

*Congratulations,*  
***Diana Avalos-Leos***



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Clark County's First Citizen Award ~  
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**Diana Avalos-Leos**  
Thursday, October 28, 2021 • 4 pm

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## Past First Citizen Award Honorees

### 1939 - GEORGE SIMPSON

The original First Citizen, Simpson was a Vancouver city attorney and county judge who was appointed and then elected to the Washington Supreme Court where he served from 1937 to 1951, including two terms as chief justice. Simpson is also remembered as a longtime Scoutmaster, as founder and president of the Clark County Golf and Country Club, first chairman of the Clark County Game Commission.

### 1940 - HORACE DANIELS

Daniels was one of the first directors of the Vancouver Lions (1928-1929). He worked in banking and was president of the Clark County National Bank when it merged with Seattle-First National Bank in 1947. Vancouver's Daniels Street is named after him.

### 1941 - JOSEPH E. HALL

Hall was a longtime lawyer who also served as a county clerk and prosecuting attorney. Hall was also a state legislator and was a Vancouver School Board member for 15 years.

### 1942 - EDGAR KAISER

Manager of three Oregon and Washington shipyards during the war, Kaiser was lauded for supplying adequate housing, child care and a pre-paid health plan for workers. Kaiser served on the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity (1960-1971), the President's Commission on the Status of Women (1962-1964), the President's Advisory Committee on Labor-Management Policy (1966-1967), and the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees (1975-1976).

### 1943 - HOWARD J. BURNHAM

A title company manager, Burnham was one of the founders of the city planning commission and a leader in post-war planning. He served on the board of trustees for the Fort Vancouver Restoration and Historical Society.

### 1944 - CHRIS LOAN

An officer for the National Bank of Commerce in Seattle, Loan also served as a trustee of the city's Hotel Association.

### 1945 - EVA SANTEE

The first woman to be named First Citizen, Santee helped shape library systems in Clark County. As a Camas librarian for eight years, Santee led a drive to have a library building constructed there. While a librarian in Vancouver for 27 years, Santee helped spearhead a bond issue to finance a new Vancouver Regional Library building, which opened in 1963. She served as president of the Pacific Northwest Library Association.

### 1946 - CARL GUSTAFSON

Fun and games were part of Gustafson's profession as recreation and athletic director for the Greater Vancouver Recreation Association. His name lives on at Carl Gustafson Park, 202 Nashville Way, Vancouver.

### 1947 - DEWEY CROWLEY

The longtime head of the juvenile division for the Vancouver Police Department, Crowley was an advocate for all of the youth of the community.

### 1948 - LOUISE RATCHFORD

Ratchford volunteered for numerous organizations and efforts, including the YWCA and fund raising drives to fight cancer. She was also recognized for her disaster relief work with the Red Cross during the Vanport flood.

### 1949 - E. NORMAN PURSER

A public relations director for Alcoa, Purser's community service included serving as president of the Rotary Club of Vancouver.

### 1950 - CHARLES W. HALL

Hall taught Latin and math at Vancouver High School after fighting in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. He practiced law in Vancouver for years, was a Vancouver School Board member and president, and served two terms as a state representative and two as a senator. In 1937, he was appointed judge of Clark County Superior Court and served in that capacity for 18 years.

### 1951 - RUDOLPH A. LUEPKE

A florist, Luepke served on the Vancouver City Council and was mayor of Vancouver from 1962 to 1966. Luepke served as a Chamber of Commerce president.

### 1952 - ALVORD D. NOBLE

A mechanical engineer for Alcoa, Noble's community service included a term as president of the Ft. Vancouver Kiwanis Club in 1944.

### 1953 - DWIGHT ALDERMAN

Manager of Portland Gas & Coke in downtown Vancouver, Alderman served as local chairman of a March of Dimes fundraiser in 1949 and as a Rotary Club of Vancouver president (1952-1953).

### 1954 - GEORGE G. GOODRICH

A renowned Clark County restaurateur and past president of the Washington State Restaurant Association. He was a board member of St. Joseph Community Hospital, Southwest Washington Medical Center and the Clark College Foundation.

