry, a small retirement village in Easton, MD. There he created and tended what became known as "Mr. Chuck's Garden".

1940-2022

INDUCTED 2011

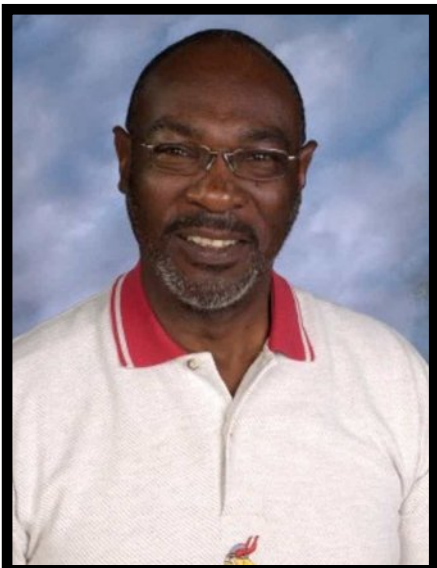
Bob Gonzales



1950-2021

**Santa Paula
Police Chief**

Larry Miller



1952-2022

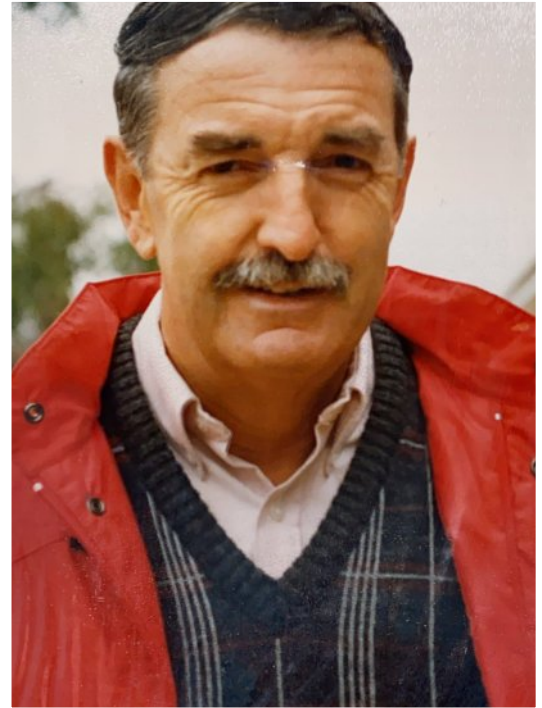
**Hall of Fame
Co-Founder**

A Tribute to Jim Lane

James "Jim" Robert Lane left home to attend college in Flagstaff, Arizona where he graduated with a BA in Business Education and his Teaching Credential. It was while in college that Jim met his future wife, Joyce Stiles.

He returned to Oxnard, intent on sharing his knowledge with the youth in the area where he grew up. He temporarily worked as a Probation Officer until a teaching position opened up at Hueneme High School. HHS was his home and his daughters spent many a Friday night at various sporting events. Jim remained there for 35 years where he taught Business classes and served as the basketball and golf coach. Later he would become the Athletic Director. This was his true calling; helping students through sports. During his teaching career, he was a mentor to many students and staff members, was awarded Teacher of the Year, and co-founded and inducted into the Ventura County Educators' Hall of Fame in 2011. Even after he retired, Jim would still stop by campus, mentor his successors as Athletic Director, keep an eye on the administrators to be sure they kept the students of Hueneme High as the focus. Jim continued to run the highly successful golf tournament that raised funds for all sports at Hueneme High.

Students still fondly remember him calling girls Wobbelinas and boys Sharpies. He was a wonderful, empathetic, funny, non-judgemental and thought-provoking teacher. He was more than a teacher, he was a life coach if students took advantage of his sound advice. He respected students and received respect in return. He entrusted students and gave them the ability to believe in themselves.



1939-2022

INDUCTED 2010

A Tribute to Bruce Colell

In 1966, Bruce R. Colell joined the faculty at Channel Islands High School as the Band Director. In 1967, he saw his future wife, Kristi Snyder, who was the English and Theater Arts teacher, walking across campus. They were married on June 23, 1968 at St. Mary Magdalen Chapel in Camarillo.

