Los Angeles Unified School District

Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project
Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project
Founding Committee and Contributors

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Appreciation is extended to the following members of the Founding Committee of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project for their expertise, insight and support.

Jacob Aguilar, Roosevelt High School, Alumni Association
Bob Collins, Chief Instructional Officer, Secondary, LAUSD (Retired)
Sandy Collins, Principal, Columbus Middle School (Retired)
Art Duardo, Principal, El Sereno Middle School (Retired)
Nicole Elam, Chief of Staff
Grant Francis, Venice High School (Retired)
Shannon Haber, Director of Communication and Media Relations, LAUSD
Bud Jacobs, Director, LAUSD High Schools and Principal, Venice High School (Retired)
Michelle King, Superintendent
Joyce Kleifeld, Los Angeles High School, Alumni Association, Harrison Trust
Cynthia Lim, LAUSD, Director of Assessment
Robin Lithgow, Theater Arts Advisor, LAUSD (Retired)
Ellen Morgan, Public Information Officer
Kenn Phillips, Business Community
Carl J. Piper, LAUSD Legal Department
Rory Pullens, Executive Director, LAUSD Arts Education Branch
Belinda Stith, LAUSD Legal Department
Tony White, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, LAUSD Beyond the Bell Branch

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Bruce Bivins, Roosevelt High School
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Cindy Duong, Cleveland High School
Jack Foote, Jefferson High School
Robert Garcia, Canoga Park High School
Ben Gertner, Roosevelt High School
Patricia Heideman, Marshall High School
Koh Ikeda, Assistant Principal, Eagle Rock High School
Gerald Kobata, Narbonne High School
Luis Lopez, Wilson High School
Willard Love, Dorsey High School
Carmina Narcoda, Fairfax High School
Victor Rodriguez, Sylmar High School
Reginald, Sample, Dorsey High School
Alexjandra Sanchez, Hollywood High School
Windy Warren, Carson High School
Oryla Wiedoeft, Venice High School
Helen Yoon-Fontamillas, Los Angeles High School
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Introduction to the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project

Since its founding in 1853, the Los Angeles Unified School District (then called the “Los Angeles School District”) has provided a quality public education to millions of students, who have gone on to shape the tapestry of their communities. The Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project is an effort to identify and recognize those students who have distinguished themselves, among millions of others, through their achievements in a chosen career field and/or the significant impacts they have had on their city, state, or nation. By compiling their biographies, we seek to preserve their legacy.

LAUSD alumni have been intricately woven into the history of Los Angeles, the state, and the country since the first class of students graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1875. Alumni have left an indelible mark on the movie and recording industries. They have excelled in athletics, providing some of the most memorable moments in sports. As politicians and jurists, they have helped shape the course of local, state, and national policy. They have contributed to some of those most groundbreaking events in science and business. And, as educators, they have inspired the next generation to achieve even greater heights. Through their contributions, they have built this great city, educated its future leaders, provided vision for continued development, and entertained the world.

In selecting alumni to spotlight, we first looked at those who have been recognized—by organizations, academies, government entities, and peers—as having made outstanding achievements in their career fields. Others were recognized for significantly impacting their communities or the world around them. We also identified those who became historical figures as a result of circumstance. Graduates and non-graduates are both included, as some students attended LAUSD schools for ten or more years but then left to begin a career, or for other reasons. At the time of this writing, we have identified over 1,200 people.

This alumni history mirrors times we are very proud of and times we regret. The history includes individuals who fought against racial covenants and housing discrimination. It chronicles the Japanese internment and an era of segregated schools. It also recognizes the Central Avenue and Eastside musical histories, Nobel laureates, Berlin Olympic athletes, Academy Award and Grammy winners, Athletic Hall of Fame members, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. It is a history of American icons, and of those who struggled—at times unsuccessfully—against oppression. It contains histories of people who achieved remarkable success, but who also had personal challenges that resulted in conflicts with the law and other problems. All of this, the good and the bad, is chronicled in this historical record.

These biographies are designed to be educational tools. They can allow students to delve deeper into the history of their city, and to study the contributions, and shortcomings, of prominent alumni who grew up in their neighborhoods. The public can also access these histories through a virtual museum. We hope these stories will inspire people in this community to continue the great legacy paved before them.

As we recognize particular alumni for their achievements, we should remember that every student who has come through LAUSD has helped shape the world around them. We must also remember that our schools today contain the next group of Nobel laureates, Hall of Famers, groundbreaking scientists, educators, film and recording stars, philanthropists, musicians, journalists, business leaders, inventors, civic leaders, and artists, who will continue shaping the landscape of our city, state, and nation. Indeed, one of the most important lessons we can glean from the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project is this: We must nurture and invest in every student, because they are the leaders and shapers of tomorrow.

Michelle King
Superintendent
“Maintaining Our LAUSD Alumni Legacy”

The Coalition of High School Alumni Organizations (CHSAO)

Introduction

The Coalition of High School Alumni Organizations (CHSAO) is made up of alumni representatives of high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District dedicated to engaging the interests and resources of alumni in helping current students at their schools have a more meaningful future.

CHSAO members share techniques, methods, and materials to enhance the goals of their individual organizations and to encourage, enable, and facilitate communication and the sharing of resources among alumni organizations.

The CHSAO has recently undertaken supervision of the LAUSD Alumni History Project. The project was initiated by retired Chief Instructional Officer Robert Collins and his wife Sandy, a retired middle school principal, who spent more than 1000 hours compiling – for the first time – an impressive spiral-bound book containing the names, photos, and brief biographies of more than 1200 distinguished LAUSD Alumni. With the support of the Arts Education Branch, under the direction of Rory Pullens, the CHSAO will assume the work of revising, updating, expanding, and distributing this book.

Representatives of alumni organizations at Birmingham, Crenshaw, Dorsey, Eagle Rock, Fairfax, Fremont, Garfield, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lincoln, Locke, Los Angeles, Manual Arts, Pacific Palisades, Roosevelt, University, Venice, and Westchester High Schools have participated in the CHSAO.

Members of the CHSAO invite other alumni organizations in the district to participate in monthly meetings and to support the goals of the CHSAO.

If you would like further information about the Coalition of High School Alumni Organizations or additional information about the LAUSD Alumni History Project (including submitting changes to or ordering copies of the book), please contact us at lausdhalloffame@gmail.com.
A Focus on Instruction

The primary focus of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project is the use the histories of our students who excelled in their chosen professions to provide a range of instructional experiences to our current and future LAUSD students. Each biography provides an insight into how LAUSD students pursued their passions and interests to achieve remarkable success in a wide range of endeavors. Well-designed educational experiences will bring these lives, histories and achievements into the classroom to inform, inspire and guide.

We should also remember when designing these experiences that the lives of the individuals described in our Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project represent a wide variety of student experiences that mirror those of our students today. They have persevered often under the most difficult of circumstances and times. They each found different paths to success, while often overcoming numerous obstacles. Their histories and potential effect on future generations of LAUSD students cannot be underestimated. What might these educational experiences look like?

Schools can engage their journalism or English classes in having students research and explore these individuals in much greater depth. The biographies in this book are only brief, informational descriptions. Student work could be added to the larger Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project providing a more complete and accurate history.

Students may be assigned to interview many of these individuals as part of a school oral history project. It would be a unique educational experience for current students. It would also be tragic not to be able to speak with and record for history these historic lives in their own words. We have already seen with the passing of many of these Alumni and Hall of Fame Project students that their histories, insights and experiences have been lost to future generations.

The District may develop a speaker’s bureau where individuals may be invited to speak to groups of students who share similar passions and interests. The greatest asset of our Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project individuals is their expertise and experience that can help inspire and guide future generations. How many drama and theater classes or dance and music classes could benefit directly from this interaction? How many high school athletes can learn the many challenges that exist in college and professional athletics? There is no question as to the impact these special individuals can have on future generations of LAUSD students.

The District’s television station, KLCS, can produce documentaries that address many of the themes we have identified in the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. These documentaries can then be used as an instructional tool in classrooms.

Students, as part of history and government classes, could be assigned to study the civic leaders who graduated from LAUSD and went forward to change the landscape of the city, state and nation. It would be powerful for future leaders in our schools today to have the opportunity to sit and exchange ideas with current governmental leaders.

We could invite our scientific and medical communities back into our schools to talk with young men and women aspiring to be future doctors, engineers, physicists, astronomers and researchers.

The potential exists to develop stronger relationships, apprenticeships and career related programs with the recording, television and film industries in Los Angeles. That same potential exists to create new mentor programs utilizing Alumni History and Hall of Fame members. Similar opportunities exist with Los Angeles news and media outlets, the court system, medicine, and business leaders.

The above ideas represent only a few of the opportunities that can translate into meaningful educational experiences for all students. In so many ways, these educational experiences can provide unique opportunities that can change the lives of thousands of students.
Major Themes of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project

In writing the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project, numerous themes emerged. These themes are broad in nature and can easily be broken into numerous additional genres and topics. For example, “Classical Theater” can become a study of three prima ballerinas, Janet Collins, Carmen De LaVallade and Misty Copeland, each of whom had a tremendous impact on the world of ballet. Alvin Ailey and his dance theater can be a subject in itself. The world of studio musicians, opera or the D.J.’s, comprise other areas for student research and study.

The following themes provide an insight into the larger Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project is organized. We are also cognizant as we continue to research the lives of these students and adults, new themes will emerge. The following are twenty-four themes that were recurring throughout this project.

1. The Significant Impact of Educators
   Samuel R. Browne, Music Teacher at Jefferson High School

   While teachers have significant influence on student achievement, there are those teachers whose influence and talents have had a profound impact on the success of many of students identified in this project. They range from a theater arts teacher at Chatsworth High School to a music teacher at Jefferson High School, a government teacher at Hamilton High School and an art teacher ninety years ago at Manual Arts High School. While some will be part of the Hall of Fame because they are LAUSD graduates, we also reference teachers who were not LAUSD graduates, but made an impact on the lives of these students. The impact of these teachers is a recurring theme throughout this project.

2. Scientists and The Nobel Prize
   Carl David Anderson, Nobel Laureate in Physics, Polytechnic High School

   Los Angeles Unified School District students have left an enduring impact on medicine, astronomy, chemistry and physics receiving numerous awards including Nobel Prizes and making major contributions to research and discovery. Their efforts have had a significant impact on science, history and the quality of life in our nation and internationally. A continuing theme looks at how these students often began their scientific inquiry while still students in high school, reinforcing the importance of a strong technical and science curriculum. Their experiences also reflect the importance of strong STE(A)M programs in all of our schools today. They also reinforce the importance of engaging young women and minorities in our classrooms to in science related fields.
3. **Journalists, Media and Authors**  
Carol Lin, CNN News Anchor, Marshall High School

LAUSD students are major figures in the development local and national radio and television, pioneering modern journalism and news broadcasting. They include news photographers, reporters, bureau chiefs, columnists, cartoonists, sports reporters, photojournalists and political cartoonists. Some of the most famous photos, investigative reports and news stories have been the result of the efforts of these LAUSD graduates. At the same time these students have earned the most prestigious awards including the Pulitzer, Peabody and other major industry awards. Many of these students began their careers writing in high school and for the school newspaper or yearbook, guided by teachers who impacted their lives.

4. **Doctors and Researchers**  
David Ho, Medical Researcher, Marshall High School

Many major medical advancements in medicine have been the result of pioneering LAUSD graduates from groundbreaking research and treatment of AIDS patients to eye surgery. These doctors also have built community clinics, been the driving force behind building major medical facilities in Los Angeles, and established critical health services in traditionally underserved communities.

5. **American Jazz and Jefferson, Locke and Jordan High School: The Birth of West Coast and Cool Jazz”**  
Buddy Collette, Jazz, Jordan High School

LAUSD has produced some of the greatest jazz musicians in the world. In addition, throughout the 1930’s and 1940’s an exceptional group of students, legends of jazz, were developed at Jefferson and Jordan High Schools beginning the genre of West Coast and Cool Jazz. A study of these students and their accomplishments reinforces the need of significant and sustainable funding of the arts in high schools today.
6. **Young Women in LAUSD**
Molly Murphy MacGregor, Founder of the National Women’s History Project, Verdugo Hills High School

It is only in the past generation that female students began to be provided access and equity to the educational system and to higher education, as well as to the corporate and scientific communities. The struggles of pioneering women from 1900 to 1970 to access opportunities traditionally denied to them are a continuing theme of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. The Project highlights and provides inspiration and courage for LAUSD young women as they begin think about their future careers in STE(A)M, education and business. There still exists the need to ensure that our entire educational system continues to provide opportunities to young women in careers they from which they have been traditionally been excluded.

7. **Olympians and the 1936 Olympics**
Valerie Brisco Hooks, Olympian, Track and field, Locke High School

LAUSD Olympians have a very rich history. The story of Olympic athletes and their participation in every Olympic Games spotlights tremendous accomplishments on a world stage. Olympian histories and stories reflect perseverance, resilience and courage that are instructive to students today. In particular, the LAUSD participation in the 1936 Berlin Olympics was an example of this courage on a world stage in the face of fascist Germany.

8. **Breaking Color, Gender and Sexual Orientation Barriers**
Kenny Washington, Football, Lincoln High School

A regular theme of the Alumni and Hall of Fame Project are LAUSD athletes, judges, politicians and artists who became the first African American, Asian or Latino, the first woman or the first member of the LGTB community in their profession to shatter racist and traditional cultural practices. Each of these stories is also one of tremendous courage and perseverance against established political and social norms to the time. Each of these stories provide lessons for students today as they face similar challenges in the workplace.
Understanding a History of Discriminatory and Racist Policies and Practices in Los Angeles

Any understanding of the history of the City of Los Angeles would identify those discriminatory governmental policies, social practices and cultural norms that our students and teachers were subjected to both in their schools and professions. A continuing theme explores how these students were able to persevere and develop the resiliency necessary to achieve remarkable success. These lessons provide a guidance for today’s young people as they face their personal challenges.

9. Clustering of Achieving Students
Vint Cerf, Father of the Internet, Van Nuys High School

At a single point in time, three of the most important figures in the development of the internet attended Van Nuys High School. This includes Vint Cerf credited with being the “Father of the Internet.” We see similar clustering of high achieving students in music, theater arts, photography and other careers at single points in time at schools. Their individual histories provide insight for educators and students into how the collaboration of teachers and students can change the world.

10. Composers and Conductors
John Williams, Composer and Conductor, North Hollywood High School

Some of the world’s greatest conductors, composers and songwriters attended LAUSD schools. Major symphonies both in the United States and worldwide have been impacted by LAUSD graduates. At the same time, some of the greatest musical scores for Broadway, television and film are the products of LAUSD graduates. Most began their careers in music and band classes in junior high school and high school.
The Los Angeles Unified School District high school has produced some of the greatest musical performing groups of our time and some of the greatest songs of each generation. The Doors, the Penguins, the Coasters, WAR, the Platters, Jan and Dean, Canned Heat, The Jacksons, and the Mamas and the Papas, and many more became musical fixtures of 20th Century America. This history also includes record producers, song writers, arrangers and the original and the most famous D.J.’s of our time. A history of the American recording industry is a history of LAUSD graduates.

Often overlooked, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Garfield High School produced recording artists who created the “Eastside Sound” in music. That sound has had an impact that far exceeded the borders of East Los Angeles and is a cultural treasure for the entire city of Los Angeles.

LAUSD graduates from silent films to today’s blockbuster movies have been some of the most famous stars of the industry. They are American icons of film from actors and actresses, directors, producers, cinematographers, animators and editors whose names are easily recognizable. From the inception of motion pictures, LAUSD students were the backbone of Hollywood and the American film industry.
14. **Television!**  
*Carol Burnett, Actress, Singer, Comedienne, Hollywood High School*

The advent of television in the 1950’s and 60’s is a story of LAUSD high school graduates from producers, writers, directors to actors and actresses. Ozzie and Harriett, LaVerne and Shirley, the Donna Reed Show, Leave it to Beaver, Dragnet, The Carol Burnett Show, Brady Bunch, The Rockford Files, and Adam 12 to name only a few television shows, all had the mark of LAUSD students and graduates. Almost all major developments in television are reflected in graduates from the Tonight Show to Good Morning America. This history highlights actors and actresses as well as composers, producers and directors. It includes major studio pioneers and CEO’s. The history of television is in many ways a part of the history of the Los Angeles Unified School District and the City of Los Angeles.

15. **The Artists**  
*Jackson Pollock, Modern Artist, Manual Arts High School*

The pioneers of modern art came from LAUSD schools and its art programs. Including Jackson Pollock, Phillip Guston, Mabel Alavarez, Jeff Mitchum, Guy Rose and Manuel Tolejian. This history also includes California impressionists, muralists and photographers. These artists are recognized and exhibited throughout the world. Their high school experiences and the impact of their teachers is a major theme of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project.

16. **The Classic Theater**  
*Misty Copeland, Prima Ballerina, San Pedro High School*

LAUSD graduates have made a mark on the world of classical theater producing some of the greatest ballet and opera stars of the past eighty years. Their contributions to American culture also include the iconic Alvin Ailey Dance Theater, major sopranos and baritones as well as prima ballerinas. Each of these student’s stories and their impact on the New York Metropolitan Opera and ballet and classical stages throughout the world is unique and compelling for young people.
LAUSD students have dominated the Broadway stage as composers, choreographers, directors and producers, as well as some of the greatest performers of each generation. At the same time the “Off Broadway,” concept was pioneered by Benjamin Quintero, an LAUSD graduate. LAUSD graduates have left an indelible mark on the “Great White Way” and theater world-wide.

LAUSD graduates have played a critical role in the building of the City of Los Angeles and America. In Los Angeles, they built the world’s recording, television and movie industries. They have been international financiers, but also local community and city figures. The names are easily recognizable including Pink’s Hot Dogs, Tommy Burgers, In and Out Burger, Tutor–Saliba, Norris Industries, Watt and Lewis Homes, Litton Industries, Creative Artists, Broadcom, Westwood One, and Walt Disney, to name a few. These individuals are also some of the major Philanthropists of the 20th and 21st Century.
20. A Rich Immigrant History
Antonio Rodolfo Quinn Oaxaca, Actor, born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Belmont High School

In reading the history of successful graduates, one must remember the students who came to the United States, documented or not, who learned English as their second language, and then went on to reach the highest levels of their chosen careers. Each student story is instructive and inspirational to students who are learning English as a second language and provide insights to educators as to how every student can be successful.

21. Military Leaders and the Congressional Medal of Honor
Sadeo Munemori, Congressional Medal of Honor, Lincoln High School

LAUSD has produced major military historical figures who have made incredible and sometimes ultimate sacrifices in defense of America and its freedoms. The World War II raid on Tokyo, Guadalcanal, the Chinese Revolution, the Battle of the Bulge, and the Gulf War are a few examples of both leadership and sacrifice. These examples also include those individuals who interrupted their chosen careers to serve in the armed forces. It also includes those who discovered or honed their passions and interests first in military service and subsequently became legends in their professions.

22. Local, State, National and International Government Leaders
Rosario Marin, Secretary of the Treasury, Huntington Park High School

From the Israeli-Arab Peace Treaty, to the Civil Rights movement in America, to the Dodgers coming to Los Angeles, LAUSD graduates have been at the forefront of civic leadership and positive social change. Each biography focuses on powerful themes in the history of America, California and Los Angeles. These profiles include the only person in the California legislature to vote against Japanese internment, the only Los Angeles official to meet with Martin Luther King in 1960, as well as the first Latina Secretary of the Treasury.
23. **The Judges and Attorneys**  
William Waste, Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, Los Angeles High School

Some of the major and landmark decisions in American history and in particular in the State of California have been litigated or decided by LAUSD graduates in the legal profession. Included in this history are some of the highest profile cases, each of which captured the attention of the nation. They also point to a continuing challenge of ensuring justice for all citizens from striking down racial covenants in housing to providing equal access for all citizens.

24. **American Automobile Racing and the Quest for Speed**  
Parnelli Jones, Auto Racing, Narbonne High School and J.C. Agajanian, San Pedro High School

LAUSD students have contributed greatly to all aspects of motor car racing, setting world land speed records and drag and hot rod racing. Craig Breedlove, Don Prudhomme, J.C.Agajanian, Ed Iskendarian, Jimmy Murphy and Wally Parks are a few of the names that helped define motor sports in America.