### 1955 - ROBERT DUBOIS

A successful realtor and developer, DuBois' developments included Lakewood near Vancouver Lake and Braewood, which later became known as DuBois Park. DuBois served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, a chairman of the freeholders committee and on the planning commission.

### 1956 - CHARLES SANFORD THAYER

Called "Mr. Aluminum," Thayer was instrumental in bringing the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) plant to Vancouver. His community service included leadership in state parole and probation groups, the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and Vancouver School Board.

### 1957 - RAYMOND BACHMAN

A longtime editor and publisher for The Columbian, Bachman helped organize the Vancouver Junior Chamber of Commerce, was a Vancouver Rotary president and worked on campaigns to fight tuberculosis and polio. He helped organize the Fort Vancouver Historical Society and served on its board for 25 years.

### 1958 - GENE LYNCH

Community-minded Lynch was a supervisor for Seattle-First National Bank.

Continued on next page ▶

## First Citizen 2021

### 1959 - MANUEL (MANNY) HELM

An Army veteran who served in World War II, Helm's activity with several organizations, boards and committees included the Metro Advisory Board, the Chamber of Commerce, the Salvation Army Advisory Board, a director for the United Fund and chairing the County Board of Education.

### 1960 - LEWIS D. CANNELL

Dr. Cannell was Dean of Clark College from 1935 until his retirement in 1970. Over this thirty-five year period as Dean he was the face of the college to the community. In addition he served as Chairman of the Clark County Planning Commission, headed up a citizen's committee to build the Vancouver Community Library and belonged to Rotary Club for more than fifty years. Today his name lives on in the Lewis D. Cannell Library on the Clark College campus.

### 1961 - GALE BETTESWORTH

A manager for the Clark County Branch of Seattle-First National Bank, Bettesworth's civic involvements include serving as president of the Vancouver Lions Club (1962 to 1963), the Clark County Red Cross and the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.

### 1962 - ED FIRSTENBURG

First Independent bank founder Firstenberg and his wife, Mary donated millions of dollars to a myriad of Clark County causes. Major donations include gifts to Washington State University Vancouver (the Firstenberg Family Fountain and the Firstenberg Student Commons), Southwest Washington Medical Center (Firstenberg Patient Tower), and funding toward construction of the Mary Firstenberg Community Center.

### 1963 - FREEMAN KELLER

The Kiwanis, the Rotary, the YMCA, Salvation Army, the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and Scouting USA are just some of the organizations Keller had a hand in. A real estate agent into his 80s, Keller's name lives on in the annual award the Clark County Association of Realtors gives to Realtors offering outstanding service.

### 1964 - DONALD KALLSTROM

A community-minded business leader, Kallstrom was a vice president and manager for the Vancouver branch of the National Bank of Commerce of Seattle.

### 1965 - BOB AVERY

Founder of the Fort Vancouver Civic Club, a Fort Vancouver Regional Library board member and chairman are just a few items on attorney Avery's long list of community contributions. Avery also participated in school levy and city beautification campaigns and spearheaded the annual Fourth of July fireworks spectacular.

### 1966 - BILL MARSHALL

A World War II veteran and owner of a Vancouver Ford dealership, Marshall was a director for Memorial Hospital, a United Way chairman, a youth sports sponsor and advocate and school volunteer. He received the Downtown Vancouver Rotary Club's Vocational Service Award.

### 1967 - LARRY HOBBS

Hobbs worked for the Vancouver Housing Authority following World War II before embarking on a career with the Chamber of Commerce that spanned from 1959 to 1981. Hobbs was well known for his energetic enthusiasm.

### 1968 - ORRIN HATHAWAY

A longtime salesman for Pacific Building Materials, Hathaway served in the Army in World War II.

### 1969 - W. WAYNE HOLMES

A life fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Dr. Holmes' many contributions include supporting the Free Clinic of SW Washington.

### 1970 - JEAN LACEY

Lacey was the first Executive Director of the YWCA of Clark County. In the 19 years she held the job, she pioneered numerous outreach and assistance programs.

### 1971 - MITCHELL BOWER, JR.

A longtime business consultant, Bower's diverse community service includes being an Identity Clark County board member and a member of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

### 1972 - ERWIN RIEGER

Longtime writer and editor for The Columbian, Rieger was an avid outdoorsman and a Scoutmaster for 50 years. A portion of State Route 501 was renamed the Erwin O. Rieger Memorial Highway in 1991.