Bruce transferred to Adolfo Camarillo High School in 1971 and remained there until he retired in 2004 as the band, choir, orchestra and dance team director. In 1987, he earned his doctorate in the philosophy of education with an emphasis in music composition from the University of Santa Barbara. From then on, he was fondly known as "Doc Colell" by all his students. During his tenure at Camarillo High, his many groups and students won hundreds of competitions throughout the United States and went on over 25 international trips as performers. He was named teacher of the year at Camarillo High several times and was inducted into the Ventura County Educator's Hall of Fame in 2014.



Bruce also headed the music program for St. Mary Magdalen Church for 22 years. He wrote over 500 liturgical masses and compositions combined. The highlight of Bruce's tenure as choir director was in 1993 when he took a group of 88 individuals on a pilgrimage to perform for Pope John Paul II in Rome Italy. He also took a group of 44 individuals to walk in the footsteps of Christ in Israel in 1999. Bruce also worked as a music professor at St. John's Seminary College for two 3 year periods.

After retiring from teaching in 2004, he became an ice sculpture delivery assistant for his youngest daughter and decided that he wanted to learn Spanish. He became fluent in Spanish and taught evening classes at Pleasant Valley Parks and Rec for almost 10 years. Not to be without music in his life, he also became the Band Director for the Ventura County Concert Band and conducted the band 6 years and then also was the choir director for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Saticoy for 5 years.

1941-2022

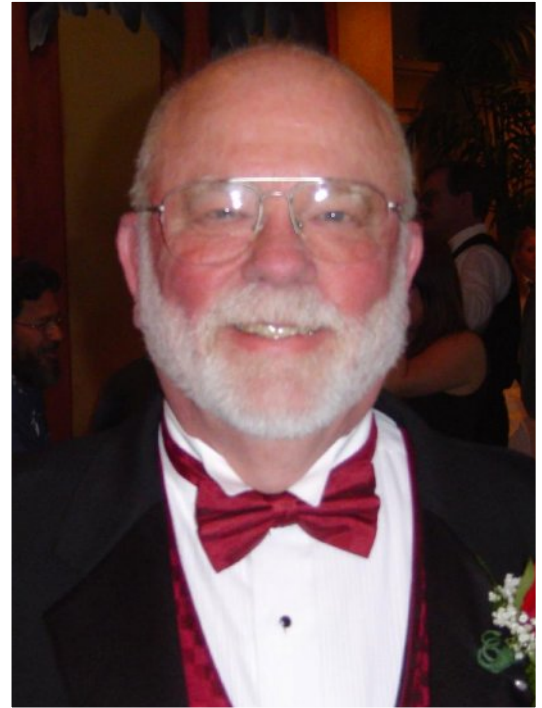
INDUCTED 2014

A Tribute to Keith Barker

Keith Barker graduated from UCLA. Keith's love for the ocean inspired him to join the Coast Guard as an officer. When his unit was sent to Vietnam, he served with great distinction.

Upon returning from Vietnam, Kay's enthusiasm for her own teaching profession inspired Keith to get his teaching credential and become a math teacher.

Keith spent his entire career teaching at Royal High School in Simi Valley. He first taught A.P. Calculus and a couple of years later was asked to also teach A.P. Physics, two subjects he thoroughly loved. He was a mentor teacher, head of the Math Department, an A.P. test grader, recipient of the AMGEN award for distinguished teaching, and the first Simi Valley resident to be inducted into the Ventura County Educators Hall Of Fame.



1943-2020

INDUCTED 2011



VENTURA COUNTY **EDUCATORS'** HALL OF FAME

Thank You
to the Ventura County Hall of Fame Board
members and other volunteers who have helped
throughout the year to make this very special night
and event come together.