**Multiple Pathways to Success**

While the above represent a range of themes evident in the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project, there is also an over-riding theme seen in every student biography. That theme is “for each and every student, there was a unique, individual pathway for achieving at the highest levels of his or her profession.” This project includes students who are high school, university and community college graduates as well as non.grads. Some served apprenticeships, others earned PhD's. Some interrupted their careers and education by serving in the military. Others were interned in Japanese relocation camps and others broke the law and were incarcerated. Many faced discrimination, poverty, difficult family lives and struggles with addiction.

The project demonstrated that each student is an individual with strengths and weaknesses and that no single curriculum, set of standards, nor single path is going to be able to address each student’s unique needs.
Hall of Fame – Selection Criteria

Numerous factors played into the selection process for the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. In the early 1970’s a Hall of Fame for LAUSD was established consisting of approximately 250 individuals nominated by their schools. Their photographs and names were displayed in the main lobby of the old Los Angeles Board of Education offices at 450 North Grand Ave. All of the individuals in the original Hall of Fame were included in the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project although in many cases we were unable to obtain a biography or photograph.

We then requested input from current principals, school-communities and alumni associations. We engaged business leaders as well as current and former school and district administrators. In addition, we conducted an internet search of over 7500 individuals.

Despite our very best efforts we are also aware that we have not included many individuals deserving recognition. It is hoped that the publication of the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project will increase awareness and lead to many more deserving individuals being included in this project in the coming months and years. We are also aware that our research shows conflicting information from many different sources regarding individuals. It is hoped that continued research as part of a student research project or additional school or family information will result in resolving some of these issues in future editions.

In addressing the criteria for inclusion the student must have attended Los Angeles Unified School Districts schools and in particular a high school or alternative school for some period of time, but they need be a high school graduate. We also provided schools the opportunity to evaluate whether they wished someone to be excluded from the Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project. These lists of potential members were then narrowed down using the following criteria:

Students are included in the Alumni History and Hall of Fame if they had a significant impact on their local community, the state or nation. This includes individuals who broke ethnic, color or gender barriers, or in other ways impacted significantly their career field.

Students were also included in the Alumni History and Hall of Fame based on their achievement in their chosen field. Excelling in one’s profession was defined as being:

- All-American in collegiate sports or All-Pro, All-Star, MVP or other recognition in professional sports or was inducted into a Sports Hall of Fame.

- Won or were nominated for an Oscar, Grammy, Emmy, Tony, Obie, Drama Critics or other industry award. This also includes Billboard recognition and major awards such as the Kennedy Center, Presidential Medal and Lifetime Achievement Awards. Also included are those individuals inducted into one or more industry Halls of Fame.

- Won a major journalism, literary or media industry awards including a Pulitzer Prize and Peabody recognition or have been inducted into an industry halls of fame

- By the nature of their elected or appointed position including Federal Judges, State Supreme Court and Courts of Appeals. City Attorneys and State Attorney Generals were also included. Included were municipal or superior court judges and attorneys if their service included a decision or trial of importance.

- Admirals and Generals. Also included were Congressional Medal of Honor awardees
• Elected officials including Mayors, City Councilpersons, County Supervisors, State Senators and Assemblypersons, U.S. Congressional Representatives and Senators, Statewide office holders. Also included were fire and police chiefs.

• Presidential or Governor appointees including Cabinet Secretaries, Ambassadors and Advisors

• Nobel Laureates or individuals receiving major recognition in their scientific career field or inducted into a science-related industry Hall of Fame.

• Business leaders were included based on the size and scope of their business, the historical significance of their business, and the impact they had on their industry. Included are recognitions such as industry halls of fame.
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(\textit{Italics * indicates original members of the LAUSD Hall of Fame, but no biography currently exists; Italics and \textbf{Bold Italics} indicates teachers who impacted the lives of Alumni History and Hall of Fame Project students})

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- \textit{Albert L. Anderson}, Dentist  1940*
- Laura Espinoza Watson, Softball
- \textit{Charles W. Gorham}, Attorney  1940*
- Dan Guerrero, Athletics  (11/10/1951)  1969
- Courtney Hall, Football, Business, Philanthropy  (8/26/1968)
- \textit{James Horst}, Orthopedic Surgeon, Boy Scouts of America  1940*
- Steven Earl Lewis, Olympian, Track and Field  (5/16/1969)
- Freeman McNeil, Football  (4/22/59)  1977
- \textit{Charles Martinez}, Executive Secretary, Marine and Shipbuilders Union*
- Mildred Naslund, Assistant Superintendent, LAUSD  1941*
- \textit{Walter Putnam}, Inspector, California Department of Fish and Game*
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- Bob Lectress Whitfield, Football  (10/18/1971)  1989

\textbf{Bell High School} . . . . . . . . . . . . Page 5

- \textit{Robert Bosanko}, Principal, El Toro High School  1944*
- Eugene Carroll, Military  (12/2/1923 – 2/19/2003)  1941
- C. Henry Fertig, Chief of Police, Huntington Park  1934
- Bud Furrillo, Sportswriter  (8/25/1919 - 7/18/2006)
- Gert Hirschberg, Referee, Juvenile Court  1943
- Stan Kenton Band Leader  (12/15/1911 – 8/25/1979)  1930
- \textit{Arthur Knowles}, Manager, Litton Industries  1946*
- Richard Lawrence, Superintendent, Area J, LAUSD

\textbf{Belmont High School} . . . . . . . . . . . . Page 8

- \textit{Manya Minnie Bertram}, Southwestern School of Law*
- \textit{Ernest P. Elliott}, Assistant V.P. Security Pacific National Bank *
- Mike Frankovich, Producer  (9/29/1909 – 1/1/1992)
- Murray Fromson, Journalism  (1929)
- Horacio Gutierrez, Classical Pianist  (8/28/48)
- Saul Halpert, Reporter
Belmont High School (continued)

- Edward Harper, Principal, Belmont Community Adult School*
- Carl E. Hartnack, President, Security Pacific Bank
- Odetta Holmes, Singer (12/31/1930 - 12/2/2008)
- Willa Kim, Costume Designer (6-30-1917 - 2004) 1935
- Stanford Mu, Business 1947
- Mort Sahl, Comedian, Satirist (5/11/1927) 1944
- Mike Stoller, Composer (3/13/1933) 1950
- Sid Thompson, LAUSD Superintendent 1947
- David Delmar Watson, Actor, Photo-Journalist (7/1/1926 – 10/26/2008) Summer 1944

Birmingham High School . . . . . . Page 17

- Bill Allen, Business and Civic Leader
- Linda Chisholm, Volleyball (12/21/1957)
- Sally Margaret Field, Actress (11/6/1946) 1964
- Mossimo Giannulli, Clothing Designer
- Terry Gilliam, Director (11/22/1940)
- Bill Handel, Media (August 25, 1951)
- Donna Kanter, Movie Producer 1964
- Pam Skaist-Levy, Business 1983
- Linda Lingle, Governor, Hawaii
- Michael Milken, Financier, Philanthropist (7/4/1946) 1964
- Tamera Mowry, Actress (7/6/1978)
- Tia Mowry, Actress (7/6/1978)
- Michael Ovitz, Business, Talent Agent (12/14/1946) 1964
- Daniel Pearl, Journalist (10/10/1963 – 5/16/2002)
- Mary Margaret Perry, Volleyball (January 3, 1943 – June 3, 2012) 1961
- Rodney Paul Rempt, Military (6/13/45) 1962
- Bobby Sherman, Singer, Actor (7/22/1943) 1961
- Karen Valentine, Actress 1965 (5/25/47)
- Diane Warren, Songwriter (9/7/1956)
- Cindy Jane Williams, Actress (8/22/1947) 1966

Canoga Park High School . . . . . Page 24

- Andy Beal, Business, MaxPreps
- Nick Bockwinkle, Wrestler (12/6/1934) Summer 1953
Canoga Park High School (continued)

- Barney Burnam, Makeup Artist
- *Reverend Regis V. Combs, Pastor*
- Bryan Cranston, Actor (3/7/1956)
- Eleanor Crouch, Mayor Santa Paula Summer 1939
- Lloyd G. Davies, Los Angeles City Council (7/14/1914 – 9/26/1957)
- Rick DeBruhl, News Reporter
- Jackie Earle Haley, Actor (7/14/1961)
- Allen Edwards, Hairstylist 1963
- *Elizabeth Knapp Hall, Playwright*
- Steve Fox, California State Assemblyman (1/7/1953) 1970
- Jon Lauritzen, LAUSD Board Member (1939-2007) 1956
- Royal F. Oakes, Attorney, Media (1952)
- Biff Pocoroba, Baseball (7/25/1953) 1971
- Sean Reyes, Attorney General of Utah (2/16/1971) 1989
- Kurtwood Smith, Actor (7/3/1943)
- *Russell Simonson, Geologist*
- Fay Thomas, Baseball (10/10/1903 – 8/12/1990) 1922
- *Frank Waring, Economist, Consul General*

Carson High School ............... Page 29

- *Richard Baska, Football*
- Jawane Hilton, Councilman, Pastor
- Dr. Ralph Mann, Olympian, Author 1967
- Todd Rogers, Councilman and Mayor
- Wesley Walker, Football, (5/26/1955)
- Michael Ruben Wilson, Football (12/19/1958)

Chatsworth High School ........ Page 31

- Larry Beinfest, Sports Business (3/3/1964)
- Howard S. Berger, Producer
- Dwight Evans, Baseball (11/3/1951)
- Greg Glassman, Sports Business
- Brian Grazer, Producer (7/12/1951)
- Val Kilmer, Actor (12/31/1959) 1978
- Stephanie Kramer, Actress, Singer, Songwriter (8/6/56)
- Kevin Spacey, Actor (7/26/1959) 1977
- Mare Winningham, Actress (5/16/1959) 1977
- *Robert Carrelli, Drama Teacher*
Cleveland High School ............ Page 34

- Tanya Acker, Attorney, T.V. Personality
- Robin Abcarian, Journalist
- Barbara Bodine, U.S. Ambassador (8/28/1948)
- Max Boot, Journalist (9/29/1969)
- Bobbie Braswell, Basketball 1981
- Morgan Brittny, Actress, Political Commentator (12/5/1951)
- Clare Cavanagh, Professor, Author, Critic 1974
- Vanessa Coffey, Television Producer 1976
- Kevin Corcoran, Actor 1967
- Nora Fraser, Producer, Cancer Activist 1966
- Lucious Harris, Basketball (12/18/1970)
- Cameron Jamie, Artist (1969)
- Victoria Justice, Actress (2/19/1993)
- Craig Kirkwood, Actor and Attorney (8/10/1974) 1992
- Harry Levin, Attorney and Producer (9/2/1950)
- Kim Naves, Sound Editor, Business 1978
- Bret Saberhagen, Baseball (4/11/1964) 1982
- Charles Martin Smith, Actor, Director (10/30/1953) 1970
- Don Stark, Actor (7/5/1954) 1972
- Trevor Wilson, Basketball

Crenshaw High School ............ Page 40

- Kabeer Gbaja Biamilla, Football (9/24/1977)
- Alfonso Brigham, Student Body President CSLA*
- The Brothers Johnson Vocalists (George (1971) and Louis (1973))
- James Butts, Mayor Inglewood 1971
- Larry Elder, Media, Radio 1969
- Solomon Elimimian, Football (10/21/1986)
- John (“Johnny”) Lee Gray, Jr., Track and Field (6/19/1960)
- James Looney Jr., Football (8/18/1957)
- Tracey Lauren Marrow (Ice T), Actor (2/16/1958)
- Brandon Mebane, Football (1/15/1985)
- Kevin Ollie, Basketball (12/27/1972)
- Darryl Strawberry, Baseball (3/12/1962)
- Wendell Tyler, Football (5/20/1955) 1973
- Ellis Valentine, Baseball (7/30/1954)

Dorsey High School .......... Page 45

- John Altoon, Artist (11/5/1925) 1943
- Franklyn Ajaye, Actor
- William Christopher “Billy” Barnes Jr., Composer (1/27/1927 – 9/25/12) 1945
- Joseph “Joe” Brown, Television (7/5/1947)
- Terrezene Brown, Track and Field (9/27/1947) 1965
Dorsey High School (continued)

- Donald Alvin Buford, Baseball (2/2/1937)
- Frank Buncom, Football (11/2/1939 – 9/14/1969) 1957
- John Casado, Graphic Designer (5/30/1944)
- Dennis Conley, Military 1959
- Billy Consolo, Baseball (8/18/1934) 1953
- Candace Cooper, Judge
- Cornelius Cooper, Medicine (10/24/1947) 1965
- Kerwin Danley, Baseball (May 25/1961) 1979
- Charles Theodore “Chili” Davis, Baseball (1/17/1960)
- Paul Allen Dozier, Singer and Songwriter 1977
- Blossom Bernstein Elfman, Author (1925) 1943
- Johnathan A. Franklin (10/23/1989)
- Jerrald “Jerry” King Goldsmith, Composer (2/10/– 7/21/2004) 1947
- Janet Ann Horowitz, Education (5/21/1947) 1965
- Robert Irwin, Artist (9/12/1928) 1946
- Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Journalist, Author and Activist 10/8/41
- Hue Jackson, Football (10/22/1965) 1983
- Sheila Kuehl, Actress, Legislator (2/9/1941) 1957
- Jackie Lacey, District Attorney (2/27/1957) 1975
- Eric Gerald Laneuville, Actor (7/14/1952) 1970
- Ron Lang, Volleyball 1955
- Bill Le Vine, Business (7/1/1920 – 10/5/2013) 1939
- Charles Grant Lewis, Architect (3/12/1948) 1965
- Michael Edward “Mike” Love (3/15/1941) 1961
- Willard Love, Educator (11/13/1941) 1959
- John M. Mayeda, Judge (1946) 1964
- Art S. Mazmanian, Baseball (5/1/1927) 1944
- Marni Nixon, Vocalist (2/22/1930)
- Lisa Nichols, Author 1994
- Dennis LaMont Northcutt, Football (12/22/1977)
- Fred Warren Ockrim (10/7/1946) 1964
- Paul Olden, Announcer, New York Yankees
- Sally Anne Payton, Chief Counsel, Washington D.C.
- William Everett “Billy” Preston, Singer, Songwriter 10/8/41
- Apostle Frederick K.C. Price, Pastor, Crenshaw Christian Center
- Franklin N. Raynor, Real Estate
- Michael Brian Schiffer, Behavioral Archaeology
- Donald Singer, Education (1936) Winter 1954
- Brenda Sykes, Actress (6/25/1949) 1967
Dorsey High School  (continued)

- Derrel Thomas, Baseball
- Ralph Tilley, Track and Field  1969
- Jody Watley, Vocalist, Shalimar  (1/30/1959)
- Diane Watson, U.S. Congresswoman (11/12/1933)  1952
- Howard Weitzman, Attorney  (9/21/39)  1951
- Keith “Jamal” Wilkes, Basketball  (5/2/1953)
- Ralph Tilley, Track and Field  1969
- Kirby Wilson, Football  (8/24/1961)
- Gail Smith Wyatt, Educator, Psychology

Eagle Rock High School  . . . . . . . . . . Page 64

- John R. Attwood, Sr. V.P. Coca Cola
- Roger Bobo, Musician, Tuba  (6/8/1938)
- Luis Bonilla, Musician, Trombonist, Arranger  (10/12/1965)
- James D. Brubaker  Studio Manager  (3/30/1937)
- Conrad Buff III, Architect
- Conrad Buff IV, Film Editor  (7/8/1948)
- Dan Cantore, Weightlifter  1964
- Dr. Benjamin Culley, Associate Dean, Occidental
- Don Dustin, Music teacher and Director
- Walter Hopp  Art Curator  (5/31932 – 3/202005)
- Hudson Houck, Football  (1/7/1943)
- Dr. Richard P. Kratz, Ophthalmologist
- Dr. Ralph Kunc, Medical Researcher, President University of Redlands
- Jere H. Lipps, Curator, Professor  (August 28, 1939)
- Jay North, Actor  (8/3/1951)
- Ruth Orkin, Photographer, Filmmaker  (9/3/1921 – 1/16/1985)
- Robert Perry, Landscape Architect
- Ralph B. Potter, Professor of Ethics, Harvard, Potter’s Box
- Lili St. Cyr, Dancer  (June 3, 1918 – January 29, 1999)
- Marley Shelton, Actress  (4/12/1974)
- Art Spander, Sports Writer  (1938-)  1956
- Robert Totten, Director  (2/5/37 – 1/27/95)
- Tui St. George Tucker, Composer  (11/25/1924)
- Lindsay Wagner, Actress  (6/22/1949)
- Marshall Wilkins, Potentate, Al Malaikah Shrine Temple*

El Camino High School  . . . . . . . . . . Page 74

- Jamal Sharif Anderson, Football  (9/30/1972)
- Paul Beatty, Author, Poet  (1962)
- America Ferrera, Actress  (4/18/1984)
- Brad Gerstenfeld “Garrett,” Actor  (4/14/1960)
- Allan Stephen Kennedy, Football  (1/8/1958)
- Randy Wolf, Baseball  (8/22/76)
• Byron Allen, Actor, Comedian (4/22/1961)
• Herb Alpert, Musician, Business (3/31/1935) 1953
• David Arquette, Actor, Director (9/8/1971)
• Gower Carlyle Champion, Director, Producer (6/22/1921 – 8/25/1980)
• James “J.” Curtis Counts, Federal Mediation Service (8/2/15 – 6/30/1999)
• Mark Damon “Alan Harris” Actor, producer (4/22/1933)
• Dr. Robert Doctor, LAUSD Board of Education Member*
• Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer, Philanthropist
• Lee Earle James Elroy, Author (3/4/1948)
• Robert “Bob Falkenburg”, Tennis (1/29/1926)
• Gilbert Harrison, Journalism, Publisher (1915–1/3/2008) 1933
• Dorothy Poynton Hill, Swimming (7/15/1915 – 5/18/1995) 1933
• Darla Hood, Actress (11-8-31 – 6/13/79)
• Timothy Hutton, Actor (8/16/1960)
• Chanel Iman “Robinson,” Model (12/1/1990)
• Daniel Issacs, Educator
• Sigmund Esco “Jackie” Jackson, Musician, Jackson Five (5/4/1951)
• Toriano Adaryll “Tito” Jackson, Musician, Jackson Five (10/15/1953)
• Jack Kemp Jack French Kemp, U.S. Congressman (7/13/1935 – 5/2/2009) 1946
• Leonid “Lenny: Krayzelburg, Olympian (9/28/1975) 1993
• Mila Kunis, Actress (8/14/1983)
• Stephen D. Lebowitz, Business, Philanthropist
• Jerome “Jerry” Leiber 4/25/1933 - 8/22/2011) 1951
• Howard Miller, LAUSD Board of Education Member
• Richard Montalban, Actor (11/25/1920 – 1/14/2009) 1938
• Jack Moscowitz, Educator
• Robert Rand, Professor Neurology – founder NPI at UCLA
• Aaron Rosenberg, Football, Producer (8/26/1912 – 9/1/1979)
• Therese “Anne” Rutherford, Actress (11/2/1917 – 6/11/2012)
• Anthony Kiedis, Guitarist, Red Hot Chili Peppers (11/1/1962)
• Hillel Slovak, Bassist, Red Hot Chili Peppers (4/13/1962
• Michael Peter “Flea” Balzary, Guitarist, Red Hot Chili Peppers (10/16/1962
• Jack Irons, Drummer, Red Hot Chili Peppers (7/18/1962)
• Henry Samueli, Business, Philanthropy (9/20/1954
• Norm Sherry, Baseball (7/16/1931)
• Phillip “P.F. Sloan,” Songwriter (9/18/1945)
Fairfax High School (continued)

- Harvey “Phil” Spector, Songwriter, Record Producer 12/26/1939
- George T. Stainback, Baseball
- Peggy Stevenson, Los Angeles City Councilwoman (1/29/1924 – 10/16/2014)
- Graham Tyson, President, Data Products*
- Roger Wagner, Composer (1/16/1914 – 9/17/1992) 1929
- Roberta Weintraub, LAUSD Board of Education Member
- Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor (12/21/1948) 1966