### 1973 - LLOYD STROMGREN

As mayor of Vancouver from 1972 to 1973, Stromgren shared his vision of a beautiful, thriving Central Park area and using the former Army Barracks land as a cultural center.

### 1974 - JACK FRANCIS

Known as Mr. Music, Francis was a longtime director of music for the Vancouver School District. He set high standards for his students in their music and lives.

### 1975 - HELEN PATRICIA "PAT" WALZ

A journalist, outdoor enthusiast and avid traveler, Walz' community service includes co-founding Hospice Southwest. She also served on the national board of the American Red Cross.

THE COLUMBIAN, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021 **3**

### 1976 - NAIDA PITHOUD

Active in local politics, Pithoud served as chairman of the Republican party of Clark County for more than 10 years. She is credited with earning the respect of candidates and office holders in both political parties.

### 1977 - RUDY ANDERSON

Longtime operations manager for Alcoa, in addition to his community contributions in Clark County, Anderson put his engineering degree to use as a road and dam builder in South America.

### 1978 - ETHEL LEHMAN

A Vancouver City Council member for 16 years, Lehman was active in numerous organizations, including the Soroptimist Business-Women's Club, Emil Fries Piano Hospital, YWCA, Share, Council for the Homeless, RSVP, National Council of Jewish Women and Clark County Historical Society.

### 1979 - PEGGY LANSVERK

A Clark College-YWCA Clark County Woman of Achievement Honoree in 1997, Lansverk was involved in numerous organizations, including the PTA, Share and the Greater Vancouver Interfaith Association.

### 1980 - HELEN DYGERT

A founder of the Council for the Homeless and one of the Clark College Foundation's developers, Dygert's extensive community service has included a chairmanship of the Washington State Board of Health.

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# CONGRATULATIONS 2021 FIRST CITIZEN DIANA AVALOS-LEOS

On behalf of  
Fourth Plain Forward

"Diana you are the keystone to our community, thank you for all your contributions and your mentorship that have made generational change"



Contact us at: [Info@fourthplainforward.org](mailto:Info@fourthplainforward.org)



# Congratulations, Diana Avalos-Leos 2021 First Citizen

by Susan Parrish for *The Columbian*

**D**iana Avalos-Leos is a petite woman with an enormous heart. She's a go-getter who moves mountains, not with brute force, but by bringing people together, building partnerships and knocking down barriers.

Her family, friends and coworkers describe Avalos-Leos as a fierce advocate and a driving force in equity work in Southwest Washington. She stands up on behalf of those who have been denied a place at the table, those whose voice has been silenced. She recognizes inequity and lack of opportunity in communities and marginalized populations. Then she gathers a coalition of partners and builds a team. Together, they work toward a solution to close the equity gap.

Her influence reaches beyond Southwest Washington. Recognizing her contribution to Latino education and health, the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber in Portland bestowed a Bravo Award to Avalos-Leos in October.

#### Learned community service from her parents

Avalos-Leos grew up in Los Angeles, the eldest of three children born to Jesse Avalos and Lourdes Casas. They owned their home. Her father owned his own business. From her mother, she learned the importance of strong families and education. She inherited her father's work ethic and his willingness to help others.

She said, "My dad was always helping somebody: moving, hiring, teaching, mentoring. If he saw someone stranded on the side of the road, he'd pull over. Those kinds of images really left an imprint in terms of influencing me."