Special Thanks To





FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON



DOWN BY THE WATER

WALK TO THE HARBOR FROM THESE TWO HOTELS

It's a 10-minute walk to Ventura Harbor Village from **Holiday Inn Express Ventura Harbor** (holidayinnexpress.com/venturaca).

Guest rooms offer the comfort of home — flat-screen TV, microwave/fridge, and free Wi-Fi. Start with breakfast on the outdoor patio before strolling over to the harbor for a day on the water.

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!

A Tribute to Raelene Manzer

Raelene was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota on June 28th, 1938, and moved to Camarillo, California in 1952. She met and fell in love with Bill in high school. They were boyfriend and girlfriend for 70 years and celebrated their sixty-second wedding anniversary on June 11, 2022.



Raelene and Bill loved to travel. They visited domestic, international, and exotic locations, often being joined by family and friends. While she loved to travel, her favorite place in the world was her home. She loved gardening, sitting on her deck, hosting family gatherings, and beating Bill at Scrabble. Home was where she "soothed her soul".

She graduated from Oxnard High School in 1956. She remained close to numerous classmates, and, also served on committees for class reunions and gatherings.

Raelene earned her associate degree at Ventura College before moving on to Long Beach State where she completed her Bachelor of Arts and teaching credential. Raelene taught for 33 years and spent most of her career at Camarillo Heights School as a kindergarten teacher. She was honored during her tenure as Camarillo Heights Teacher of the Year, Pleasant Valley School District Teacher of the Year, Optimist Achievement in Education Award recipient, and Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. In 2015 Raelene was inducted into Ventura County Educators Hall of Fame.

1938-2022

INDUCTED 2014

A Tribute to Rose Wisuri

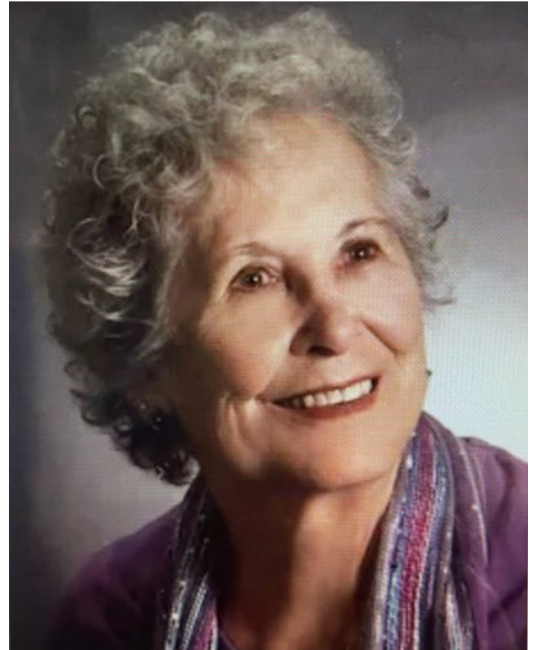
From a young age Rose knew what she wanted to do. With tenacity, focus, and determination she accomplished every goal she set for herself, helping many others along the way, and gathering friends wherever she went. Her heart was always open, her home was always welcoming, and the food she shared with her community was always made with love.

Rose was a force of nature, anything she set her mind to she accomplished. After putting herself through business college, Rose saved her money and attended Northern Michigan University to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. She worked 3 jobs to pay for her tuition, double majored in math & Spanish, and became Homecoming Queen.

A lifelong adventurer, her love for travel started early. As a 22 year old college student Rose drove from Michigan to Mexico City in 1950, with her Spanish professor and a few other students, beginning her lifelong love and appreciation for other cultures.

In 1958, Rose & Ken and their young children moved to CA to start new teaching jobs. Throughout her lengthy career she taught every grade from

Pre-school through high-school. She became Principal of Flory Elementary School in Moorpark, CA for seven years and wrote a grant to start the first bi-lingual program in CA for Moorpark school district. She moved on to become assistant superintendent for the last 10 years of her career- always helping new teachers get into the profession and helping place teachers with leadership skills into becoming principals.



1928-2021

INDUCTED 2007



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.

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