Franklin High School . . . . . . . . . . . Page 91

- Alan Arkin, Actor (3/26/1934) 1951
- Leroy David "Lee" Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff 5/27/1942) 1961
- John “Jack” Beckner, Gymnastics (6/9/1930) 1948
- Richard Ferraro, LAUSD Board of Education Member*
- Daryl Francis Gates, Los Angeles Police Chief 8/30/1926 – 4/16/2010) 1944
- Patrick Jerome Hillings, U.S. Congressman (2/19/1923) 1941
- Samuel "Sammy" Lee, Olympian (8/1/1920) 1939
- Louis Nowels L.A. City Councilman (1915-2005)
- Eugene "Gene" Wesley Roddenberry, Producer (8/19/1921 – 10/24/1991) 1939
- George Vandergrift, Founder, Delco Sales Corporation*

Fremont High School . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Page 94

- John "Teddy" Buckner, Jazz Trumpet (7/16/1909 – 9/22/1994) 1928
- Joe Louis Caldwell, Basketball (11/1/1941) 1960
- Robert Cheney, Public Safety Manager, Automobile Club*
- Don Cherry, Jazz Cornet, Trumpet (11/18/1936 – 10/19/1995)
- Joe Dawkins, Football*
- Robert Pershing "Bobby" Doerr, Baseball (April 7, 1918) 1935
- John Dominis, Photojournalist
- Lou Filippo, Boxing (12/1/1925 – 11/2/1992)
- Juan Flecha, Educator
- John Florea, Photojournalist
- David Fulcher, Football (11/28/1964)
- Kenneth Hahn, L.A. County Supervisor (8/19/1920 – 10/12/1997) 1938
- George Hendrick, Baseball (10/18/1949)
- Ken Jones, T.V. Anchor, KTTV
- Mark Kaufman, Photojournalist
- Chester Earl “Chet” Lemon, Baseball (2/12/1955)
- John Muir, Gymnastics 1946
- Stan Myles Jr.*
**Fremont High School** (continued)

- Helen Pastall Perez, Tennis (5/7/1929 – 12/12/2005) Fremont 1946
- Cleveland Duncan, Vocalist - Penguins (7/23/1935 – 11/7/2012)
- Dexter Tisby, Vocalist – the Penguins (3/10/1935)
- Curtiss Rowe, Basketball
- John Smith, Track and Field
- *Earle W. Thompson, Photographer*
- Richard Vaughn Stebbins, Olympian (6/14/1945)
- George Strock, Photojournalist
- Bobby Tolan, Baseball
- Gene Vollnogle, Football (9/30/1930 - ) 1948
- Earl Washington, Vice President, Rockwell
- Robert José “Bob” Watson, Baseball (5/10/1946) 1964
- Henry Arnold Waxman, United States Congressman (9/12/1939) 1957
- Roy Williams, Actor and Cartoonist (7/30/1907 – 11/7/1976)
- John Gerald Zimmerman, Photography (10/30/1927) 1945
- *Clarence Bach, Photojournalism Teacher*

**Gardena High School** ........................ Page 105

- *Dean Lewis Brown, Physician*
- Enos Milton Cabell, Jr., Baseball (10/8/1949)
- Mark Cargill, Violinist
- Ralph Dills, California State Assemblyman and Senator (1910 - 5/17/2002) 1927
- Warren Furutani, California Assemblyman (10/16/1947)
- *Yoshio Kobata, Civic Affairs*
- *Sam Minami, Civic Affairs*
- James Van Oppen, CPA*
- *Rudolph Waldo Reinscheld 1922 (CEO Merrill Lynch)*
- *Steve Sogge, Football*
- Leo James Terrell, Attorney, Media (2/1/1955) 1972
- *Roy E. Tracy, Gardena Chief of Police*
- Harry Norman Turtledove, Author (6/14/1949) 1966
- *Colonel Ralph Watts, Airforce Pilot*
- Vernon “Vern” Richard Wolfe, Track and field Coach (7/14/1922 – 10/26/2000) 1941

**Garfield High School** ........................ Page 107

- Yolanda Aguerrebere, Educator, Author 1986
- Richard Alatorre, L.A. City Councilman, State Assembly (1943) 1961
- William Anton, LAUSD Superintendent 1942
- John Arguelles, California Supreme Court Justice (8/22/1927) 1945
- Ersi Arvizu, Vocalist, Boxer 1966
- *Victor Aviles, Principal, Garfield*
- Ernie Ayala, Community Leader
- *F. Ray Bennett, Judge 1928*
- *Walter Christensen, Attorney 1942*
Garfield High School (continued)

- Joe, Bob and Steve Delgado, The Delgado Brothers, Musicians
- Ofelia Esparza, Artist (1930)
- *Oscar Gallego, Principal, East Los Angeles Occupational Center*
- Harry Gamboa, Artist (1951)
- Alexander Gonzalez, Educator
- Dan Guerrero, Theatrical Agent and Producer
- Mark Guerrero, Guitarist, Songwriter
- Wayne Alaniz Healy, Artist (1964)
- Antonia Hernandez, Community Leader 1966
- Willie Herron, Artist and Musician
- Raymond Hill, Los Angeles Fire Chief (10/14/1914 – 1931)
- Harry Hufford, Administrative Officer, City of Los Angeles 1949
- Ray “Lil Ray” Jimenez, Vocalist – Thee Midniters
- David Hidalgo, Vocalist, Guitarist – Los Lobos (10/6/54)
- Louie Pérez, Drummer – Los Lobos, Guitarist, Los Lobos (1/29/53)
- Cesar Rosas, Vocalist – Los Lobos, Guitarist (9/26/1954)
- Conrad Lozano, Bass Guitarist – Los Lobos (3/21/1951)
- George Salazar, Drummer – Los Lobos
- Hirth Martinez, Singer, Songwriter and Guitarist
- Carlos Mencia, Comedian
- William Munnell, Judge 1939
- Dr. Max Offenberg, Physician, Community Affairs
- Richard G. Polanco, California Assemblyman and Senator (3/4/1951)
- George Ramos, Journalism (10/21/1947 – 7/21/2011)
- Rick Rosas, Bassist (9/10/1949 – 11/6/2014)
- Esteban Edward Torres, United States Congressman (1/27/1930 – 1949
- Patssi Valdez, Artist (1951) 1970
- Leo Wolinsky, Journalism 1967

Granada Hills High School . . . . . . . Page 118

- Valerie Bertinelli, Actress
- Ray Braun, Baseball (11/17/1983)
- Donna Caponi Byrnes “Young” (1/29/1945) 1963
- Gary Frank, Actor (10/9/1950)
- Brad Garfield, Director (6/18/1957)
- Barry Michael Kerzin, Physician (11/1/1947)
- Geoffrey W. Marcy, Astronomer (9/29/1954)
- Michael "Mike" Morhaime, Video Game Producer (1967)
- Kristine Quance, Swimming (4/1/1975)

Grant High School . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Page 122

- Gilbert Arenas, Basketball
Grant High School (continued)

- Michael “Mike” Curb, Composer, Producer, California Lieutenant Governor (12/24/1944) 1959
- Ricky Gelb, Business 1962
- Tom Griffin, Baseball*
- Joel Grover, Investigative Reporter
- Louis Horvitz, Producer, Director
- Kristy McNichol, Actress (9/11/1962)
- Paul Neubauer, Violinist
- Fran Pavley, California State Senator (11/11/1948)
- Sam Rachootin, Professor, Biological Sciences, Mt. Holyoke College
- Thomas Wright Scott, Saxophonist (5/19/1948)
- Tom Selleck, Actor (1/21/1945) 1962
- Michael Simpson, Composer, Producer
- Richard Steele, Sound Editor
- David Paich, Composer, Song Writer, Lead Vocalist - Toto (6/25/1954)
- Steve Porcaro, Keyboard, Composer, Songwriter - Toto (9/2/1957)
- Steve Lukather, Guitarist, Vocalist, Composer – Toto (10/21/57)

Hamilton High School ............. Page 129

- Laila Amaria Ali, Boxing (12/30/1977)
- Jean Balulkas, Billiards (6/28/1958)
- Karen Ruth Bass, United States Congresswoman (10/3/1953)
- Howard Lawrence Berman, United States Congressman (4/15/1941) 1958
- Albert Boime, Art Historian (3/17/1933 - 10/18/2008)
- Arvin Brown, Director (5/24/1940)
- Dennis E. Brown, District Manager, Tymeshare Inc.*
- Warryn Campbell, Music Producer (4/12/1950)
- David Bruce Cassidy, Actor (4/12/1950)
- Lorraine Turnbull Foster, Professor, CSUN
- Lorraine L. Foster, Mathematician (12/25/1938)
- Rowby Goren, Writer, Internet Performer
- Joel Grey, Actor (4/11/1932)
- Alexander Murray Hannum, Basketball (7/19/1923 – 1/18/2002) 1942
- Rita Hayworth née Margarita Carmen Cansino, Actress (10/17/1918 – 5/14/1987)
- Joe Jares, Journalism 1955
- Paul Koretz, California State Assemblyman, Los Angeles City Council (4/3/1955)
- Olympia LaPointe, Scientist, Author
- Michele Lee Dusick “Lee,” Actress (6/24/1942)
- Antonio Manning, Business, Track and Field
- Alan Richard "Al" Michaels, Sportscaster (11/12/1944) 1962
- Norman J. Pattiz, Business, Philanthropy (1943)
- William B. Quandt, Political Science Professor
Hamilton High School (continued)

- Robert Leslie Shapiro, Attorney (9/2/1942) 1960
- Sigmund Snelson, Staff Geologist, Shell Oil*
- Joel Steven Spiegel, Film Critic (7/7/1943 - 6/29/2007)
- Leigh Steinberg, Sports Agent, Philanthropy (3/27/1949)
- Sidney Wicks, Basketball (9/19/1949)

Hollywood High School . . . . . . Page 137

- Bill Ackerman, Coach and UCLA Athletic Director (5/7/1902 -
- John Fujio Aiso, California State Court of Appeals (12/14/1909 - )
- Arthur Alber, Los Angeles City Councilman (9/16/1892 – 1964) 1912
- Lee Barnes, Olympian (July 16, 1906 – 12/28/1970) 1924
- Meredith Baxter, Actress (3/27/1949)
- Sidney Wicks, Basketball (9/19/1949)
Hollywood High School (continued)

- Barbara Lynn Herzstein “Hershey,” Actress (2/5/1948)
- Ernie Hix, Volleyball
- Chuck Jones, Animator, Director and Producer (9/21/1912 - 2/22/2002)
- Ninja Jorgensen, Volleyball (7/6/1940) 195
- Sally Claire Kellerman, Actress (6/2/1937)
- William E. Kennard, FCC Chairman, Ambassador (1957)
- Swoosie Kurtz, Actress (9/6/1944) 1962
- Ruta Mary Kilmonis “Lee,” Actress (5/30/1935) 1954
- Carole Lombard, Actress (10/6/1908 – 1/16/1942)
- Joel McCrea, Actor (11/5/1905 - 10/20/90)
- Richard Long, Actor (12/17/1927 – 12/21/1074)
- Nora Margaret Manella, Federal Judge (1951)
- Joel McCrea, Actor (11/5/1905 - 10/20/90)
- Judith Miller, Journalist (1/2/1948) 1963
- Aprille Millo, Opera (4/14/1958)
- David (Oswald) Nelson born 10/24/1936 (Actor)
- Marni Nixon, Vocalist (2/22/1930)
- Susan Patron, Author (1948)
- Larry Pennell, Baseball and Actor (2/21/1928 – 8/28/2013)
- Terry Richardson, Photographer (8/14/1985)
- Ruth Roland, Actress (8/26/1892 – 9/22/1937) 1908
- Willrich R. “Bill” Schroeder, Founder and Managing Director – Helms Hall of Fame 1924
- William Shockley (2/13/1910 – 8/12/89) 1927
- Andrew Solt, Producer and Director (12/13/1947)
- Adela Rogers St. John born 5-20-1894 Journalist 1910
- Jill Arlen Oppenheim “St John,” Actress 8/19/1940
- Jackie Tobian Steinmann, Golf Coach 1945
- Donald Steele, Disc Jockey (April 1, 1936)
- Sharon Tate born 1/24/1943
- Virginia Trimble, Astronomer
- Joseph Albert Wapner, Television Judge (11-15-1919) 1937

Huntington Park High School . . . . Page 161

- Dr. Russell DeRemer, Associate Dean and Professor, CSSB*
- Foy Draper, Olympian (11/26/1911 - 2/1/1943)
- Elton Gallegly, Congressman (3/7/1944) 1962
Huntington Park High School (continued)

- Nathalie Kay "Tipi" Hedren, Actress, Humanitarian January 19, 1930
- Jimmy Murphy, Race Car Driver (9/12/1894 – 9/15/1924)
- F. Thomas Trotter, Dean and Professor of Theology, Claremont
- Lawrence Walsh, California State Senator*
- Morice Fredrick "Tex" Winter, Basketball Coach (2/25/1922) 1940

Jefferson High School . . . . . . . . . . Page 164

- Alvin Ailey, Choreographer, Activist, Founder Alvin Ailey Dane Theater (1/5/1931 – 12/1/1989) 1949
- Ernie Andrews, Jazz Singer (12/25/1927) 1945
- Roy Ayers, Jazz Composer and Vibraphonist (9/10/1940)
- Jesse Lorenzo Belvin, Composer, Pianist (12/15/1932 – 2/6/1960)
- Robert Booker, LAUSD Comptroller, Superintendent Baltimore
- Dr. Evelyn Capers, PhD, Bacteriology*
- Merry Clayton, Soul and Gospel and Background Singer (12/25/1948) 1966
- Dorothy Dandridge, Actress and Singer (11/9/1922 – 9/8/1965)
- Bill Douglass, Jazz Drummer and Union Activist (1923–December 19, 1994) 1941
- Charles Dumas, Track and Field, Olympian (2/12/1937 – 1/5/2004)
- Addison Farmer, Jazz Bassist (8/21/1928 – 2/20/1963)
- Pancho Gonzalez, Tennis (5/9/1928 - 7/3/1995) 1945
- Thelton Eugene Henderson, Federal Judge (11/28/1933)
- Edward C. Henry, Chief of Police, Virgin Islands*
- Estel Johnson, Coach 1931
- Obadiah Donnell "Obie" "Young" Jessie, Jazz Singer (12/28/1936)
- Etta James, nee Jamesetta Hawkins, Blues Singer (1/25/1938 – 1/20/2012)
- Josephine Jimenez, Educator (2012)
- John Joseph Kelso Jr., Jazz Saxophonist (February 27, 1922 – 4/28/2012)
- Carmen de Lavallade, Prima Ballerina, Actress, Choreographer (3/6/1931) 1949
- Billy McGill, Basketball (9/16/1939 - 7/11/2014)
- Cecil James "Big Jay "McNeely, Saxophonist (4/29/1927)
- Johnny Martin, Gospel Singer (2/2/1941 – 2/12/1987)

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Jefferson High School (continued)

- Juanita Moore, Actress (10/19/1914 – 1/1/2014)
- Frank Morgan, Jazz Saxophonist (12/23/1933 - 12/14/2007)
- Willard H. Murray, Jr., California Assemblyman (1/1/1931)
- Bruce Tate, Vocalist – the Penguins (1/27/1937 – 6/20/1973)
- Curtiss Williams, Vocalist – the Penguins (12/11/1934)
- Gaynel Hodge, Vocalist (1/4/1937)
- Alex Hodge, Vocalist
- Herbert Reed, Bass Vocalist (8/7/28 - 6/4/2012)
- William Marcell Buddy Collette, Saxophonist, Civil Rights Leader and Educator (August 6, 1921 – 9/19/2010) 1939
- Foreststorn “Chico” Hamilton, Jazz Drummer and Band Leader (9/20/1921 – 11/25/2013)
- Charles Mingus Jr., Bassist, Composer and Bandleader (4/22/1922 – 1/5/1979) 1940
- Clarence Otis, Jr., Businessman (4/11/1956)
- Walter Scott, Vocalist – The Whispers (9/23/1943)
- Wallace Scott, Vocalist – the Whispers (9/23/1943)
- Marcus Hutson, Vocalist – The Whispers (1/8/1943)
- Kevin Young, Olympian (9/16/1966)

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Kennedy High School

- Garret Anderson, Baseball (6/30/1972)
- Cuba Gooding Jr., Actor (1/2/1968)
- Denean Howard, Olympian (10-5-64)
- Sherri Howard, Olympian (6/1/62)

Lincoln High School

- Ruth Vivian Acosta, Sports Activist
- Art Brambia, Manager and Record Producer
- Ruben Brooks, Federal Judge 1967
- Robert Jamarillo, Vocalist - Cannibal and the Headhunters
- Joe Jamarillo, Vocalist - Cannibal and the Headhunters
- Robert Lopez, Vocalist - Cannibal and the Headhunters
- Frankie Garcia, Vocalist - Cannibal and the Headhunters
- Eddie Cano, Latin Jazz Musician, Pianist
- Gaylord Beach Carter, Composer, Silent Film Organist (8/3/1905 – 11/20/2000)
- Eldridge Cleaver, Activist (8/31/1935)
- Josephine Serrano Collier, Law Enforcement (3/14/1922 – 2014) 1940
- Daniel De Luce, Journalist (6/8/1911 – 1/31/2002) 1928
- Moctesuma Esparza, Filmmaker, Activist (3/12/1949) 1967
- Fidel LaBarba, Boxer (9/29/1905 - 10/3/1981)
- José Arcadio Limón (January 12, 1908 – December 2, 1972) was a pioneer in the field of modern dance and choreography
- H.C. McCellan, President, Merit Employment W’1917
- Carlos Moreno, California State Supreme Court Judge, Ambassador to Belize (11/4/1948)
- Sadeo Munemori, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient (8/17/1912 – 4/5/1945)
- Dr. Donald Newman, LAUSD Board of Education Member 1939*
- Rudy Salas, Lead Guitarist - Tierra
- Steve Salas, Guitarist - Tierra
- David Torres, Keyboards - Tierra
- Bobby Navarette, Saxophone and Flute - Tierra
- Joey Guerra, Tierra
- Steve Falomir, Tierra
- Philip Madayag, Tierra
- Max Uballez, Singer, Songwriter, Record Producer
- Robert Young, Actor (2/22/1907 - 7/21/1998) 1925
- Sal Castro, Teacher and Activist
Locke High School . . . . . . . Page 205

- Gerald Albright, Jazz Saxophone (8/30/1957) 1972
- Ndugu Chanler born Leon Chanler jazz drummer
- Cynthia Lynne Cooper-Dyke, Basketball (4/14/1963) 1981
- Eddie Clarence Murray, Baseball (2/24/1956) 1973
- Patrice Rushen, Vocalist, Multi-instrumentalist, Composer, Director and Producer (9/30/1954)
- Charles Sampson, Professional Bull Rider (7/2/1957) 1976
- Osborne Earl "Ozzie" Smith, Baseball (12/26/1954)
- Aquanetta Warren born Aquanetta Harrison, Mayor

Los Angeles High School . . . . . . . Page 208

- Pauline Betz Addie, Tennis (8/6/1919 – 5/31/2011)
- Mabel Alvarez, California Artist (11/28/1891 – 3/13/1895)
- Leonore Cohn Annenberg, Philanthropist (2/20/1918 – 3/12/2009)
- Anne Baxter, Actress (5/7/1923 – 12/12/1985)
- Elmer Belt, Surgeon UCLA, Philanthropist
- Henry Stanley Benedict, United States Senator (2/20/1878 – 7/10/1930)
- David Butler, Director, Film Director (12/17/1894 – 6/14/1979)
- Leopoldo "Leo" Antonio Carrillo, Actor, Civic Leader (8/6/1881 – 9/10/1961)
- Richard Chew, Film Editor (6/28/1940)
- Thurmond Clarke, Federal Judge (June 29, 1902 – 2/28/1971) 1920
- Gary Conway, Actor (2/4/1936)
- Craig T. Cooper, Artist, Producer, Songwriter
- Lillian Copeland, Olympian, Discuss (11/25/1905 – 7/7/1964)
- Lynn Davis "Buck" Compton, Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney (12/31/1921 – 2/26/2012)
- Melvin Durslag, Sports Editor, Writer (4/29/1921) 1939
- Robert Farrell, Councilman (10/1/1936)
- Jack Fernandez, Wrestling, Official
- Howard Finn, Los Angeles City Councilman
- Mary Emily Foy, Suffragist, Librarian (7/13/1862 – 2/21/1962) 1880
- Ralph Frank Jr., Senior V.P. Lawry's Foods*
Los Angeles High School (continued)