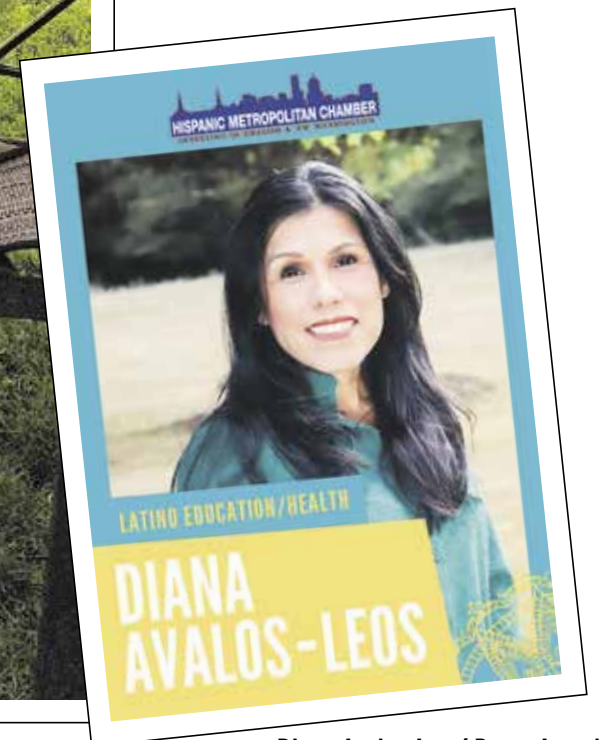
Her mother said, "Her father had a lot of influence over the person she became. He impressed her to listen. He told her before you do anything, think it through before you act. That skill shaped who Diana is. He also encouraged her not to follow others, but to lead. Diana was always the first to take charge."

Avalos-Leos' volunteerism began when she was a single mom with young children enrolled in Head Start. Volunteers were needed to wrap and deliver Christmas gifts for children and families. She answered the call—and she's been volunteering and making a difference in her community ever since.

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Lourdes Casas and daughter, Diana Avalos-Leos



Diana Avalos-Leos' Bravo Award





**Working with Roberto Bustos to raise awareness of Cesar Chavez’s legacy**

She explained, “As the years went by, I learned about how systems work and how to influence system change and policy change. I learned to work with community leaders and officials.”

Her mother said, “I didn’t really understand until recently the depth of what Diana does. She has made a lot of sacrifices helping the community. I’m so proud of my daughter.”

Avalos-Leos’ oldest daughter, Kim Morgan, said, “I’ve always admired my mom for having the courage to speak out, to stand up for people and issues. She talks the talk, but she also walks the walk. That’s something to emulate. She’s one of the hardest working women I know. She instilled that in me and my sisters.”

Avalos-Leos and her husband, Ramiro Leos have been married for 13 years. It’s a second marriage for both. Between them, they have 8 children and 12 grandchildren. Family is cherished and celebrated.

Time after time her husband has witnessed how wide his wife’s circle of community reaches: “We can’t go anywhere without someone saying, ‘Hi, Diana!’ I’m proud of what she does.”

**Advocating for equity at Vancouver Public Schools**

Tamara Shoup, who worked with Avalos-Leos at Vancouver Public Schools, nominated her for First Citizen. While working in high school Family Community Resource Centers, Avalos-Leos honed her skills in connecting people with resources.

Shoup said, “Resilience and passion fuels Diana—and a real sense of spirituality. She brings a wealth of wisdom. She finds a way to navigate systems.”

When the presidential administration changed after the 2016 election, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was picking up undocumented parents and separating them from their families. Fear and uncertainty spread throughout the Latino community. Avalos-Leos had an idea to calm their fears: Gather community leaders including law enforcement, elected officials and school district leaders and put them in a room with Hispanic parents to answer their many questions.

Shoup explained, “Diana was responsive at a time when our community needed her. She is one of those dynamic people who seem to be able to balance the role of community advocate with walking the line. When I think of Diana, I always picture Johnny Cash. She walks that fine line. Her advocacy is clear. She maintains that inclusivity that is necessary to bring all people along with her on that journey.”

**Latino Leadership Northwest**

Avalos-Leos partnered with other community leaders and volunteers to found the Clark County Latino Youth Conference in 2011. Its mission is to encourage and



**Latino Community Resource Group multicultural fair**

motivate young Latinos to pursue higher education, a technical career or other opportunities. From the beginning, Avalos-Leos has served as executive director.

They gather annually for a conference to learn about relevant topics including actualizing goals, financial aid and college prep, alternative career paths and mental health and social media. Throughout the year, youth build leadership skills and work on projects that serve the Latino community. To reflect that it’s more than the annual conference, the organization changed its name to Latino Leadership Northwest in October.

**Vancouver Police Department Equity Task Force**

Lt. J. Scott Creager, Port of Portland, was a lieutenant with Vancouver Police Department when he worked with Avalos-Leos, who was a member of VPD’s Equity Task Force.