- Carl Greenberg, Political Writer (3/13/1866 - 12/25/1948) 1866
- James Hastings, California Court of Appeals (9/1/1897 – 12/1/1963) 1916
- Leslie R. Hewitt, City Attorney, State Senator, Judge and Journalist (9/12/1867 – 1936)
- Dustin Lee Hoffman, Actor (8/8/1937) 1955
- Craig Hundley, Pianist, Vocalist – Greg Hundley Trio
- Briggs Hunt, Wrestling 1928
- Ben Hunter, Television
- Arthur Janov, Psychologist (8/21/1924)
- cornelius Johnson, Olympian, Track and Field (8/28/1913 – 2/15/1946) 1936
- Ninja Jorgensen, Volleyball (7/6/1940) 1957
- Julie Korenstein, Educator, LAUSD Board Member
- Bert LaBrucherie, Football
- Willis Lamb, Physicist (7/12/1913 – 5/15/2008) 1930
- Milt Larsen S’49 Producer, Magician, Founder of the Magic Castle (4/9/1931) Summer 1949
- William Larsen, Magician, Founder of the Magic Castle
- Homer Lea, Advisor to Sun Yat Sen, Geopolitician, Author (11/17/1876 – 11/1/1912)
- Linda Levi, Artist (9/30/43)
- Camuriel C. Marilyn McCoo, Vocalist – Fifth Dimension (3/28/1971)
- Christianne Meneses Jacobs, Writer, Editor, Publisher (3/28/1971)
- H. Randolph Moore Jr., Judge
- Stanley Mosk, California Supreme Court (9/4/1912 - 6/19/2001) 1930
- Harvey Seeley Mudd, Engineer, Educator (1888 – 4/12/1955) 1906
- Willard Mullin, Sports Cartoonist (9/14/1902 - ) 1920
- Dorothy Wright Nelson, Federal Judge, Educator (9-20-1928)
- loretta Mary Newell McPeek, Police Matron (1883)*
- Henry William O’Melveny, Attorney (8/10/1859 - 4/14/1941) 1875
- Anita Ortega, Basketball, Law Enforcement
- Marion Otis, Publisher (7/1/1866 – 8/9/1952) 1885
- John Budge Patty, Tennis (2/11/1924)
- Joan Pavlevsky born Mary Joan Yates, Philanthropist
- Hugo Perez, Soccer (11/8/1963)
- Irving Perluss, California Attorney General (1916 -11/25/2012) 1930

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Los Angeles High School (continued)

- Clarence and James Pierce, Morticians, Educator 1925 and 1932
- Jose Benjamin Quintero, Director, Producer (10/15/1924 – 2/26/1974)
- Richard Ralph, Business 1943
- Anna Pauline Randolph, Oldest grad – 1981*
- George Retzler, Wrestling (3/14/1883 – 10/7/1979)
- Charles Richter, Seismologist, Physicist (4/26/1900 – 9/30/1985)
- Frederick Madison Roberts, California Assemblyman, Business (9/14/1879 - 7/19/1952)
- Guy Rose, Artist (3/3/1867 – 11/17/1925) 1884
- Harlow Phelps Rothert (April 1, 1908 – August 13, 1997) 1926
- Makato Sakamoto, Olympian, Gymnastics (4/8/1947)
- Leonard Slatkin, Conductor (9/1/1944)
- William French Smith, United States Attorney General (8/26/1917 - 10/29/1990) 1934
- Maxwell Stiles, Sportswriter 1920
- George Hosato Takei, Actor born (4/20/1937) 1956
- Reese Hale Taylor Sr., Business (7/6/1900 –)
- George Toley, Tennis 1935
- Norman Topping, Chancellor USC (1/12/1908 – 11/18/1997) 1926
- Melvin Howard Torme, Singer, Composer, Author (9/13/1925 – 6/5/1999) 1944
- Rudolph Villasenor, Journalist*
- Ken Volk, Business - Public Storage
- William Harrison Waste, California Supreme Court Chief Justice (10/31/1868 -
- Pat Weaver born Sylvester Barnbee "Pat" Weaver, President NBC (12/21/1908 – 3/15/2002) 1926
- Francis Weber Jr., Monsignor and Historian (1/22/1933)
- Anna May Wong born Wong Liu Tsong, Actress
- Rosalind Wiener “Wyman,” Los Angeles Councilwoman (10/4/1930) 1948
- Warren Wilson, Ophthalmologist, Children’s Hospital*
- Thomas Yager, Judge*

Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies . . . . . . . Page 246

- Patricia Arquette, Actress (4/8/1968)
- Quinn Cummings, Child Actress and Author (8/13/1967)
- Shane West, Actor, Musician, Songwriter (6/10/1978)
- Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor West Sacramento
- Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, Astrophysicist, Cosmologist

Manual Arts High School . . . . . . . Page 247

- Ralph Ahn, Actor, Civic Leader (9/28/1926) Winter 1944
- Jon Dwane Arnett, Football (4/20/1935) 1952
- Gustavo "Gus" Arriola, Cartoonist (July 17, 1917 – 2/2/2008) 1935
- Roy Lawrence Ash, Business, Director of OMB (October 20, 1918 – 12/14/2011) 1935
Manual Arts High School (continued)

- Paul L. D. Blair, Baseball (2/1/1944 – 12/26/2013)
- James Blewett, Educator, Coach Summer 1917
- Nacio Herb Brown, Composer, Songwriter (2/22/1896 – 9/26/1964)
- Perle Yvonne Watson “Burke”, United States Congresswoman, Los Angeles County Supervisor (10/5/1932) 1950
- Frank Russell Capra, Director (May 18, 1897 – 1914)
- Richard Cooper, Superintendent, LAUSD Area H 1941*
- Peter Dalis, Athletic Director (12/8/1937 – 11/15/2014)
- David Dingilian, Psychologist* 1946
- Kathryn Grayson, Actress, 1940 (2/9/22 – 2/17/2010) 1940
- Raymond Frederick “Ray” Harryhausen, Special Effects Artist (6/29/1920 - 5/7/2013) 1939
- Edgar Johnson, Business 1922
- Dan Kaufman, Judge 1935*
- Goodwin Knight, California Governor (12/9/1896 – 5/22/1970) 1914
- Stanley Knowles, Member Canadian Parliament (6/18/1908 – 6/9/1997) 1936
- Ralph Lewis, Home Builder 1936
- Winter 1931
- C. Erwin Piper, Los Angeles City Administrator
- Paul Jackson Pollock, Artist (1/28/1912 – 8/11/1956)
- Ron Prescott, Educator, Deputy Superintendent, LAUSD
- Marie Provost, Actress (11/8/1898 – 1/21/1937)
- Irving Tannenbaum “Stone,” Author (7/14/1903 – 8/26/1989)
- Dr. James Taylor, Principal, LAUSD Deputy Superintendent Summer 1944
- Mark Ridley Thomas, Assemblyman, Councilman, Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (11/6/1954) 1972
- Phil Woolpert, Basketball Coach (12/19/1915 - 5/5/1987) 1934
- Frederick John Vrain Schwankovsky, Art Educator, California Watercolor Artist

Marshall High School

- Dr. Harlan Amstutz, Orthopedic Surgeon
- Michael Dennis Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor 8/12/1939) 1957
- Donald Jess "Don" Bachardy, Portrait Artist (5/18/1934)
Marshall High School (continued)

- Jean Shinoda Bolen, Psychiatry
- Richard Byrne, Judge, Superior Court
- Powell Frederick Carter, Jr., Admiral (6/3/1931) 1950
- Barnet M. Cooperman, Judge of the L.A. Superior Court (10/29/1922 – 9/17/2011) 1940
- John “J.” Michael Criley, Medicine (1931) 1949
- John Paul Jones DeJoria, Business (4/13/1944) 1962
- Nancy Owen Fortner, Volleyball (5/2/1943)
- David H. Fox, Director, California Real Estate Commission
- Edward Fredkin, Computer Scientist, Professor (1934)
- Frederick Guthrie, Bass, Opera (3/31/1924) 1941
- Michael James “Mike” Haynes, Football (7/1/1953) 1971
- David Da-i Ho, Physician (11/3/1952)
- John W. House, Physician
- Charles M. Hughes, Judge 1937*
- Lance Allen Ito, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge (8/2/1950) 1968
- Jackie Joseph, Actress 1951
- Alex Kozinski, United States District Court of Appeals (7/23/1950) 1968
- Tom LaBonge, Los Angeles City Council (10/6/1953) 1971
- Robert Laemmle, Business - Laemmle Theaters (1953) 1971
- Dana Lamond, Judge, Motivational Speaker (1952) 1970
- Rosemary E. LaPlanche, Miss America (10/11/1923 – 5/6/1979) 1941
- Carol Lin, CNN Broadcaster 1978
- Susanna McBee, Journalist – Journalist 1951*
- Warren Miller, Director, Producer (10/15/1924) 1942
- Morgan L. Morgan, Gynecology – USC School of Medicine 1951*
- R. Chandler Myers, Attorney – Trustee, Whittier College 1950*
- Julie Newmar, Actress (8/16/1933) 1951
- Andy Reid, Football Coach (3/19/1958) 1976
- Andrew Schneider, Producer, Screenwriter
- Chris Tashima, Producer 1978
- John Robert Tavis, Inventor, Business 1936
- La Monte Thornton Young, Composer (10/14/1935) 1953

Monroe High School Page 273

- Guy Emory Benjamin, Football, Humanitarian (6/27/1955)
- Debra Winger, Actress (5/16/1955) 1973
- Sharon Shapiro, Gymnastics 1990

Narbonne High School Page 275

- Auti Angel, Actress, Entertainer (1987)
- Nnamdi Asomugha, Football
- Donald Edward Beckman, Assistant Fire Chief 1941*
- Douglas R. Barry, Los Angeles Fire Department, Fire Chief
- Kelli Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Los Angeles
Narbonne High School (continued)

- Barrett Berry, Business
- *James E. Biller, PHD, Chemistry* 1964
- Marc Brown, Reporter  (9/29/1961)
- Lynn Davis, Vocalist  (7/12/1958)
- Bo Derek born Mary Cathleen Collins, Actress, Model  (11/20/1956)
- Edward Allen DeVore, Jr., Congressional Medal of Honor  (6/15/1947) 1966
- Vivian Flowers, Arkansas State Representative  1987
- Dashon Goldson, Football  (/18/1984)
- Patrick Goodpaster, LAPD, Medal of Valor
- *Jesus Gutierrez, Head graphic artist – KCET*  1962
- Mark E. Henderson, Gardena City Councilman
- Parnelli Jones, Auto Racing
- *Eugene Minor, Composer, conductor  1958*
- John Mizuno, United States Congressman  (8/2/1964)
- Denise Nakano, NBC News Anchor, Philadelphia  1993
- Stephen Neal, U.S. Congressman  (11/7/1934)
- Earl Paysinger, Assistant Chief Office of Special Operations, LAPD
- *Shirley Louise Powell, Business  1958*
- Joe Puerta, Vocalist, Bassist, Ambrosia  (7/2/1951)
- Darrell Reid, Football  (6/20/1982)  2000
- Dr. Warren Roberts, Neurosurgeon
- Arthur G. Stephenson, Director NASA Marshall Space Center (1942)
- Quentin Jerome Tarantino, Director  (3/27/1963)
- *Edward Thorp, PHD Math, Beat the Dealer  1950*
- Morris "B.B." Dickerson, Bass Guitar - War  8/3/1949
- Harriett Weaver, Author, Cartoonist, Naturalist  1926
- Lisa Willis, Basketball  (6/13/1984)
- *Michael Yelovich, Municipal Court Judge  1933*

North Hollywood High School . . .  Page 286

- Noah Lindsey Beery, Actor  (8/10/1913 – 11/1/1994)
- Adam Corolla, Comedian, Radio Personality  (5/27/1964)
- Michele Ann Marie "Shelley" Fabares, Actress  (1/19/1944)
- Dr. Paul E. Hadley, Assistant V.P. USC  1929*
- Alyson Hannigan, Actress  (3/24/1974)
- Alan Ladd, Actor  (9/3/1913 – 1/29/1964)  1934
- Martin Milner, Actor  (12/28/1931)  1951
- Bob Ronka, Los Angeles City Council  (1943)
- Russell Irving "Russ" Tamblyn, Actor  (12/30/1934)
- Michael Tilson Thomas, Conductor  12/21/1944
North Hollywood High School (continued)

- Wayne Warga, Editor, Calendar, L.A. Times  1959*
- John Towner Williams, Composer  (2/8/1932)  1950

Palisades High School ........... Page 291

- Amy Alcott, Golf  (2/22/1956)
- Jeffrey Jacob "J.J." Abrams, Producer  (6/27/1966)
- William Adams "will.i.am" Vocalist, Songwriter, Producer – The Black Eyed Peas  (3/15/1975)
- Christie Lee Hudson “Brinkley”, Model  (2/2/1954)
- Kent Steffes, Beach Volleyball  (6/23/1968)
- Randy Stoklos, Beach Volleyball  (12/13/1960)  1978
- David Tokofsky, Educator, LAUSD Board Member  1977
- Ernest Maurice "Kiki" Vandeweghe III, Basketball  (8/1/1958)
- Robert Kelly, Superintendent, LAUSD  1924*

Polytechnic High School ........ Page 297

- Carl David Anderson, Physicist, Nobel Prize  (September 3, 1905 – 1/11/1991)  1924
- Charles C. Bailey, Vice President, Pepsi Cola  1937*
- Mary K. Browne, Tennis  (6/3/1891 – 8/19/1971)  1909
- Colleen Camp, Actress  (6/7/1963)  1971*
- Ivan Houston, President Golden State Mutual  (6/15/1925 - )
- Ed Iskendarian, Auto Racing, Business  (7/10/1921)
- Robert Kelly, Superintendent, LAUSD  1924*
- Vierling Kersey, Los Angeles Unified School District and California State Superintendent of Schools  1908
- Vaino Spencer, California State Court of Appeals  (7/22/1920)
- Charles Sparks Thomas, Secretary of the Navy  (9/28/1897 – 10/17/1983)  1915
- Paul Revere Williams, Architect  (2/18/1894 – 1/23/1980)  1912
- Gin Wong, Architect  (9/7/1922)  1942
Reseda High School ............. Page 303

- Hal Bledsole, Football (12/21/1941)
- Ron Contarsy, Fashion Photographer
- **Samuel Cernuto, Musician, Trombonist** 1961*
- Pam Elyea, Business, Hollywood Props
- Robert Hilburn, Music Critic (9/25/1939) 1957
- Greg Lee, Basketball (12/12/1951)
- Dr. Allen Minton, Biochemist 1961
- Jeff Sedlik, Photographer and Professor
- Jay Silverman, Photographer, Director
- Gill Smith, Advertising Photographer
- Dan Steinhartd, Photographer
- Jeff Widener, News Photographer (8/11/1956)

Roosevelt High School ........... Page 308

- Lou Adler, Record Producer (12/13, 1933) 1953
- Paul Bannai, California State Assembly 1938 (7/4/1920) 1938
- Felice Leonardo "Leo" Buscaglia, Author (3/31/1924 – 6/12/1998) 1942
- Gilbert Anthony Cedillo, California State Senator (3/25/1954)
- Stanley Franzen, Film Editor (8/15/1919 - 1/23/2011)
- Michael Galitzen, Olympian (9/6/1909 – 1959)
- Monica Garcia, LAUSD Board Member
- Michael Lockett "Mike" Garrett, Football, Athletic Director (4/12/1944) 1962
- **Larry Gonzales, LAUSD Board Member** 1973*
- Paul Garza Gonzales, Boxing (April 4/18/1964
- Ignacio Gomez, Artist
- Norman Granz, Jazz Record Producer (8/6/1918 – 11/22/2001)
- Daniel Hernandez, Community Leader (1946 – )
- Herman Katz, Educator (1933 - 4/12/2015) 1950
- Robert Kinoshita, Special Effects Artist (2/24/1914 – 12/9/2014)
- Herbert G. Klein, Presidential Communications Director (4/1/1918 – 7/2/2009)
- **John Leon, Educator, Area Superintendent LAUSD** 1943*
- Meyer Luskin, Business
- Matthew "Marty" Martinez, Congressman (2/14/1929 – 10/15/2011)
- Fumio Naka, Scientist (7/18/1923 - 12/21/2013) 1940
- Julian Nava, Educator, Ambassador to Mexico (6/19/1927) 1945
- Eugene Obregon, Congressional Medal of Honor) (11/12/30 – 9/26/1950) 1942
- Alfonso Perez, Educator, Area Superintendent LAUSD* 1938
- Harry Pregerson, United State Federal Court of Appeals (10/13/1923) 1941
Roosevelt High School (continued)

- Marvin Rand, Photographer (1924-2009)
- Frank Romero (1941)
- Edward Roybal, Congressman (2/10/1916 – 10/24/2005) 1934
- Andy Russell born Andrés Rábago, Singer (9/16/1919 – 4/16/1992) 1938
- Julius Schulman, Photographer (10/10/1910 – 7/15/2009)
- Dave Schwartz, Educator, Area Superintendent LAUSD 1933*
- Lionel “Chico” Sesma, Radio D.J. (1924-2009) 1936
- Atsushi Wallace Tashima, United States Federal Court of Appeals (6/24/1934)
- Donald Tokowitz “Sterling”, Financier, (5/26/1934)
- Saul Toledo, Baseball (8/15/1920 – 9/28/2010)
- Don Tosti, Musician, Bassist, Composer (1928 2/2/2004)
- Evelyn “Bobbi” Trout, Aviatrix (1/7/1906 – 1/24/2003) 1926
- Adolfo and Omar Valenzuela, Vocalists, Music Producers
- Harold Marvin Williams, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (1/5/1928)
- Howard Zieff, Director (10/21/1927- 2/21/2009)

San Fernando High School . . . . . . . Page 321

- Vincent Barabba, Director of the United States Census (9/6/1934) 1950
- William Barbour, Comptroller, LAUSD 1938*
- Raul Bocanegra, California State Assemblyman
- Paula Boland, State Assemblywoman 1958
- William H. Bowlus, Glider Pilot, Aircraft Designer 1946*
- Antonio "Tony" Cárdenas, California State Assemblyman, Los Angeles City Council, United States Congressman (3/31/1963)
- Bobby Chacon, Boxing (11/28/1951) 1969
- Denzil E. "Denny" Crum, Basketball (3/2/1937) 1955
- Anthony Davis, Football (9/8/1952), 1971
- Joy Eilers, Singer, Guitarist 1952*
- Bruce Goeller, Computer designer – Rand Corporation 1958*
- Calvin E. Gross, New York City School Superintendent 1936
- Johns Harrington, Editorial Coordinator, LAUSD 1935*
- Barbara Jean Tutt “Lee,” United States Congresswoman (7/16/1946)
- George Lopez, Comedian (4/23/1961)
- Nury Martinez, Community Activist, Los Angeles City Councilwoman
- Marilyn Mason, Actress 1958
- Gary Matthews, Baseball 1968
- Cindy Montañez, California Assemblywoman
- Alejandro "Alex" Padilla, California State Assembly (3/22/1973)
- Arthur Snyder, L.A. City Councilman 1950
- Richard Villanueva, Rand Corporation 1957*
- Charles Raymond White, Football (1/22/1958)
- Stephen A. White, Rear Admiral, USN 1946*

San Pedro High School . . . . . . . Page 326

- Benjamin James Agajanian, Football (8/28/1919) 1937
San Pedro High School (continued)

- Walter Binns, Judge, Municipal Court  1931*
- Joe Bogdanovich, Business – Starkist Tuna   1930
- Misty Copeland, Prima Ballerina   (9/10/1982)
- Roy S. Ferkich, Lawyer, L.A. Harbor Commission  1948*
- Anna Lee Tingle Fisher (née Sims), Astronaut  (8/24/1949)
- William Dean “Willie” Naulls, Basketball, Minister   (10/7/1934)
- Maralin Niska, Soprano - N.Y. Metropolitan Opera   (11/16/1926)  1945
- John Main Olguin, Director – Cabrillo Museum   (2/18/1921 – 1/1/2011)  1941
- Manuel Lawrence Real, United States Circuit Court of Appeals   (1/27/1924)  1941
- Vincent Tomasevich-Thomas, California State Assemblyman   (4/16/1907 - 1/1980)  1928
- Nicholas Zorotovich, Teacher, Community affairs   1923*

South Gate High School. .......... Page 330

- Martin "Marty" Feldman, Football   (9/12/1922)  1950
- Frank Gafkowski Jr., Judge, Municipal Court  1954*
- Dave Lopez, Journalism  1966

Sylmar High School. ............. Page 331

- Sergio “Chico” Alonso, Harpist, Teacher   (7/3/1962)
- Scott Borchetta, President/CEO and Founder, Big Machine Records   (7/3/1962)
- Brandon Browner, Football   (8/2/1984)
- Chuy Bravo, Actor   (12/7/1959)
- Paul Hefner, Communications   (3/18/1962)  1980
- Marvin “Marv” Montgomery, Football   (2/8/1948)
- Wayne A. McDuffy, Deputy Executive Director, Department of State
- Jeff Scott Soto, Musician, Songwriter   (11/4/1965)
- Dan Taguchi, Music Educator   (7/3/1953)
- Johnny Whitaker, Actor   (12/13/1959)

Taft High School. ............... Page 334

- Sasha Alexander, Actress   (5/17/1973)
- Steve Bartek, Guitarist and Composer   (1/30/1952)
- Craig Werner Buck, Olympian, Volleyball   (8/24/1958)  1976
- Sheila Marie Cornell-Douty, Softball   (2/26/1962)
- Lawrence Edward “Larry” Dierker, Baseball   (9/22/1946)
- Susanne ("Sue") Gossick, Olympian, Diving   (11/12/1947)  1965
- Brad Kearns, Triathlete   (2/4/1965)
- Dave Koz, Jazz Saxophonist   (3/27/1963)
- Lisa Valerie Kudrow, Actress   (7/30/1963)  1981
- Dale Launer, Screenwriter   (1952)
- Steven Smith, Football   (5/6/1985)
- Jeffrey Malcolm "Jeff" Stork, Olympian, Volleyball   (7/8/1960)  1978
- Kathryn Dwyer Sullivan, Astronaut   (10/3/1951)  1969
Taft High School (continued)

- Duffy Waldorf, Golf (8/20/1962)
- Quincy Watts, Olympian, Track and Field (6/19/1970)
- Robin Wright, Actress (4/8/1966)
- Robin Yount, Baseball (9/16/1955) 1973

University High School ..........................  Page 340

- William Bitting, Director, California Barristers 1957*
- Jeffrey Leon “Jeff” Bridges, Actor 12/4/1949) 1967
- Craig Kenneth Bruderlin “James Brolin,” Actor (7/18/40)
- Faye Katherine Dancer, Baseball (4/24/1925)
- Larry Diamond, Politics 1969
- Craig Dixon, Track and Field 1944
- John Paul Denismore, Drummer – The Doors (12/1/1944) 1963
- Eleanor Brown Harder, Author - Composer 1943*
- Jane Harman born Jane Margaret Lakes, United States Congresswoman (6/28/1945) 1953
- Dean Torrence, Vocalist – Jan and Dean (3/10/1940) 1958
- John Allan “Jack” Jones, Vocalist (1/14/1938)
- David Lang, Composer (1/8/1957) 1974
- James Ernest “Jim” Mora, Football (5/24, 1935) 1953
- Dennis Murphy, President, World Hockey Association 1945
- Randall Stuart "Randy" Newman, Composer (11/28/1943)
- Charles Patrick “Ryan” O’Neal, Actress (4/20/1941)
- Warren Frazier “Bill” Overpeck, Architect 1943
- Melvin Emery "Mel" Patton, Olympian, Track and Field (11/16/1924 – 5/19/2014) 1943
- Steve Smith, Football (5/12/1979) 1997
- Elizabeth Rosemond "Liz" Taylor, Actress (February 27, 1932 – March 23, 2011)
- Ray Watt, Builder (2/26/1919) 1938
- Keith Williams, Composer 1943*

Van Nuys High School  .....................  Page 349

- Paula Julie Abdul, Dancer (6/19/1962) 1980
- Edward James “Ed” Begley, Actor (9/16/49)
- Vinton Gray "Vint" Cerf, Computer Scientist (6/23/1943)
- Stephen D. Crocker, Computer Scientist (10/15/1944)
- Tony Lee Dow, Actor (4/13/45)
- David Gerrold, Writer (1/24/1944)
Van Nuys High School (continued)

- Ferdinand Mendenhall, Journalist, Founder—Los Angeles Daily News  (2/14/1981)  1931
- Alfred H. Qøyawayma, Artist, Mechanical Engineer  (2/26/1938)
- Don Prudhomme, Drag Racer  (4/6/1941)
- Charles “Robert” Redford  (8/18/36)  1955
- John Kirk Singlaub, Military  (7/10, 1921)
- David Jan Skorton, President Cornell University, Smithsonian  (11/22/1949)
- Ron Tutor, Business, Construction
- Alice Waters, Restauranteur, Activist  (4/28/1944)

Venice High School . . . . . . . . . Page 356

- Linda Alvarez, Media, News Anchor
- Clifford Frederick Bourland, Olympian, Track and Field
- Craig Breedlove, Land Speed Record  (3/23/1937)  1955
- Lloyd Venet “Beau” Bridges, Actor  (12/9/41)
- Russell Brines, War Correspondent  (1911-1982)  1928
- Les Clark, Walt Disney Animator  (11/17/1907- 9/12/1979)
- Leon Clarke, Football  (1/10/1933 – 10/5/2009)
- John Lee Clayton Jr., Bassist, Artistic Director, Educator, Arranger  (8/20/1952)
- Gary Collins, Actor  1956
- Ronnie “Walter” Cunningham, Astronaut  (3/16/1932)  1950
- Skip Engblom, Business  (1/4/1948)
- Crispin Glover, Actor
- Gogi Grant, Myrtle Audrey Arinsberg, Vocalist  (9/20/1924)
- Donna Loren, Singer  (3/7/1947)
- Myrna Loy, Actress  (8-2-05 – 12/14/1993)  1923
- Dana McLemore, Football  (7/1/1960)
- Jeff Mitchum, Photography  1977
- Audrey O’Brien Griffin, Cowgirl Hall of Fame  (1936)
- Wally O’Connor, Olympian, Swimming  (8/25/1903 – 10/11/1950)
- Steven Toll Okazaki, Producer  (3/12/1952)
- Peggy Oki, Skateboarder  (1959-60)
- Stacy Peralta, Business, Director, Professional Skateboarder  (10/15/1957)
- Don Perry, Rope Climbing
- Robert D. Reed, Military  (3/8/1920)  1938
- Harry Snyder, Business – In and Out Burger  (9/9/1913 – 12/14/1976)
- Joanie Sommers, Singer  (2/24/1941)
- Tony Vazquez, Mayor
- Joseph Zeronian, Assistant Superintendent, Pasadena Unified  1954*

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Verdugo Hills High School ........ Page 366

- Susan Ashley, Psychologist
- Jan Brewer, born Janice Kay "Jan" Brewer (née Drinkwine), Governor Arizona (9/26/1944)
- Chris Burns, Journalism 1976
- John Houston Ingle, Actor and Teacher (5/7/1928 - 9/16/2012) 1946
- Howard McKeon, Business United States Congressman (9/9/1938) 1957
- Mary Murphy MacGregor, Educator, Feminist
- Scott Manzo, Bass Guitarist - Three Dog Night
- Jaye P. Morgan, Singer (12/3/1931)
- Robert Nakasone, Business – Toys R Us 1966
- Frank Piersol, Assistant Chief, LAPD
- David G. Simpson, Rear Admiral
- Tom (2/12/1937) and Dick (2/12/1937) Smothers, Folk Singers, Entertainers
- Leonard Ross, Public Utilities Commission 1959*

Washington High School .......... Page 370

- Brian Bridgewater, Track and Field (9/7/1970)
- Garland Ellis Burrell, United States Federal Judge
- Gilbert Salvadore Iberri "Gil" Garcetti, Los Angeles County District Attorney (8/5/1941) 1969
- Cas Casparian, Pacific Telephone 1961*
- Dick Dale, Guitarist (5/4/1937)
- Clarence Davis, Football (6/28/1949)
- Gil Garcetti, Los Angeles County District Attorney (8/5/1941) 1969
- Oliver Goodall, Tuskegee Airmen (May 28, 1922 – October 30, 2010)
- Robert Illes, Comedy Writer
- Richard Kampmann, Educator, Track and Field
- Arthur Enoian "Art Laboe," D.J. 8/7/1925
- Hugh Edward McElhenny, Football 1948
- Cecil W. Rhambo, Jr., Assistant Sheriff
- Wendy Raquel Robinson (7/25/1967)
- Ernest "Ernie" Shelton, Track and Field and Artist (10/28/1932)
- Joel Wachs, Los Angeles City Councilman (1939) 1957
- Eugene Walsh, Federated Department Stores 1933*
- Esther Jane Williams
- Roderick Devon "Rod" Wright, California State Assemblyman (7/3/1952) 1970

Westchester High School .......... Page 376

- Larry Colton, Author (6/8/1942) 1960
- Clarence Davis, Football
- Michael Josephson, Ethicist (12/10/1942)
- Regina King, Actress and Director (1/15/1971)
- Jill Kinmont, Skier, Educator, Author (2/16/1936 -2/9/2012)
- Nia Long, Actress (10/30/1970) 1989
- Al Scates, Volleyball (6/9/1939) 1957
- Roy Smalley, Baseball (10/25/1952) 1970
Westchester High School (continued)

- Tim Story, Producer and Director (3/13/1970) 1975
- Mark Volman, Vocalist – The Turtles (4/19/1947) 1965
- Karyn White, Vocalist (10/14/1965) 1982

The Turtles

Wilson High School ............ Page 381

- Frank J. Beeson Jr., Commander, LAPD 1948*
- Victor Cuccia, Football 1945
- Benjamin Earl Franklin "Ben" Davidson, Jr., Football (6/14/1940 – 6/2/2012) 1957
- Clarence Merriman, Captain, LAFD 1955*
- Dr. Eugene Spiritus, Doctor, pulmonary medicine 1958
- Jack W. Topham, Program Director, Litton Industries 1948*
- Armando Vega, Gymnast and Coach 1955*

Riis High School ............... 383

- Albert "Chalky" Wright, Boxing (2/1/1912 – 8/12/1957)
**Vince Ferragamo, Football** (4/24/1954) 1972

Vince Ferragamo played quarterback at the University of Nebraska, and professional football for Los Angeles, Buffalo and Green Bay. A High School All-American, Vince Ferragamo currently owns a real estate firm in the South Bay as well as Ferragamo-Migneco Vineyards. He is also the chairman of the Vince Ferragamo Foundation, an organization that focuses on raising donations for children's charities such as the Special Olympics, the Speech and Language Development Center, and the Ronald MacDonald House.

**Laura Espinoza Watson, Softball**

Laura Espinoza graduated from Banning High School in 1991 and then attended the University of Arizona. At Banning High School she earned All City Honors in softball. She was then an All American at the University of Arizona in 1994 and 1995. She was NCAA softball player of the year in 1995.


John Gifford is considered to be one of the “founding fathers of the analog industry.” After graduating Banning High School, he attended UCLA where he played baseball and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He started working for Fairchild where he became the Director of the Analog Unit. He then co-founded Micro-Devices and then became Chairman and CEO of Maxim Integrated Products for sixteen years.

John Gifford has been inducted into the UCLA Sports Hall of Fame and has received major awards such as Businessman of the Year, UCLA Engineering Alumnus of the Year, Electronics CEO of the Year, and America’s Best Semi-Conductor Industry Executive.
Dan Guerrero, Athletic Director  (11/10/1951)  1969

Dan Guerrero has served the last ten years as the UCLA Athletic Director. Under his leadership, UCLA has continued its dominance in winning NCAA Championships in a wide range of sports. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards including the UCLA Latino Alumnus of the Year, the 100 Most Influential Hispanics by Hispanic Business magazine, and by Sports Illustrated as number 28th in the Most Influential People in Sports.

Courtney Hall, Football, Business, Philanthropy  (8/26/1968)

Courtney Hall played football for Banning High School and then attended Rice University where he graduated in 1991 with a degree in Economics and Managerial Studies. He then played professional football for seven years with the San Diego Chargers. He was an AFC Champion in 1994. He started all 118 games while he was with the Chargers. He retired from professional football in 1999.

Following his retirement from football, he earned a joint JD and MBA from the University of Chicago, Law School and the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business. Courtney Hall is currently the managing partner of Hillcrest Venture Partners.

He has also served on the Rice University Investment Committee, helping to manage the university's $4.5 billion endowment and was appointed by Mayor Bloomberg to the NYC Campaign Finance Board. In 2015, Courtney received the Gerald R. Ford Legends Award citing his football, business and philanthropic endeavors.


Wilder Hartley graduated Wilmington High School – renamed Banning High School, and then graduated from Stanford University. He served as a Los Angeles City Councilman from 1939 to 1943.
Don Kott, Automobile Dealer  (3/21/1931 – 12/21/2009)  1949

Don Kott was a businessman eventually making Don Kott Ford the ninth largest car dealership in California. At the same time, he served as the Chair of the Carson Economic Development Commission and was involved in many charities including the Wilmington YMCA and the Carson Boys and Girls Club.

Steven Earl Lewis, Olympian, Track and Field  (5/16/1969)

Steven Lewis attended Sutter Middle School, Banning High School and graduated from American High School in Northern California. He then attended UCLA. In the 1988 Seoul Olympics, he won the Gold Medal in the 400 Meters and the 4X400 Meter Relay. He also won a Gold Medal in the 400 Meters in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. Steven Lewis has been inducted into the UCLA sports Hall of Fame.

Freeman McNeil, Football  (4/22/59)  1977

Freeman McNeil was an all-conference running back for UCLA and spent twelve years in the NFL with the New York Jets. He retired as the Jet’s all-time rushing back. In 1992, he was the lead plaintiff in a case against the NFL that led to free-agency. Freeman McNeil is in the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.

Robert Sheppard, Business  1940

Robert Sheppard graduated from Banning High School in 1940 and then attended the University of California, Berkeley. He became President of Allstate Insurance Companies and Allstate Enterprises from 1973 to 1980. He is currently a consultant for The Doctors’ Company.

He also had served on the United States Olympic Committee from 1976 to 1988 and serves on several corporate boards.
Ralph Terrazas

Ralph Terrazas is a thirty-two year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department and its first Latino Chief. Prior to becoming LAFD Chief, he had served as Assistant Chief establishing the Professional Standards Bureau. He has served in leadership roles including Assistant Chief in charge of the South Division Command that includes the Port of Los Angeles. Chief Terrazas is a major figure in the South Bay, initiating the Banning High School Fire Academy.

Bob Lectress Whitfield, Football  (10/18/1971)  1989

Bob Whitfield played football for Stanford University and was then drafted number eight in the first round of the 1992 NFL draft. He played for the Atlanta Falcons and the Jacksonville Jaguars. Twenty years after leaving Stanford University, he returned to complete his degree in Economics. He is a member of the Stanford Hall of Fame. Following his football career, he founded Patchwerk Recording Studios in Atlanta, Georgia.
Eugene Carroll, Admiral  (12/2/1923 – 2/19/2003)  1941

Eugene Carroll joined the Navy in 1945 becoming a naval aviator during the Korean War and rose to the rank of Rear Admiral and Commander of the 6th Fleet and the U.S.S. Midway. After leaving the Navy, he became Deputy Director of the Center for Defense Information and a leading expert on nuclear disarmament.

John Ferraro, Los Angeles City Councilman  (5-24/1924 – 4/17/2001)  1943

John Ferraro was an All-American football player at the University of Southern California and served as a Los Angeles Councilman for thirty-five years, fourteen of them as Council President. He became one of the central leaders in the development of Los Angeles. During his tenure, he led the effort to bring the 1984 Olympic Games to Los Angeles, was a key figure in the revitalization of downtown Los Angeles and the development of the Staples Center complex. He also led the redevelopment of the Los Angeles Zoo. He had received numerous accolades during his career, including having the Water and Power building in Los Angeles named after him.

C. Henry “Hank” Fertig, Police Chief, Huntington Park,  

C. Henry “Hank” Fertig graduated Bell High School and then the University of Southern California in 1940. He then served on the Huntington Beach Police Department for thirty-six years, twenty of them as chief. He retired in 1976. He also served as president of the California Peace Officers Association and was a fifty-year member of both the Elks and the Shrine.

Bud Furillo, also known as the “Steamer,” was an iconic figure in Los Angeles sports journalism. He began his career with the Los Angeles Herald in 1947, and moved to the Los Angeles Times in 1989. He also was the radio host of the Steam Room, a sports talk show on KABC. He was inducted into the Sportswriters and Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Waldir Guerra, Soccer  (4/2/1967)

Waldir Guerra graduated from Bell High School in 1985. Following high school, he played professional soccer for the Los Angeles Heat and Salsa. He then played internationally for the El Salvador National Team. He represented his country in 2 FIFA World Cup qualification matches and played at the 1997 and 1999 UNCAF Nations Cups as well as at the 1998 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Gert Hirschberg, Referee, Juvenile Court, Law Professor

(8/21/1926 – 7/7/15)  1943

Gert Hirschberg and his family fled Nazi Germany in 1936 and came to the United States and Bell, California. He graduated Bell High School, the University of Southern California and then Southwestern Law School. He then taught Law at Southwestern School of Law for 35 years. He also served on the State Bar Board of Governors and Judicial Council.

Stanley Newcomb Kenton, Band Leader  (12/15/1911 – 8/25/1979)

Stan Kenton was a composer, arranger and pianist who had a profound effect on the development of American jazz. Kenton put his jazz band together in the early 1940’s featuring some of the best soloists of the day including Stan Getz and Art Pepper. His style of jazz was progressive and included the “Wall of Sound” technique which combined a big band and modern jazz styles.
Richard Lawrence, Assistant Superintendent, Area J, LAUSD

Richard Lawrence graduated Bell High School and then the University of Southern California. Beginning in 1950, he became an elementary teacher at Liberty Avenue and Elizabeth Street Schools. He also coached football at Bell High School. In 1954, he began his administrative career in LAUSD serving as Vice Principal at Delores Street, 99th and then 102nd Street School where he became the principal. He served in a variety of administrative posts for LAUSD including Assistant Superintendent of Area J. Richard Lawrence was a major supporter of USC. He founded EDUCARE, the educator support group for the University. He was a member of the Trojan Coaches Club and the USC Alumni Fund. He was a USC Trustee from 1976 to 1980 and the USC Alumni President from 1977 to 1978. He was also a major contributor to the Junior Achievement program in Southern California and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross.


Larry Ramos was a member of the New Christy Minstrels and The Association in the 1960’s. He won a Grammy for the album, The New Christy Minstrels.


Ed Roth was the central figure in the development and design of custom cars in the 1950’s and 1960’s. He also introduced the “hot rod” look.” This look included extensive pin stripping and graphics, as well as the restructuring of stock car bodies into artistic works.

His automobile graphics led to the creation of unique cartoon characters, including the classic “Rat Fink.” “Rat Fink” and similar characters that adorned cars and T-Shirts became part of the national teen culture of the 1960’s.
James Corman, Congressman  (10/20/1920 – 12/30/2000)  1930

James Corman was a 2nd Lieutenant in World War II serving in the Marianna’s campaign. He was then elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1957. In 1961, he became a Democratic Congressman representing the South San Fernando Valley. He served ten terms in Congress before being defeated by Bobbi Fiedler in 1981. He is remembered as a key figure in the 1964 civil rights legislation. He also sat on committees investigating the cause of race riots in the U.S. Another of his accomplishments was serving on the Science and Aeronautics House Committee during the development of NASA and the United States space program.