Creager said, “Diana was probably the smallest in size, but probably one of the largest personalities in the room. She has a lot of passion regarding creating opportunities for students.”

Seeking a project for students to interact with police officers in a positive way, Avalos-Leos approached Creager with her idea: Latino students at Fort Vancouver and Hudson’s Bay high schools would work with a professional artist to create a mural in VPD’s West Precinct lobby. The police department provided art supplies and pizza and hired an artist to work with the



**Parent leadership work session, Oregon Migrant Head Start programs**

students. Later she worked with Creager to organize a second student-created mural in the terminal near Port of Portland Police Department.

Avalos-Leos, Creager, the students and the artist were interviewed about the mural project on Oregon Public Broadcasting’s “Think Out Loud” radio program.

Avalos-Leos recapped topics covered during the interview: “The students discussed the mural project, building trust and community with law enforcement, DACA, media and how art helps bring healing and unity.”

Creager said, “Diana makes up her mind to do something, and it gets done. When she speaks, you listen.”

**Southwest Washington LULAC**

Partnering together, Avalos-Leos and Diana Perez founded Southwest Washington League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in 2011. The organization’s mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Latino population in the region.

“It wouldn’t have happened without Diana. She has this ability to reach out and bring people in,” said Perez, who served as LULAC Washington State Director from 2016 to 2020.

The two women organized countless community events to tell the Hispanic community about available resources and to encourage them to get involved and speak up.

Perez said, “We mentor and empower our youth and our young women to reach beyond what they think they can do.”

When COVID-19 amplified issues in the Hispanic community, including the need for economic relief and mental health supports, the two Dianas formed a COVID task force and got to work.

“Diana is a key player. She’s a force to reckon with,” Perez said. “When she walks into a meeting or board room, you’d better get down to business and get things done.”

**SW Washington Latino Parent Leadership Institute**

In her role as executive director of Latino Youth Conference, Avalos-Leos partnered with WSU educator Dr. Katherine Rodela to establish the SW Washington Latino Parent Leadership Institute, a bilingual, multicultural community of educators, leaders, researchers and parents. The institute offers parent education and leadership workshops to Spanish-speaking parents in Southwest Washington and metropolitan Portland.

Rodela said, “Diana has so much integrity that even if she is pushing them, school district leaders respect her. Diana can be credited, along with LULAC Council, to push our school districts to be more equitable. She’s a critical partner. That’s part of her bigger legacy.”

She added, “So many students who graduated from local high schools know Diana. She invests in people. She stands by them in their hardest times, meeting them in

their crisis. Those dark moments when they’re wondering ‘Can I pay rent? Will I get evicted?’ She’s touched thousands of people’s lives, even paying out of her own pocket. Our community is better because of Diana.”

**Healthy Living Collaborative**

Kachina Inman at Healthy Living Collaborative had heard about Avalos-Leos long before she worked with her: “I’d heard about all the work she was supporting on so many different levels and ways. If you know Diana, community engagement is her heart and soul—but also policy, systems and equity.”

When a position opened, Inman encouraged Avalos-Leos to apply. In her new role, Avalos-Leos continued creating partnerships and building a robust community network. She identified gaps faced by students and parents—and found resources and opportunities to close those gaps.

“Diana always goes above and beyond,” Inman said. “Diana was my partner. We laughed and cried together and supported each other. She is one of those people who will stay with me forever.”



**Speaking at Fort Vancouver Regional Library community meeting**

**Cultivating the next generation of leaders**

Ana Betancourt Macias is one of the hundreds of students whose lives have taken a positive trajectory because of Avalos-Leos’ influence. As a student at Fort Vancouver High School, she frequently stopped into the Family Community Resource Center to talk with Avalos-Leos, who encouraged her to consider college, a career—and a life—that would make a difference.

After high school, Betancourt Macias was a single mom facing an additional enormous challenge: she was undocumented. Avalos-Leos encouraged her to attend Clark College and helped her find resources.

“Diana told me being a single mom shouldn’t stop me from getting an education,” Betancourt Macias said. She credits Avalos-Leos for her success in earning her associate’s degree at Clark College and then her bachelor’s degree at Washington State University Vancouver, where she held multiple leadership roles in student government and advocated for student-focused issues in Olympia.