Richard Crenna, Actor  (11/30/1926 – 1/17/2003)

Richard Crenna attended Virgil Junior High School and then Belmont. He then served in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge. Afterwards, he attended the University of Southern California, and then became an actor on radio and later on television. He appeared in many television series and films during his sixty-five year career. He starred as Walter Denton in the Our Miss Brooks television show. His work included The Sand Pebbles, Slattery’s People, The Real McCoy’s and The Rape of Richard Beck. He received an Emmy for Best Actor and a Golden Globe nomination for his role in the Rape of Richard Beck. Richard Crenna has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.


Craig Ellwood was born Johnnie Nelson Burke and was an influential Los Angeles-based architect establishing Craig Ellwood Design in 1951. Craig Ellwood was renowned for his glass and steel designs throughout the 1950’s to mid-1970. These included the Lappin House, the Rand Building in Santa Monica and the bridge at the Pasadena Art Center.
Mike Frankovich, Director and Producer  (9/29/1909 – 1/1/1992)

Mitchell Frankovich was a film producer whose productions included *Cat Ballou, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *To Sir with Love*, *In Cold Blood*, and *A Man for All Seasons*. As an independent producer, his pictures included *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice, Marooned, Cactus Flower, There's a Girl in My Soup, Butterflies Are Free, Forty Carats, and The Shootist*.

He was heavily involved at UCLA, serving on the UCLA Chancellor's Associates and UCLA Board of Trustees. He was also instrumental in bringing the Raiders and the 1984 Olympics to Los Angeles. He was involved in numerous humanitarian efforts, resulting in his being awarded the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1984. He is also a member of the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame. During his career, he was a UCLA football star, radio sportscaster and head of the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission.

Murray Fromson, Journalism  (1929)

Murray Fromson was a war correspondent for CBS news for over almost five decades beginning in Korea in 1952. He covered major international events including Viet Nam and the Cold War. In the U.S., he reported on the Chicago Seven Trial, as well as the Civil Rights and Anti-War movements.

He founded the Center for International Journalism at USC and later served for five years as the Director of the USC School of Journalism from 1994-1999. He was won numerous journalism awards during his career.

Horacio Gutierrez, Classical Pianist  (8/28/48)

Horacio Gutierrez was born in Havana and is a virtuoso, classical pianist. He made his first appearance on stage at eleven with the Havana Symphony. He made his professional debut in 1970 with Zubin Mehta and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. During his career he has performed internationally as well as at Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center.

Horacio Gutierrez, a technical master, is considered one of the great pianists of his generation and consistently receives critical acclaim from music critics and his audiences.
Saul Halpert, Reporter

Saul Halpert was a Los Angeles institution in news reporting, graduating from Belmont High School in 1940. After serving in the armed forces, he joined KABC radio in 1948. He then transferred to ABC television and co-founded their news department where he stayed for sixteen years. He then earned a Master’s Degree in Journalism from UCLA and became a writer, reporter and broadcaster for NBC, ABC and CBS in Los Angeles.

He was a strong union advocate organizing the first AFTRA strike by reporters in 1965. In 1979, he became the political reporter for KNBC in Los Angeles.

Saul Halpert has received numerous awards including a Golden Mike and Journalist of the Year from the Society of American Journalists.


Carl Hartnack graduated Belmont High School, but had to turn down a scholarship to the University of Southern California because he had to work during the depression. He eventually rose from a 17 year-old messenger at Security Pacific Bank to become its President and later Chairman of the Board. He also served as Chairman of USC’s fundraising drive from 1995 to 1980 raising over $600 million as part of that campaign.

He was also a major advocate for affirmative action designing programs to help minorities in business. In 1976 he was awarded the Whitney Young Jr. Award for his efforts to promote racial integration. His efforts also extended to Vietnam veterans and the disabled.

Odetta Holmes, Singer and Civil Rights Activist  (12/31/1930 -12/2/2008)

Odetta Holmes, often known simply as “Odetta,” is considered the musical voice of the American civil rights movement. Encouraged by elementary school teachers, her mother enrolled her in classical singing lessons. Following graduation from Belmont, she went to LACC and earned a degree in music.

Her love for ballads and folk music quickly translated into her passion for civil rights and the movement of the 1960’s where she made regular appearances at rallies, demonstrations and benefits. Her most remarkable appearance was at the Lincoln Memorial following the Reverend Martin Luther King’s famous “I have a dream” speech.
President Bill Clinton presented her with a National Medal of Arts in 1999. In 2004, she was made a Kennedy Center honoree, and in 2005, the Library of Congress awarded her its Living Legend Award.

Willa Kim, Costume Designer  (6/30/1917-2004)  1935

Willa Kim was one of the most prolific art and costume designers for stage, opera, dance, ballet and television. She had designed costumes for over 150 ballets alone. Kim won Tony Awards for The Will Rogers Follies and Sophisticated Ladies and Tony nominations for Dancin’, Legs Diamond, Song and Dance and Goodtime Charley.

Willa Kim was the most honored and prolific costume designer in Broadway theater history. In addition to her Tony Awards, she had won two Drama Desk Awards for costume design. In 2003, Willa Kim, former editor of the Campanile, the Belmont High School Yearbook, was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame.

Young Oak Kim, Congressional Medal of Honor, Community Leader

Young Oak Kim was a highly decorated World War II and Korean War soldier rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was in every way a true American hero. Young Oak Kim received the Congressional Medal of Honor for breaking through German lines to capture enemy soldiers. Doing so, he gained intelligence that led to the liberation of Rome. He also was awarded two silver stars and two bronze medals, the Legion of Merit and a Purple Heart after being seriously injured during the Korean War.

Following his retirement from the military, Young Oak Kim became a major leader in the Los Angeles Korean community. He helped found the Go For Broke Monument, Go For Broke Educational Foundation, the Japanese American National Museum, the Korean Health, Education, Information and Research Center, the Korean American Coalition, the Korean Youth and Cultural Center, and the Center for Pacific Asian Families. The Los Angeles Unified School District honored Young Oak Kim by naming a new school, the Young Oak Kim Academy.

Tom Koulax, Founder Tommy’s Burgers  (10/26/18 – 5/28/1992)

Tom Koulax is the founder of one of the most iconic businesses and symbols of Los Angeles, Tommy’s Burgers. Tommy Burgers are identified by a hamburger smothered in chili. The first Tommy Burgers was opened in 1946 at the corner of Beverly and Rampart Boulevards. The chain expanded to thirty-five restaurants in Los Angeles and Nevada.
Glenard Lipscomb served as a Republican United States Congressman from 1953 until his death in 1970. He was a previously a California legislator. The nuclear submarine the USS Glenard Lipscomb is named in his honor.

John McCarthy was a professor for almost forty years at MIT and Stanford University. He was seminal figure in computer science. He developed the concept of artificial intelligence and the computer language LISP, which is one of the major program languages in the world. He was also a major developer of the concept of computer “time-sharing.” To further these projects, he created SAIL, the artificial intelligence lab at Stanford. One of his last major efforts was with Google and the development of a self-driving automobile.

Loren Miller Jr. is the son the famous civil rights attorney and judge, Loren Miller, who battled issues of housing discrimination and restrictive covenants before the Supreme Court. Loren Miller Jr. continued a family tradition in law serving as Deputy Attorney General before being elevated to Superior Court Judge in 1975 where he served from 1975 until 1997. After retiring from the bench, he served as the Director of the Western Center on Law and Poverty.

Stanford Mu was an aeronautical engineer for almost forty years. In 1992, he founded the Stanford Mu Corporation, which designs and builds regulators that control the flow of propellants and gases for nearly all space-craft including communications satellites and launchers for the Mars orbiter and lander systems.
Anthony Quinn, Actor  (4/21/1915 – 6/3/2001)

Antonio Rodolfo Quinn attended Hammel Elementary, Belvedere Junior High, Polytechnic High and then Belmont. He left Belmont High School in the 11th grade to go to Texas. Born in Chihuahua, Mexico, Anthony Quinn became one of the most famous actors of a generation, as well as a film director and noted painter. Before becoming an actor, Anthony Quinn worked as a fighter, in a slaughter house, studio animal caretaker, newspaper boy, and other odd jobs.

He began his career on the Broadway stage playing Stanley Kowalski in A Streetcar Named Desire. He would return to the Broadway stage later in his career in Zorba the Greek. Discovered on Broadway, Quinn returned to Los Angeles in 1936 and began his film career. His most notable films included Zorba the Great, The Guns of Navarone, Lawrence of Arabia, and Lion in the Desert. He won two Academy Awards for Best Supporting actor in Viva Zapata and Lust for Life. He also received Academy nominations for Best Actor as well as Tony nominations. Quinn was a veteran of over 150 films.

Quinn studied architecture at Polytechnic High and earned a scholarship in architecture to study with Frank Lloyd Wright who encouraged him to become an actor. In high school he also won numerous art competitions. Toward the end of his career he returned to his interest in art and was recognized internationally for his modern artwork.

Mort Sahl, Comedian, Activist  (5/11/1927)

Morton Lyon "Mort" Sahl, the former editor of the Belmont High School Sentinel newspaper, is an accomplished comedian, author and political activist. His trademark is his V-neck sweater, open collar shirt and rolled up newspaper on stage. His major break in comedy began in 1953 at the Hungry I Club in San Francisco. Sahl became famous for his sarcastic political commentaries and biting comic routines. Comedy Central ranked him number 40 on its list of the 100 greatest comics.

William Sidell, Union Leader  (5/30/1915 – 10/2/1994)

William Sidell was President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners from 1973 to 1979. He also served as Vice-President of the AFL-CIO and as an appointee of President Ford to the Collective Bargaining Committee on Construction.

Jack Smith is recognized as one of the greatest columnists in journalism. His name is synonymous with the City of Los Angeles. His column ran in the L.A. Times for thirty-seven years, chronicling the life and growth of Los Angeles into a major metropolitan center. His column became a mirror to Los Angeles’ greatest period of growth. His commentary, at the same time was insightful, humorous and included keen observations.

As a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, he published over 6000 columns being distributed to over 600 newspapers worldwide.

Mike Stoller, Composer  (3/13/1933)  1950

Mike Stoller along with his partner Jerry Leiber became one of the most prolific and recognized songwriting teams of the 1950’s and 1960’s. Mike Stoller, a composer, wrote major hits including *Hound Dog, Kansas City, Yakety, Yak, Love Me, Jail House Rock, and Stand by Me*. In all, Leiber and Stoller wrote over seventy chart-topping songs.

Mike Stoller’s awards include induction into the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Grammy Awards and nominations, along with a Tony Award for *Smokey Joe’s Café*. Mike Stoller is one of the greatest composers and songwriters in American music history.


Robert Mitsuhiro Takasugi spent part of his boyhood in a Japanese internment camp. That experience helped shape his views of the law and individual rights.

After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, he practiced law in East Los Angeles, and then was appointed to judge of the municipal court. Three years later, Ronald Reagan appointed him to a Federal Judgeship. He became one the first Japanese-American Federal Judges. Throughout his career on the bench, he was recognized as a strong supporter of individual rights and the expansion of women and minorities in the legal system.
Sid Thompson, Educator  1947

Sid Thompson enrolled in the U.S. Navy and after his service became a mathematics teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He then rose to become the school district’s first African-American Superintendent.

He is recognized for implementing a major district-community school wide reform program called LEARN and a Call to Action Plan that significantly strengthened academic offerings for all students. He is also credited with helping to guide the district through a major fiscal crisis and union disruptions.

Delmar Watson, Actor, Photographer  (7/1/1926 – 10/26/2008)

David Delmar Watson was one of six brothers who were child actors. He appeared in over 300 films mostly as a child actor for Mack Sennett Studios. With the outbreak of World War II, he served as a Coast Guard cameraman. Following the war, he went into the family photography business and then along with his brothers, he became a news photographer for media outlets and newspapers in Los Angeles.

Delmar Watson left an extensive historical photographic collection and archive that covers Los Angeles of the 1950’s and 1960’s. That collection includes classic cameras and other vintage photography equipment as well as sixty years of press credentials and newspapers. He is recognized with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Harry R. Watson, Actor, Photographer  (8/31/1921 – 6/8/2001)

Like his brother, Harry Watson was a child movie star in the very early days of Hollywood, appearing in over 300 films. Attending Belmont High School, he was the photographer for the Sentinel, the school newspaper. His understanding of photography allowed him to be a combat photographer during World War II. Following World War II, he followed his brothers into news photography and also television, where he was a pioneer in news “same-day-coverage”

As a photographer, Harry Watson and his brothers captured some of the iconic still photographs in American history including MacArthur’s landing on Leyte.

Coy Watson Jr. was part of the Watson family of child actors appearing in sixty films by the time he was twenty-one. He became known as the “Keystone Kid” in the Keystone Cops films. During World-War II, he became a news photographer in the Coast Guard and then a photographer for each of the major Los Angeles newspapers. His photos also appeared in the first issues of Life Magazine.

With the advent of television, Coy Watson became a pioneer news cameraman for the next three decades for CBS, NBC and KTLA. He received numerous awards as a news photographer and has been recognized with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.


John Randolph Webb was the student body president at Belmont High School and is an American television icon, playing Sergeant Joe Friday on the original and reprise Dragnet series in the 1950’s and 1960’s.

Beginning in film, he got the idea for the Dragnet television series from his appearance in the film He Walked by Night and his interest in Los Angeles Police Department stories. The show debuted in 1952 and ran for seven seasons. Jack Webb continued to act in film and television. He also became a producer and director of a variety of film and television shows.

Webb formed Mark VII productions producing the reprise of Dragnet in 1969 and other series such as Adam 12, Emergency, and O’Hara U.S. Treasury.
Bill Allen, Business and Civic Leader

Bill Allen graduated from Birmingham High School in 1975. He then graduated from USC in 1979 and received his Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Pepperdine University in 1983.

He has served as the President and CEO of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation and the World Trade Center in Los Angeles. He was also the first CEO of the San Fernando Valley Economic Alliance from 1996 to 2000. He serves on numerous boards including the Weingart Foundation, International Economic Development Council, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Rossier School of Education to name a few. He was named California’s Civic Entrepreneur of the Year in 2000.

Linda Chisholm, Volleyball (12/21/1957)

Linda Rae Chisholm graduated from Birmingham High School in 1974 and then attended Pepperdine University. She was an All-American in 1979 at Pepperdine. She was a Silver Medalist in volleyball at the 1984 Olympics. She was a Silver Medalist in the 1983 Pan American Games and a Bronze Medalist in the 1982 World Championships.

Sally Field, Actress (11/6/1946) 1964

Sally Margaret Field is one of the most recognized actresses in America today having won two Academy Awards for best actress in *Norma Rae* and *Places in the Heart*. She has won multiple Emmys for Best Actress as well as many Golden Globe, Academy Award, and Emmy nominations. She has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Her acting career began with the 1965 film *Gidget*, followed by her performance in the *Flying Nun*. Later she starred in blockbuster films such as *Forrest Gump, Steel Magnolias* and *Smokey and the Bandit*.

In recent years Sally Field has been an activist for numerous causes including gay rights, bone health, women’s issues, and anti-war causes.
Mossimo Gianulli, Fashion Designer

Mossimo Gianulli is the founder the Mossimo Fashion House in Newport Beach. Mossimo is a company recognized for its bright, well-defined patterns in clothing as well as a line of jeans, T-shirts and accessories. The company gained a great deal of success and Gianulli at thirty-three in 1996 was the youngest Chairman of a public company on the NYSE.

Terry Gilliam, Actor, Director, Activist  (11/22/1940)

Terry Gilliam was the senior class president and prom king at Birmingham High School in his senior year. After graduation, he became an animator while in England and met Monty Python and became a member of the Monty Python Flying Circus. Following the breakup of the Monty Python Show, Gilliam went into writing and directing of films, which almost all have fantasy-based themes. Many of his films have been very successful at the box office including *Time Bandits*, *The Fisher King*, *Brazil*, *12 Monkeys*, *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus* and the *Brothers Grimm*. His films have been nominated for several Academy Awards and have received international recognition.

He is currently involved in a United Kingdom human rights organization, which provides members with photographic equipment and training to film human rights violations around the world.

Bill Handel, Talk Show Host  (8/25/1951)

William Wolf Handel is a major radio personality for KFI 640 AM in Los Angeles with a highly rated morning talk show and Handel on the Law, a syndicated radio show. His shows have often been highly opinionated resulting in controversy, apologies and very high ratings. At the same time, he has received numerous awards including Distinguished Alumnus from Cal State Northridge, Major Market Personality of the Year in 2005, and many similar awards. He has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

After graduation from Birmingham High School, Bill Handel attended Cal State Northridge and then Whittier Law School. As an attorney, he gained recognition for his work in helping to define the surrogate parenting law. It was an area he continued to be involved in as Director of the Center for Surrogate Parenting.

Jermaine Jackson was a singer and bass guitarist for the iconic Jackson Five beginning in the 1960’s. The Jackson Five was formed in 1965 in Gary, Indiana and signed with the Motown Label in 1969. In 1970, their first four singles reached number one on the charts. Jermaine left the Jackson Five to start a solo career in 1975. He had success throughout the 1970’s and 80’s including a Grammy Nomination and several songs that reached Billboard’s top 30.

The Jackson Five had a profound influence in the history of Rock and Roll. As a result, The Jackson Five has been inducted to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Vocal Group Hall of Fame and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Donna Kanter, Producer  1964

Donna Kanter began her career in the news as an investigative reporter in Seattle and then as foreign editor and producer for David Brinkley. She then began The Kanter Company producing reality television programs. These included Rescue 911, FBI: Untold Stories and Cold Case Cops. Other films and shows she has produced or directed include 12 TV legends, Pope John Paul II’s Vatican, The White House: Inside the Gates, Lucy: Queen of Comedy, Secrets of the Circus, U.S. Missiles, and Transportation Crimes; four seasons of Badge of Courage, Save Our Streets and the pilot Payback. She has received two Emmys for her work and numerous other industry awards.

Pam Skaist-Levy, Fashion Designer  1983

Pam Skaist-Levy was a co-founder of Juicy Couture one of the most successful, high-end, women’s fashion stores in America. She began her career designing millinery after taking courses at the Fashion Institute for Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles. She was very successful selling her brand in Barney’s and Fred Segal.
She and her partner Gela Taylor began working together designing maternity wear for their own company. While successful, they were frustrated with major companies not marketing their creations because they did not fit a particular pattern. Consequently, they founded Juicy Couture in a one-bedroom apartment. They designed T-shirts and track suits with vibrant colors and differing materials. Bloomingdale’s then
picked up the line and Madonna and other celebrities began posing in their track suit outfits. Stores selling their creations expanded to over one thousand.

They then opened their first boutique in London and it quickly expanded to an international fashion giant. Juicy Couture became one of the most successful fashion brands. They still maintain their warehousing facilities where they began in Arleta, California.

Laura Lingle, Governor  (6/4/1953)

Laura Lingle was elected the 6th Governor of Hawaii in 2002 and served two four-year terms. She was also the first woman Governor of the State. She rose through a variety of political offices including Maui County Council and Maui Mayor. She became the State Republican Party Chair, before running for Governor.

Michael Milken, Financier, Philanthropist  (7/4/1946)  1964

Michael Milken was a major financial figure in the 1970’s responsible for the concept of marketing high-risk, high yield bonds commonly called junk-bonds. Michael Milken also developed several educational enterprises including Knowledge Universe, Kindercare and K12 Inc.

It is in philanthropy that Michael Milken may best be remembered. He founded the Milken Institute to provide a forum for researchers, scholars and business people to meet, discuss and recommend policy on major economic issues nationally and internationally. The Milken Family Foundation funds a wide range of endeavors including the Milken Scholars. The Milken Family Foundation also funds an Epilepsy Research Awards Program. Michael Milken also founded The Prostate Cancer Center to fund prostate cancer research. George Washington University in Washington, D.C. renamed its public health building after him.

Tamera Mowry, Actress  (7/6/1978)

Tamera Mowry starred on several television series including Sister, Sister. She continues to appear in television film and series. With her twin sister Tia, their vocal group Voices reached number 12 on the charts with Yeah, Yeah, Yeah. Tamera Mowry has won numerous recognitions including People’s Choice, Nickelodeon Kid’s Choice and Teen Choice Awards and NCAAP Image Awards.
Tia Mowry, Actress  (7/6/1978)

Tia Mowry starred on several television series including *Sister, Sister* and *Instant Mom*. With her twin sister Tamera, their vocal group Voices reached number 12 on the charts with *Yeah, Yeah, Yeah*. Tia Mowry has won numerous recognitions including People’s Choice, Nickelodeon Kid’s Choice and Teen Choice Awards and NCAAP Image Awards.

Michael Ovitz, Businessman  (12/14/1946)  1964

Michael Ovitz is a renowned talent agent and the co-founder of Creative Artists Agency (CAA) in 1975, one of the largest talent firms in the world. CAA represents some of the leading stars in Hollywood including Tom Cruise, Bill Murray, Sylvester Stallone and Barbara Streisand. In 1995, he became President of Walt Disney which lasted only one year. Michael Ovitz is an avid art collector and philanthropist.

Daniel Pearl, Journalist  (10/10/1963 – 5/16/2002)

Daniel Pearl was an investigative reporter of Jewish descent for the Wall Street Journal. While working in South East Asia he was kidnapped murdered in Pakistan. The events were worldwide news and had a profound effect on the American people. Following his death, a Foundation was established in his name and a school at Birmingham High School was named after him.

Mary Margaret Perry, Volleyball  (January 3, 1943 – June 3, 2012)  1961

Mary Margaret Perry graduated from Birmingham High School in 1961. She then competed in volleyball at Pierce College and later at Cal State Northridge. In 1963, she competed in the Pan American Games where the U.S. Volleyball team won the Gold Medal. She then competed in the 1964 and 1968 Summer Olympics. She has been inducted into the Cal State Northridge Athletic Hall of Fame and the U.S. Volleyball Hall of Fame.
Rodney Paul Rempt, Admiral (6/13/45)

Rodney Rempt served several commands in Vietnam. He was a Vice Admiral in the United States Navy, President of the Naval War College and 58th Superintendent of the Naval Academy. He is a recognized expert on air and missile defense systems and strategies.

Bobby Sherman, Vocalist, Actor (7/22/1943) 1961

Robert (Bobby) Cabot Sherman was a teen idol, singer and actor during the 1960’s and 1970’s. He recorded over 100 songs during this period of time. This included seven gold singles, one platinum and five gold albums. He became involved with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT’s) following an appearance on the television show Emergency. As a result, he helped established a volunteer EMT program in Los Angeles. The Bridgette and Bobby Sherman Children’s Foundation is also dedicated to providing fiscal, health and educational services to children in Ghana.

Karen Valentine, Actress (5/25/47) 1965

Karen Valentine is best remembered as Alice Johnson in the 1960’s television series Room 222. The show received numerous Emmys and Karen Valentine received an Emmy for Best Supporting Actress. She continued appearing on numerous television shows throughout 1960 to 1980.

Diane Warren, Songwriter (9/7/1956)

Diane Eve Warren is one of the most highly accomplished and recognized songwriters in the world today. Her songs have received seven Academy Award nominations, five Golden Globe nominations, including one win, and twelve Grammy Award nominations, including one win. She has been named by ASCAP six times as songwriter of the year in the 1990’s. She was the first songwriter in the history of Billboard to have seven hits, all by different artists, on the singles chart at the same time. Her songs have been featured in more than seventy films or television shows. She was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2001. Warren owns a publishing company, Realsongs.
Cindy Jane Williams  (8/22/1947)  1966

Cindy Williams is most remembered for her role as Shirley Feeney on the hit television series Laverne and Shirley. She has appeared in numerous television series and films, most notably American Graffiti.
Andy Beal, Business, MaxPreps

Andy Beal played basketball at Canoga Park High School and graduated in 1976. He is the founder and president of CBS MaxPreps, Inc. MaxPreps.com is America’s number 1 on-line source for High School Sports.

Nick Bockwinkle, Wrestler (12/6/1934) Summer 1953

Nick Bockwinkle graduated from Canoga in S’ 1953 where he was voted Best Dancer and Best Build. He won the American Wrestling Association World Heavyweight Championship six times from 1975 to 1987. He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame on March 31, 2007.

Barney Burnam, Makeup Artist

Barney Barnum is an award winning makeup artist. In 2010 he won an Oscar for makeup design for the film *Star Trek*.

Bryan Cranston, Actor (3/7/1956)

Bryan Cranston is an accomplished television star of *Malcolm in the Middle, Seinfeld and Breaking Bad*. His career has included television, stage and film. He has received numerous Emmys, Golden Globe and Screen Actor Guild nominations and awards, as well as a Tony for Best Actor in the stage production of *All the Way*.
Eleanor Crouch, Mayor Santa Paula  Summer 1939

Eleanor Crouch was the first woman to be elected to the City Council in Santa Paula in 1974. She then served as Santa Paula's first female mayor in 1977 and 1978. Eleanor Denham (her maiden-name) graduated from Canoga in 1939.

Lloyd G. Davies, Los Angeles Councilman  (7/14/1914 – 9/26/1957)

Lloyd Davies was a member of the Los Angeles City Council from 1943 to 1951 representing the Hollywood area. Before becoming a councilman, he worked for the City of Los Angeles, was in public relations and an actor.

Rick DeBruhl, News Reporter

Rick DeBruhl is a Motorsports Reporter for ESPN and the SPEED network where he covers IZOD IndyCar, American Le Mans, and NASCAR Series racing. He also worked at KPNX-TV (Channel 12) in Phoenix, Arizona for over 30 years (1978-2009). DeBruhl won 3 Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards as a News Anchor and Field Reporter. He graduated from Canoga in 1973.

Allen Edwards, Hairstylist  1963

Allen Edwards born Allen Goldstein graduated from Canoga Park High School in 1963. He is an internationally known salon owner and celebrity stylist who created the Farrah Fawcett signature feathered hair cut in the 1970’s. He currently operates numerous, high end salons and spas in Southern California with the slogan, “Hairstylist to the Stars.”
Steve Fox, California State Assemblyman  (1/7/1953)  1970

Steve Fox was elected to the California State Assembly in 2012. He served the 36th District in Antelope Valley for one term. He was the first Democrat to win that seat in 36 years.


John Frazier is an award winning special effects coordinator for such movies as Twister, The Perfect Storm, Pearl Harbor, and Transformers. He has been nominated 10 times for the Academy Award in Visual Effects, and in 2005 won the Oscar for his work in Spiderman 2.

Jackie Earle Haley, Actor  (7/14/1961)

Jackie Earle Haley was nominated for an Academy Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Supporting Actor for Little Children. He was also nominated for a Teen Choice award for his performance in Watchmen. He has received numerous major awards for his film performances. He has had well-known roles in Breaking Away, Nightmare on Elm Street and The Bad News Bears.


Karen Kingsbury graduated from Canoga Park High School in 1981 where she was a writer for the school newspaper. She is a #1 New York Times Bestselling novelist with more than 25 million books in print. She has been called America’s favorite inspirational storyteller as her last dozen novels have hit top spots on national bestseller lists.
Jon Lauritzen, LAUSD Board Member  (1939-2007)  1956

Jon Lauritzen was a teacher for 30 years, and the last 13 were at Canoga Park High School teaching computer classes. He was elected and served on the LAUSD School Board from 2003 to 2007.


Lyn Noftziger began his career as a reporter on the school newspaper at Canoga Park High, which later translated to news reporting in Washington D.C. for sixteen years. He then became communications advisor to President Richard Nixon and Press Secretary to Ronald Reagan while Governor, and later served as media advisor to President Reagan. He also had numerous other political jobs including coordinating Congressional relations, relations with the Republican National Committee and was engaged in a leadership role in the Reagan presidential campaigns. He was an author of both a personal memoir and non-fiction novels.

Royal F. Oakes, Attorney  (1952)

Royal Oakes is an attorney turned talk show host and legal analyst for major news networks including NBC and ABC. He has written a column for the Los Angeles Daily Journal as well as numerous articles published across the nation. He also has a syndicated one-minute spot called It’s the Law.

Biff Pocoroba, Baseball  (7/25/1953)  1971

Biff Pocoroba graduated from Canoga in 1971, where he was All-City in baseball and the West Valley Player of the Year. He was a catcher for 10 years with the Atlanta Braves (1975-1984). In 1978, he was selected as an All-Star.
Sean Reyes graduated from Canoga Park High School in 1989. He was elected Attorney General of Utah in 2014. According to the Salt Lake Tribune, he is the first ethnic minority in recent memory to hold statewide office in Utah. His parents are immigrants with Filipino and Spanish roots. Reyes graduated from Canoga in 1989.

Kurtwood Smith graduated Canoga Park High School where he senior class president in 1961. He then graduated San Jose State University and received his Masters of Fine Arts from Stanford University in 1969. His acting career includes many television and film roles including That 70's Show which ran for eight seasons. He also had major roles in films such as Broken Arrow, Deep Impact, Boxing Helena, Dead Poets Society, The Crush, Star Trek VI, The X Files and RoboCop. Most recently, he starred in the ABC series, Resurrection.

Fay Thomas graduated from Canoga Park High School in 1922 where he was the student body vice-president. He was a major league baseball player for four seasons with the Cleveland Indians, Brooklyn Dodgers, New York Giants and the St. Louis Browns. He was inducted into the Pacific Coast League Hall of Fame in 2004.

Robert Wilkinson, a staunch conservative, was first elected a Los Angeles City Councilman representing West Los Angeles and the Woodland Hills area in 1953 serving four terms. He retired for health reasons, but was elected again in 1967 to the Council representing downtown and the Northeast San Fernando Valley. He served three terms.
Jawane Hilton, Councilman, Pastor

Jawane Hilton graduated from Carson High School in 1997, received his B.A. from Cal State Northridge in 2006 and his Master of Divinity from Azusa Pacific University in 2007. He was elected to the Carson City Council in 2015.

Ralph Mann, NCAA Champion and Author  (6/16/1949)

Ralph Mann was a three-time NCAA Champion and three-time All American in the 440 hurdles in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. He competed in the 1972 Olympics earning a Silver Medal.

Dr. Ralph Mann was also a sports and educational researcher. He earned his PHD from Washington University in the new subject of Biomechanics. He was the co-founder of the Elite Athlete Program that introduced the concept of “sports science” and biometric analysis. He applied the same analysis and research to Golf in his book, Swing Like a Pro.


Todd Rogers, Councilman and Mayor

Todd Rogers graduated from Carson High School in 1980 and then graduated from Cal State Dominguez Hills. He joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office rising to Assistant Sheriff and then was elected to the Lakewood City Council where he also served as a Lakewood Councilman and Mayor between 2004 and 2013.


Herbert Anthony Stevens graduated Carson High School and then began to take his musical career seriously. He made his first record in 2005 and in 2007, he signed to “indie record” label Top Dawg Entertainment with a stage name of “Ab Soul.” In 2011 to 2013 he released several albums including Longterm Mentality, Control System and These Days . . ., each of which made the Billboard Charts. He was nominated for a Grammy for best “Hip Hop” Album of the Year, The Heist, in 2013.

Wesley Walker, Football (5/26/1955)

Wesley Darcel Walker was a star football player at Carson High School and All-American at the University of California, Berkeley. He was also an All-Pro wide receiver for the New York Jets for twelve years.

Michael Ruben Wilson, Football (12/19/1958)

Mike Wilson was an All City football player at wide receiver for the Carson Colts. He graduated Carson High School in 1976 and attended Washington State University. He then joined the San Francisco 49ers where he played for nine seasons beginning in 1981. He was a four-time Super Bowl Champion.
Larry Beinfest, General Manager  (3/3/1964)

Larry Beinfest played baseball for Chatsworth High School becoming an All-City selection at shortstop in his senior year. He began his professional baseball career in the front office with the Seattle Mariners rising quickly to Assistant Director of Operations. He then went to the Montreal Expos as Assistant General Manager, and became General Manager and then Senior Vice President of the Florida Marlins. Under Larry Beinfest’s leadership, the Marlins won the World Series in 2003.

Howard S. Berger

Howard Berger is a filmmaker whose KNB FX company did all of the animatronics, make up and creature creations for *The Narnia Chronicles: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. Berger won the 2006 Academy Award for Achievement in Make-Up.

Dwight Evans, Baseball  (11/3/1951)

Dwight Evans attended Granada Hills High School and then transferred to Chatsworth High where he graduated. Beginning in 1972, he played professional baseball for eighteen years with the Boston Red Sox earning eight Golden Gloves, and making three All-Star Appearances.

Greg Glassman, Business

Greg Glassman co-founded the Cross-Fit training program in 1995, and has licensed the program to over 10,000 fitness centers and gyms throughout the United States. The Cross-Fit program combines a rigorous, high intensity exercise program with aerobics and weight-lifting.
Brian Grazer, Producer  (7/12/1951)

Brian Grazer is a filmmaker who has been nominated for three Academy Awards for Splash, Apollo 13 and Frost/Nixon, and winning in 2002 for A Beautiful Mind. One of the most versatile producers in Hollywood, Grazer has produced films from Dr. Seuss: How the Grinch Who Stole Christmas, American Gangster to The Da Vinci Code. His films and television shows have been nominated for fifty-two Academy Awards and ninety-four Emmys.

Val Kilmer, Actor  (12/31/1959)  1978

Val Kilmer began his acting career in 1984 with the film Top Secret followed by the 1986 blockbuster Top Gun. His most critically acclaimed performances were as Jim Morrison in The Doors in 1991 and in 1993 as Doc Holliday in Tombstone. Val Kilmer then played Batman in the 1995 film Batman Forever. He continued to make films and appear on stage. Along with fellow students Mare Winningham, Kevin Spacey, Stephanie Kramer and Howard Berger, each credits their drama teacher Robert Carrelli as being a significant influence in their film careers.

Stephanie Kramer, Actress  (8/6/56)

Stephanie Kramer starred for six seasons and 130 episodes as Sgt. Dee Dee McCall on the television series Hunter, followed by two Hunter television movies. She has since spent her time making television appearances and films. At the same time, she began a career as a songwriter and singer.


Rory Markas was the Los Angeles Angels play-by-play announcer for eight years both on radio and television, and the game announcer for USC basketball for eleven years. Prior to being the Angels announcer, he was the play-by-play announcer for the Milwaukee Brewers for three years. During his career he won four Golden Mike Awards, two Associated Press Sports Broadcasting Awards, and the 2008 Radio Play-by-Play Award from the Southern California Broadcasters Association.
Kevin Spacey, Actor  (7/26/1959)  1977

Kevin Spacey Fowler won his first Academy Award in 1995 for Usual Suspects for Best Supporting Actor, and then won an Oscar for Best Actor in 1999 for American Beauty. His career spans stage, television and film as well as acting, directing and producing. Most recently he stars in the television drama House of Cards. In addition to his Academy Awards, he has received Emmy and Golden Globe recognition for his performances.

Mare Winningham, Actress (5/16/1959)  1977

Mare Winningham began her career in the film St. Elmo’s Fire. Following that, she received a Best Supporting Actress Emmy in 1980 for the mini-series Amber Waves, and another Emmy for the 1998 television drama George Wallace. She also received a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award nomination for the film Georgia as well as other Emmy nominations.

Robert Carrelli, Drama Teacher

Robert Carrelli taught drama at Chatsworth High School for two decades. He was recognized for his exceptional ability to develop young actors and actresses. During his career, he was responsible for the theatriic training of Academy, Emmy and Golden Globe Award winners and nominees such as Kevin Spacey, Val Kilmer, Mare Winningham, Stephanie Kramer and Howard Berger.

He was known for having his students perform the most challenging of plays and musicals, requiring them to explore their own abilities and talents to the highest limits.
Cleveland High School

Tanya Acker, Attorney, T.V. Personality

Tanya Acker graduated Cleveland High School and Yale Law School. While in law school she worked for the White House and Department of Justice addressing low income clients. Following graduation from Yale, she clerked for Judge Dorothy Wright Nelson at the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Acker is currently an attorney at a Los Angeles law firm and is an experienced civil litigator who also advises clients on various transactional issues and pre-litigation conflict resolution. She has been a featured guest on Good Morning America, Entertainment Tonight, The O’Reilly Factor, Larry King Live, CNN Reports, Anderson Cooper 360, Issues with Jane Velez-Mitchell, Extra, Your World with Neil Cavuto, CNBC Reports, HLN’s Special Report, Great Britain’s GMTV and Sky News.

She guest co-hosted CNBC’s Power Lunch. C Magazine included her in an election season profile on noteworthy California women in politics. Acker also contributes to the Huffington Post. She also serves on the boards of Public Counsel, the nation’s largest provider of free legal services. She is also a television personality as a judge on Hot Bench which is a nationally syndicated reality court program.

Robin Abcarian, Journalist

Robin Abcarian graduated from Cleveland High School and then graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. She then received her Master’s in Journalism from Boston College. She began her career as a columnist with the Detroit Free Press in 1987 and then the Los Angeles Times in 1992. From 1997 to 1999 she was a radio talk show host for ABC radio and then became Editor for the Los Angeles Times Southern Living Section in 2001. In 2004 she became a National correspondent for the Los Angeles Times, a position which she currently holds.

Barbara Bodine, U.S. Ambassador (8/28/1948)

Barbara Bodine received her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and her Masters from Tufts University. She began her career in the foreign service in Hong Kong and Bangkok and then in the Near and Middle East. She served as the U.S. Deputy Office Director in Kuwait during the Iraq invasion in 1990. She was awarded the Secretary of State’s Award of Valor for her work during the Gulf War.
In 1997 she was appointed the Ambassador to Yemen. While Ambassador she handled several major incidents including the negotiated the release of three Americans kidnapped in Yemen. Also, on October 12, 2000, the US Navy Destroyer USS Cole was bombed in a terrorist attack in the Gulf of Aden. In January 2001, in route to the Yemeni city of Taiz to meet with the country's president, a flight carrying Bodine and 90 other passengers from Yemen was hijacked by an Iraqi in mid-flight. The plane was diverted to the small African nation of Djibouti, where it landed with the hijacker being overpowered by the crew. Bodine left Yemen as Ambassador on August 30, 2001. She currently directs the Scholars in the Nation’s Service Initiative (SINSI) and lectures at Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

Max Boot, Journalist  (9/29/1969)

Max Boot is a conservative author and journalist. He is a regular contributor to the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, the Weekly Standard and the Los Angeles Times. He is also the author of four books on military issues both domestic and international. He is currently a Jeanne Kirkpatrick Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Bobbie Braswell, Coach  1981

Bobbie Braswell is currently the Director of Basketball Operations at the University of Texas, El Paso. Prior to coming to UTEP, Braswell was an assistant coach at Long Beach State and the University of Oregon before becoming the men’s basketball coach at California State University, Northridge. At Northridge, Braswell coached the team to two NCAA playoff berths in 2001 and 2009.

Morgan Brittany, Actress, Political Commentator  (12/5/1951)

Morgan Brittany (Suzanne Cupito) graduated Cleveland High School in 1969 and began acting career in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s as a child star on television shows such as Twilight Zone and Playhouse 90. In the 1960’s she appeared in a variety of commercials and television movies and shows. She then had a continuing role in the television series Dallas. She continued to appear on television into the 1980’s and 1990’s. In the 1980’s she was a national ambassador for the March of Dimes.

Currently, Brittany is a conservative political commentator and author. She writes a weekly column for World Net Daily and Townhall Finance. Her first book along with co-authors Ann-Marie Murrell and Dr. Gina Loudon entitled What Women Really Want was released September 2, 2014. She is a regular guest on Fox news, Hannity, The Rick Amato Show and has appeared on The Kudlow Report on CNBC.
Clare Cavanagh, Professor, Author, Critic 1974

Clare Cavanagh is a Professor at Northwestern University. Her major emphasis is Russian, Polish and Anglo-American poetry. Her most recent book, *Lyric Poetry and Modern Politics: Russia, Poland, and the West* received the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism. Her first book, *Osip Mandelstam and the Modernist Creation of Tradition* in 1995 received the AATSEEL Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Book in Slavic Literature. She is also a translator of contemporary Polish poetry. Her awards and honors include the John Frederick Nims Memorial Prize in Translation, the Katharine Washburne Memorial Lecture in Translation, the PEN/Book-of-the Month Club Prize for Outstanding Literary Translation, and the AATSEEL Award for Outstanding Translation from a Slavic Language. She is an Associate Editor of *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* and is currently working on an authorized biography the Nobel Prize-winning poet Czeslaw Milosz.