Now 32, Betancourt Macias is a paralegal for an immigration law firm. She’s also a program coordinator at LULAC and cofounder of the Betancourt Macias Family Scholarship Foundation for undocumented students. Like Avalos-Leos, she stands up, speaks up and is working to change policies and systems.

“When I told Diana I’m interested in law school, she said, ‘Okay. How are we going to do it?’ Diana put so many opportunities in front of me. She opened my eyes to the possibilities.”



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON



## Diana Avalos-Leos works tirelessly to create a better region for everyone.

The Community Foundaton is proud to call her First Citizen and stands with her in advancing a more just region. We work with local nonprofits, communities and donors to develop charitable solutions that improve the many lives and places that make southwest Washington truly unique.

Partner with us and let's bring your vision for a better community to life.

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Let us help you  
*imagine*  
your future

The Columbian  
**COMMUNITY**  
Partnerships

Columbian Community Partnerships has worked with hundreds of local area nonprofits to help them meet their goals over the past 30 years. Through our Local Public Service Announcements, Community Partnerships matching funds program, Nonprofit Spotlight promotions and offering specially priced advertising options to our Give More 24! participants we are able to share our Columbian audience and help nonprofits get their message out.

We are proud to support southwest Washington nonprofits and our neighbors by encouraging our community to get involved and give generously of time, talent and resources to nonprofits of all varieties across our area.

 **The Columbian**

If you'd like more information on how Columbian Community Partnerships can help your nonprofit organization imagine the future, contact **Teresa Davis** at [community\\_partnerships@columbian.com](mailto:community_partnerships@columbian.com) or **360-735-4572**.



## First Citizen 2021

### 1981 - JOHN PRIEL

Former president of First Federal Savings & Loan, Priel served on many boards, including the Elahan Center for Mental Health and Family Living board, the Southwest Washington Hospital Services Board and the Vancouver Salvation Army Board. He was on the Clark County Employment and Training Council.

### 1982 - ROBERT B.J. BJODSTRUP

A public relations specialist for Vancouver Savings & Loan, Bjodstrup's skills as an archivist and recordkeeper were valued by the Vancouver Rotary Club.

### 1983 - HARVEY O. FLANSBURG

After earning a master's degree from the University of Washington, Flansburg moved to Vancouver, where he taught music for the Vancouver School District for 40 years.

### 1984 - SALLY SCHAEFER

A past member of the Clark College Board of Trustees, the former educator has given her time and expertise to numerous causes benefiting schools, children, churches, the arts, higher education and social service groups. Schaefer was named Trustee of the Year in 2000 by the Washington State Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges.

### 1985 - BARBARA MARSHALL

Marshall's long and varied volunteering included American Red Cross blood drives, tap dancing to lift nursing home residents' spirits and numerous fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society. The ACS's local fundraising store was renamed the Barbara Marshall American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, in her memory, in 1997.

### 1986 - HELEN RAYMOND

A tireless advocate for children's and women's organizations and the elderly, Raymond was a FVRL board trustee from 1967-1978. In 1993, she was a Clark College-YWCA Clark County Women of Achievement Honoree.

### 1987 - MARY GRANGER

Founder of Women in Action, in 1995, Granger organized a group of local benefactors to sponsor an "I Have a Dream" class of 64 students at Washington Elementary as they made their way through high school and college.

### 1988 - ARCH MILLER

Founder of International Air & Hospitality Academy, Miller served three terms as a Port of Vancouver commissioner. He has been a director of Southwest Washington Friends of Baseball.

### 1989 - TRANSITION YEAR, NO AWARD.

### 1990 - SAM BEALL

A former internist, Dr. Beall was one of the driving forces behind the founding the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington in 1990. A longtime volunteer for American Heart Association fund raising events, in 2001 Beall was honored by the Vancouver Rotary Club's Vocational Service Committee with its 2001 Service Above Self award.

### 1991 - GEORGE PROPSTRA

Burgerville founder and legendary philanthropist, Propstra's gifts to southwest Washington provided handicapped-accessible school playground equipment, helped build community swimming pools, a grand baseball stadium and a community plaza.

### 1992 - ED AND DOLLIE LYNCH

The Lynches were the first couple to share First Citizen honors. The Lynches are often mentioned as sources of inspiration for other local philanthropists. The Lynches' substantial donations to the community include \$1 million to the Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation in 2006. Ed was on the Southwest Washington Medical Center board from 1985 to 1995 and Dollie was a fundraising committee member of the hospital's foundation.

### 1993 - HARRIET WILSON

Active with the Clark College Foundation for more than a decade, Wilson helped spearhead a campaign raising more than \$6 million for the foundation. She also co-chaired the campaign to raise funds to build the Goodwill Training Center and served on the Council for the Homeless.

### 1994 - JOANNE AND BOB KENDALL

The Kendalls were the driving force behind an Open House Ministries campaign to raise \$2.5 million for a 107-bed shelter. Bob, a longtime Chevrolet dealer, was a Port of Vancouver commissioner and a longtime Greater Clark County Rotary Club member.

### 1995 - BRUCE E. HAGENSEN

A former Vancouver city councilman and mayor, Officers Row renovations, the city's Waterfront Renaissance, Celebrate Freedom and a campaign to build a museum at Pearson Field are a few of Hagensen's many civic contributions.

### 1996 - ALLAN WEINSTEIN

Weinstein helped found Southwest Washington Independent Forward Thrust (SWIFT), was an initiator of fundraisers for the YWCA and supporter of local food banks. President of the former Vancouver Furniture, Weinstein donated beds and furniture to homeless shelters.

### 1997 - RAYMOND HICKEY

Hickey's achievements span a wide spectrum ranging from supporting youth education and recreation to being a generous supporter of the YWCA. A longtime Boy Scout leader and past president of Tidewater Barge Lines Inc., Hickey helped change the face of Vancouver's waterfront.

### 1998 - PAUL CHRISTENSEN

Founder of Realvest Corp., Christensen has served on the boards of Identity Clark County, One Place Across Time, Leadership Clark County and the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. Founder of the Hough Foundation, and has been affiliated with Columbia River Economic Development Council and other agencies and organizations. He was instrumental in raising \$1.8 million to build Vancouver's Goodwill store and training center.

### 1999 - JOHN MARSHALL

Marshall served for years as unpaid Executive Director of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust. With his grant writing and fundraising skills, he helped bring the Nihonga art exhibit and the Medal of Honor convention to Vancouver.

### 2000 - LESLIE DURST

A prominent supporter of the arts, Durst's donations include \$1 million toward the development of the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics in the early 1990s. She has been a member of the Community Foundation Board, supporter of I Have A Dream classes, volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliary, an instructor for American Red Cross, and a "lunch buddy" for local students.

### 2001 - AL BAUER

The former teacher became known as "Senator Education" during his 20 years in the state Senate, which followed 10 years as a state representative. Bauer spearheaded statewide initiatives to reduce class sizes, increase support for rural school districts and to create a telecommunications network that links the state's education systems. A Navy veteran, Bauer has been active with the American Legion, the Greater Vancouver Kiwanis Club and the Salmon Creek Grange.

### 2002 - TRANSITION YEAR, NO AWARD.

### 2003 - VERN PETERSON

Founder of the accounting firm Peterson and Associates, Peterson's civic activities have included advocacy for affordable housing, work with the Clark County Historical Society, the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust and the Clark College Foundation board.

### 2004 - SCOTT HORENSTEIN

An advocate for the Boys and Girls Club, Horenstein has helped raise more than \$1 million to provide after-school programming for children. An attorney, he served on the Clark County Fair Board and on Identity Clark County's board of directors. He has also campaigned on behalf of school levies and bonds and for community swimming pools.

### 2005 - STEVE & JAN OLIVA

Since opening the first Hi-School Pharmacy store in downtown Vancouver in 1967, the Olivas have donated time, energy and money to numerous community causes and organizations, including area schools, the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District, the Clark College Foundation and the Vancouver Women's Foundation.

### 2006 - VAL OGDEN

Ogden served 12 years in the state House of Representatives. Her work for nonprofits has included the YWCA and the Camp Fire organization. She was instrumental in the creation of Vancouver's waterfront trail system, and a resource center at the Washington State School for the Blind bears her name. With husband Dan, Ogden established an endowment for graduate students in public affairs at Washington State University Vancouver.

### 2007 - JOHN WHITE

A land use consultant, White has had a hand in the community's development in recent decades, including modernizing downtown Vancouver and the location and construction of WSU Vancouver's campus. White is a member of the Clark College board of trustees, is on the board of directors of Southwest Washington Medical Center, has served on the Clark County Family YMCA Board of Managers and has held leadership roles with several organizations.

### 2008 - MARK MATTHIAS

Owner of Beaches Restaurant and Bar, through the Beaches Charity Fund, Matthias and his team help the community in a myriad of ways, including many programs benefiting local schools and children in need. Matthias is a board member of the Vancouver School District Foundation and is on the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Washington board of directors.

### 2009 - FLORENCE WAGER

As a community board member and volunteer, Florence Wager has had tremendous influence on the landscape of Clark County and the City of Vancouver. Her successful advocacy for new parks, community centers, trails, health and fitness over the past 20 years has resulted in a remarkable number of community assets and programs. She played an instrumental role in the renovation of Esther Short Park, Chelatchie Rail-Trail project, Firstenburg Community Center and renovated Marshall Community Center, to name just a few of the many projects she has impacted.

### 2010 - ROYCE POLLARD

Vancouver's former mayor, Royce's positive attitude and tireless advocacy to create a thriving city have made us proud to be "America's Vancouver."

### 2011 - H. A. "HAL" DINGERINK

As the founding Chancellor of Washington State University Vancouver, Dengerink dramatically increased the availability of higher education in southwest Washington. He also served on the Board of Directors for the PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center and was one of the early leaders in advancing the plans for a new I-5 Columbia River Crossing project. In addition, he influenced our region through leadership roles with several organizations, including the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, the Fort Vancouver National Trust and the Columbia River Economic Development Council.

### 2012 - PATRICIA "PAT" JOLLOTA

Serving 20 years as a Vancouver City Councilor secured Pat Jollota's reputation as a dedicated public servant. During her tenure, she championed public safety issues alongside local police officials and raised funds to equip local fire departments with thermal helmet cameras.

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Jollota also acted as Curator for the Clark County Historical Museum for 20 years, retiring only to become our city's unofficial historian emeritus. Still, her most personally rewarding moments came while advocating for the safety of abused children with organizations like the Children's Justice Center and Justice for Children.

### 2013 - ROBERT SCHAEFER

As a local attorney and former four-term state legislator, Schaefer's collaborative spirit and problem-solving talents have helped to develop Washington State University Vancouver, the Fort Vancouver National Trust, parks, urban planning, health care, education and economic efforts in southwest Washington.

### 2014 - TWYLA BARNES

Twyla Barnes served as the Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of Educational Service District 112 between 1994 and 2004. A long-time champion of public education, Dr. Barnes' career includes both teaching and administrative positions over the past three decades. She was a civic leader, former teacher and special advisor to the U. S. Department of Education. Clark County benefited from her lifetime of dedication to education and her engaging leadership in roles that extended beyond her position as ESD 112 superintendent.

### 2015 - NAN HENRIKSEN

As a trailblazer Nan Henriksen is an accomplished community leader, business owner, former Camas Mayor and former chair of the Clark County Board of Freeholders. She embodies the idea that every citizen can be a catalyst for community improvement.

### 2016 - BOB KNIGHT

Bob Knight became Clark College president in 2006 after serving two years as vice president of administrative services. Under his leadership, Clark was named one of the 150 best community colleges in the nation. Before that, Knight served 21 years in the U.S. Army. He finished his career as post commander of the Vancouver Army Barracks, supervising its closure in 2000. Other community leaders say Knight embodies "a spirit of generosity."

### 2017 - LARRY SMITH

Working in Vancouver City Hall as an assistant city manager and director and then elected to City Council for five years, Larry has contributed so much and helped so many.

### 2018 - TRANSITION YEAR, NO AWARD.

### 2019 - ED BARNES

Ed Barnes was a union man, U.S. Army Korean War veteran and community volunteer. An electrician, he had a long career with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union and served as business manager and financial secretary for Local 48. His volunteerism includes state Transportation Commissioner, co-chair of the I-5 Corridor Committee and board members for Ronald McDonald House and Open House Ministries Housing Project.



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