Vanessa Coffey, Television Producer 1976

Vanessa Coffey is a television producer and Vice President for Animation at Nickelodeon. She is responsible for the development of animated features for Nickelodeon beginning in 1988. Her first major productions *Rugrats, Rin and Stimpy* and *Doug* were all major hits for the network. Her work with Nickelodeon earned her two Emmy Awards and eight Emmy nominations. She has also earned an ACE Cable Award and two other ACE Cable two other nominations.

Beginning in 1980 her career in animation for Marvel and Murakami-Wolf-Swenson resulted in the animation development of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, My Little Pony and Friends and G.I. Joe. She has been an independent executive producer and media professional since 2005.

Kevin Corcoran, Actor 1967

Kevin Corcoran was a Disney child actor in the late 1950’s and early 1960’s cast in Disney television series and films including *Spin and Marty, Old Yeller, Swiss Family Robinson* and the *Shaggy Dog*. After graduating Cleveland High School and Cal State University, Northridge, Kevin Corcoran returned to Disney as a director and producer. He worked on films such as *Zorro, Island at the Top of the World* and the *Mickey Mouse Club*. He also worked on productions for other companies including episodes of *Murder She Wrote* and *The Scarecrow and Mrs. King*. In 2006 he was honored as a “Disney Legend.”
Noreen Fraser, Producer, Cancer Activist  1966

Noreen Fraser is a television producer whose credits include *The Late Show* in 1986, *The Richard Simmons Show* in 1980 and *That’s Incredible* in 1998. In the 2000’s she produced *Entertainment Tonight* and the *ABC Home Show*. In 2001 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. After battling breast cancer, she founded the Nora Fraser Foundation in 2006, dedicated to raising funds for breakthrough cancer research. The Foundation’s major program is *Stand Up to Cancer* which has raised over $100 million with the support of the entertainment industries and major networks. Another program is *Men for Women Now*. Nora Fraser is currently the CEO of the Nora Fraser Foundation.

Lucious Harris, Basketball  (12/18/1970)

Lucious Harris is the all-time single season scorer in basketball for Long Beach State College and two-time All-Big West Conference Team. He then went on to play twelve years in the NBA making it to the NBA finals twice.

Cameron Jamie, Artist  (1969)

Cameron Jamie is a contemporary American artist whose works have been exhibited internationally and most recently at the Whitney and Gladstone Museums. He is a multi-media artist combining sound, video, photography and painting.

Victoria Justice, Actress  (2/19/1993)

Victoria Justice is a television actress appearing in series such as *Zoey 101* and *Victorious*. She has also starred in a variety of Nickelodeon channel shows such as *True Jackson, VP*, *The Troop*, *The Penguins of Madagascar* and *iCarly*. She has also been nominated for and won numerous awards for her work from Young Artists, Imagen, Teen Choice and Kids Choice Awards programs.
Craig Kirkwood, Actor and Attorney  (8/10/1974)  1992

Craig Kirkwood began his acting career while still enrolled in drama classes at Cleveland High School. His first role was in *Runnin the Halls* followed by numerous television roles in shows such as *Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and *Family Affair*. In 1997 he co-starred in the television series *Deepwater Black*. In 2000, he had a major role in the movie *Remember the Titans*. He continued to have roles in film and television until 2006. He 2008, he graduated Loyola School of Law and is now a Deputy Public Defender in Los Angeles.

Harvey Levin, Attorney and Producer  (9/2/1950)

Harvey Levin graduated Cleveland High School, UC, Santa Barbara and the University of Chicago, Law School. In Los Angeles, he was a legal reporter and an analyst for the Peoples’ Court television show. He later became producer and host for the popular gossip program TMZ.

Kim Naves, Business, Sound Editor

Kim Naves graduated from Cleveland High School was a sound editor who won an Emmy in 1996 for the television miniseries, *Rough Riders*. She was also nominated for a Prime Time Emmy in television sound editing for *Chicago Hope* in 1997 and *Honey I Shrunk the Kids* in 1999.

She obtained her real estate license in 1996 and has a successful real estate firm in Sacramento, California.

Bret Saberhagen, Baseball  (4/11/1964)  1982

Bret Saberhagen played seventeen years of professional baseball with the Kansas City Royals and later with the Mets, Rockies and Boston Red Sox. During his pitching career, Brett Saberhagen was a three-time All Star, two-time Cy Young Award winner and the Most Valuable Player in the 1985 World Series won by the Kansas City Royals.
Charles Martin Smith, Actor, Director  (10/30/1953)  1970

Charles Martin Smith graduated Cleveland High School and CSUN. He was discovered while starring in the high school play, Man of LaMancha. He became an actor with over eighty roles in television and films such as Starman, American Graffiti, and the sequel, More American Graffiti. He then played in The Untouchables and made numerous film and television appearances. He also became a highly successful writer and director with over twenty film credits beginning in the 1980’s including Never Cry Wolf, Dolphin Tale and Dolphin Tale 2 in 2014.

Charles Martin has ten nominations from BAFTA, Genie, Gemini and Leo for directing and screenplays. He has also won Best Film Awards at the Palm Beach, Victoria and Method Fest Film Festivals.

Don Stark, Actor  (7/5/1954)  1972

Don Stark was involved in theater arts at Cleveland High school playing roles in school plays and musicals such as Dark of the Moon, Guys and Dolls, and Fiddler on the Roof. While in high school he won the role of Othello at the Southern California Shakespeare Festival. He then became an actor known for the television series That 70’s Show which began in 1998 and ran for eight seasons and 200 episodes. He also played in General Hospital in 1963 and the film John Carter in 2012.

Trevor Wilson, Basketball

Trevor Wilson was a star basketball player for Cleveland High School and played for UCLA becoming a three-time First Team All-Pac 10 from 1988 to 1990 for the Bruins. He then played nineteen years in the NBA and European and Asian professional basketball leagues. Trevor Wilson is currently a police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department.
Kabeer Gbaja Biamilla, Football  (9/24/1977)

Kabeer Gbaja Biamilla graduated Crenshaw High School and then graduated San Diego State University with a degree in Business Administration. He was selected in the 5th round of the 2000 NFL draft by the Green Bay Packers. He played eight years with the Green Bay Packers. He was a Pro Bowl selection in 2003 and led the league in sacks in 2004. He was inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame.

The Brothers Johnson

George and Louis Johnson graduated Crenshaw High School in 1971 and 1973. They were guitarists and vocalists who combined funk, rhythm and blues, having three singles top the charts in the late 1970’s and early 1980’s with four platinum albums. They included *I'll Be Good to You, Strawberry Letter 23, and Stomp!* They also backed up on tour Bobby Womack and The Supremes. They broke up in 1982. Louis Johnson played bass on the *Thriller* album and began work in Gospel music. He was considered one of the best bassists in the industry.


John Christopher Brown graduated Crenshaw High School in 1979 where he played baseball with Daryl Strawberry. He was drafted by the San Francisco in 1984. He was an All Star selection in 1986 and finished his professional career with the Detroit Tigers in 1989.

James Butts, Mayor  1971

James Butts began his career in law enforcement rising to the rank of Captain in Inglewood, California. He then became the Police Chief for Santa Monica, and in 2010 was elected the Mayor of Inglewood.
Under his leadership, he has led a transformation of the City of Inglewood beginning with the renovation of the Great Western Forum. This was followed by the largest redevelopment project in Southern California, the transformation of the Hollywood Park complex. Part of that project is leading the effort to build a major football stadium and attracting an NFL franchise to Inglewood.

Larry Elder, Radio  (4/27/1952)  1969

Larry Elder was a syndicated radio-talk show host and personality for fourteen years in Los Angeles. His radio show was a popular program in the Los Angeles market with a strong following. Larry Elder has been described a libertarian or conservative, and regularly appears on network news programs as an analyst.

Solomon Elimimian, Football  (10/21/1986)

Solomon Eliminian graduated Crenshaw High School where he also played football. He then attended the University of Hawaii. He became a star in the Canadian Football League at linebacker for the British Columbia Lions. He was named the CFL’s Most Outstanding Rookie in 2010. In 2014, he won the CFL's Most Outstanding Defensive Player Award and Most Outstanding Player Award.

John ("Johnny") Lee Gray, Jr., Football  (6/19/1960)

John Lee Gray was a world class 800 meter runner setting the U.S. record in 1985. He was a four-time Olympian. He was a Gold Medalist in the 1987 and 1999 Pan American Games in the 800 meters. He has been inducted into the U.S. Track and Field Hall of Fame. He is currently an Assistant Track Coach at UCLA.
Marques Johnson, Basketball  (2/8/1956)  1973

Marques Johnson was a collegiate All-American basketball player at UCLA. In 1975 he led the Bruins to the National Championship and won the Wooden Award as the most outstanding college basketball player. He had a twelve-year professional career in the NBA playing for the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Clippers, being selected to five All-Star teams. After retirement from the NBA, Johnson, a former Theater Arts major, has become an analyst and announcer at the collegiate level.

James Looney Jr., Football  (8/18/1957)

James Looney played football at Crenshaw High School and then Purdue University. He played for the San Francisco 49ers where he was a NFC and Super Bowl Champion in 1981.

Tracey Lauren Marrow (Ice T), Actor, Vocalist  (2/16/1958)

Tracey Marrow, “Ice Tea,” became a major figure in the West Coast Hip Hop, Gangsta Rap scene of the 1980’s. His album O.G. Original Gangsta in 1991 was a defining work for the rap genre. He subsequently won a Grammy for Best Rap performance by a group. He later made several films, but is best known for his character Odafin Tutuola on the long-running series Law and Order, SVU. He has won two NAACP Image Awards for his performances.

Brandon Mebane, Football  (1/15/1985)

Brandon Mebane attended Crenshaw High School and the University of California playing defensive tackle. He joined the Seattle Seahawks in 2007. He was a two-time NFC Champion and a Super Bowl XLVIII Champion.
Kevin Ollie, Basketball  (12/27/1972)

Kevin Ollie graduated Crenshaw High School and graduated the University of Connecticut in 1995. He then played in the NBA for fifteen years with as many different teams. He then returned to the University of Connecticut as the Head Coach of the basketball teams, winning the National Championship in 2014.


Brian Larisso Price played football at Crenshaw High and then for the UCLA Bruins. He was a First Team All American in 2009 as well as a two-time Pac 10 First Team Defense. Also in 2009, he was awarded the UCLA “Red Sanders” Award for Most Valuable Player. His pro career was cut short after two years due to injury.

Darryl Strawberry, Baseball  (3/12/1962)

Darryl Strawberry played professional baseball for sixteen years with the Mets, Dodgers, and Yankees. He was an eight-time All-Star selection, National Homeroom Champion and four-time World Series Champion. He appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated seven times. At the time, he was one of the most feared sluggers in baseball.

Wendell Tyler, Football  (5/20/1955)  1973

Wendell Tyler was a running back for UCLA in the 1970’s leading the Bruins to a Rose Bowl victory over Ohio State University in the 1977 Rose Bowl. He went on to play ten years in the NFL for the Los Angeles Rams and the San Francisco Forty-Niners. Wendell Tyler was a Pro Bowl Selection in 1984 and played in Super Bowl XIX.
Ellis Valentine graduated Crenshaw High School and began his ten-year professional baseball career with the Montreal Expos. He was an All-Star in 1977 and Golden Glove Award winner in 1978. After baseball, he became a drug addiction counselor earning degrees in behavioral health and drug-dependency.

Ted Alexander attended 36th Street Elementary and graduated from Dorsey High School majoring in science and electronics. He earned his undergraduate and Master’s Degree from Cal State Los Angeles and his Doctorate from the University of Southern California. He then served the Los Angeles Unified School District, its parents and children for forty-four years. He began as a teacher at Wadsworth Elementary School in 1960. Ted Alexander was a nationally recognized educator who helped guide LAUSD through integration beginning in 1977. He had the primary responsibility for the integration program and helped establish the LAUSD Magnet program as part of that effort. He also supervised the Parent Community Service Branch and specially funded programs including Title One and No Child Left Behind. Ted Alexander also established the “Ten Schools” program to concentrate resources and support to some of the most under-served schools in the district, creating a model of how to help schools succeed.

He was President of the Council of Black Administrators and EDUCARE, the USC educational support group. He was an integral part of the Los Angeles 100 Black Men and numerous other community organizations. He received the W.E.B. Dubois Education Award in 2004, recognition from the NAACP and the USC Outstanding Alumni Award.

John Altoon, Artist  (11/5/1925)  1943

John Altoon graduate from Dorsey High School in 1943. He became a highly recognized avant-garde artist and a prominent figure in the L.A. art scene in the 1950s and 1960s. Exhibitions of his work have been held at the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Corcoran Gallery in Washington D.C, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, The Baxter Museum, Pasadena and the Los Angeles County Museums of Art. He has been exhibited at LACMA and other major museums internationally.

Altoon’s work was influenced by the abstract expressionism movement although he is best known for his figurative drawings of the 1960s, He was part of the "Ferus group" of artists known for their association to the Ferus Gallery that operated in Los Angeles in 1957–1966. Altoon, during his Ferus Gallery years, did the Ocean Park series which depicted an area around Venice and Santa Monica beach towns in California. The series was 18 paintings as well some works he did on paper.

George Lee “Sparky” Anderson won two World Series Championships with the Cincinnati Reds, “The Big Red Machine” in 1975 and 1976, and another one with the Detroit Tigers in 1984. In all, he managed the Reds for nine seasons and the Tigers for seventeen. He was the first manager to win World Series in both leagues. He was the American League Manager of the Year in 1984 and 1987, and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2000.

Franklyn Ajaye, Actor  (5/13/1949)  1967


Stephen Bagby graduated from Dorsey High School in 1965. He began his career as a labor negotiator for SEIU and BEA. He then made his acting debut as a member of the Mighty Carson Art Players on the Tonight Show in 1981. He also made appearances on the Donahue Show as well as being a major fashion model with the Ford Agency in New York City. He then worked in educational publishing and became a community activist as Executive Director of a homeless shelter in Henderson, Nevada. He is the current president of the Dorsey High School Alumni Association, and an active member of the “Motivated Men of Dorsey High,” a cadre of all male community volunteers in support of Dorsey High School young men.

Billy Barnes, Composer, Songwriter  (1/27/1927 – 9/25/12)  1945

William Christopher “Billy” Barnes Jr. was a composer and song writer and has been recognized with six Emmys. He is best known for his theatrical Billy Barnes Revue in 1959, a mixture of comedy and music.
that was produced both on and off Broadway. Billy Barnes continued to produce additional Revues and wrote comedic sketches for major television variety shows during the 1960’s and 1970’s.

Joe Brown, Judge, Television  (7/5/1947)

Joseph Brown is most recognized as Judge Joe Brown of television courtroom fame. After graduating UCLA law school, Joe Brown became the first African American prosecutor in Memphis, Tennessee. He became recognized by the producers of Judge Judy, when he gained notoriety for his involvement in the appeal of James Earl Ray’s conviction for killing Martin Luther King. The producers developed a courtroom show with Joe Brown presiding in which civil cases were adjudicated. The show ran for fifteen years.

Terrezene Brown, Track and Field  (9/27/1947)  1965

Terrezene “Terri” Brown graduated from Dorsey High School in 1965. While still in high school she competed in the 1964 Olympics.

Donald Alvin Buford, Baseball (2/2/1937)

Don Buford graduated from Dorsey High School where he played baseball. After graduating from Dorsey he played baseball for the USC Trojans and in 1958 was a member of the USC National Championship team. He then played thirteen seasons of professional baseball mostly with the Chicago White Sox and the Baltimore Orioles. In 1971 he was an All-Star selection and a World Series Champion in 1970. He has been inducted into the USC Hall of Fame, and the Baltimore Orioles Hall of Fame.

Frank Buncom, Football  (11/2/1939 – 9/14/1969)  1957

Frank Buncom graduated from Dorsey High School in 1957 where he starred in football. He then attended the University of Southern California and then played seven seasons in the American Football League with the San Diego Chargers and the Cincinnati Bengals from 1962 to 1968. He was a three-time AFL All-Star in 1964, 1965 and 1967. He is a member of the San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame.
John Casado, Graphic Designer  (5/30/1944)

John Casado graduated Dorsey High School and attended UCLA and graduated from the Pasadena Art Center of Design. He is recognized for designing the logos for the first Macintosh computers. He also designed the logos for New Line Cinema and Esprit. He has also been engaged in the design of numerous record album covers for many artists.

Janet Horowitz Colman, Education  (5/21/1947)  1965

Janet Horwitz Colman graduated Dorsey High School in 1965 and then attended UCLA. She returned to teach at Dorsey High School to teach English in 1970. She later taught at Palisades High School. Janet Horwitz was heavily involved in motion picture history, writing a course entitled Classic Screen History for the Los Angeles Unified School District. She also founded The Hollywood Poster Exchange, a vintage movie poster company. She also is the founder of the Dorsey High School Alumni Association.

Dennis Conley, Military  1959

Dennis Conley graduated Dorsey High School in 1959 and then the U.S. Naval Academy in 1963. He served 36 in the U.S. Navy reaching the rank of Rear Admiral. He served as the commander of the U.S.S. Knox and U.S.S. Holsey. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from the Naval Academy and a Master’s Degree in Personnel Management from the Naval Postgraduate School. He also served on the OPNAV Joint Staff and was Director of Surface Warfare Assignments.

Billy Consolo, Baseball  (8/18/1934)  1953

William Angel Consolo graduated from Dorsey High with the Winter Class of 1953. At Dorsey High School he was the All-City Player of the Year in baseball in 1951 and 1952. His teammate was the baseball legend, Sparky Anderson. He then played professional baseball with five different teams for eleven years from 1953 to 1962.
Candace Cooper, Judge, California State Court of Appeals
Candace Cooper was a municipal court judge in 1966 and then Presiding Judge of the District 8 California Court of Appeals. She has been a advocate for diversity and known for her keen people skills. She became Municipal Court Judge at the age of thirty-one, one of the youngest judges in California. She has since been recognized as Superior Court Judge of the Year, Trial Jurist of the Year and numerous other awards.

Cornelius Cooper, Medicine (10/24/1947)  1965
Dr. Cornelius Cooper graduated from Dorsey High School in 1965. He then attended West Point Military Academy where he was honorably discharged as a conscientious objector. He received his medical degree from the UCLA School of Medicine. He has served as a hospital administrator in New York City and is the Medical Commander for the New York City Fire Department.

Kerwin Danley, Baseball (May 25/1961)  1979

Chili Davis, Baseball  (1/17/1960)
Charles Theodore “Chili” Davis played nineteen years in Major League Baseball mainly for the San Francisco Giants. He was a three-time All-Star and a three-time World Series Champion.

Julian Carey Dixon was a California State Assemblyman before being elected to the United States Congress in 1972 where he served twenty-eight years until his death in 2000. As a Congressman, he guided funding for the Los Angeles subway system, he was a consistent advocate for civil rights, and led the boycott of the then South African Apartheid regime.


Eric Dolphy was one of the first influential jazz soloists playing the saxophone and bass clarinet, flute and piccolo. He played with the Chico Hamilton Band and Charles Mingus throughout the early 1960’s. He is recognized for his free jazz style as well as post-bop, avant garde jazz and third stream jazz. He also had a significant impact on many jazz musicians that he hired or played with him including Herbie Hancock, John Coltrane, Ron Carter and Tony Williams.


Carl Douglas graduated from Dorsey High School in 1973. He began his own law firm in 1998 after serving as a managing attorney in the Johnnie Cochran law offices. He was one of the defense attorneys in the O.J. Simpson case and has been affiliated with many high profile clients including Michael Jackson, Jamie Foxx and Queen Latifah. He has been honored as the Loren Miller Lawyer of the Year in 1994 and 1999. In 2007 he was honored as the Consumer Attorneys’ Association of Los Angeles as “Trial Lawyer of the Year.”

Paul Allen Dozier, Singer and Songwriter 1977

Paul Allen Dozier was a member of the Foshay Junior High School and Dorsey High School bands. He graduated from Dorsey High School in 1977. He is a singer, composer, and songwriter whose genres range from Gospel and Smooth Jazz. He formed several groups during his career including The Brothers in Christ in the 1980’s.
Blossom Bernstein Elfman, Author (1925)  1943

Blossom Elfman graduated from Dorsey High School in 1943. She was an English teacher and Department Chairperson at Dorsey High School. After teaching she became an author of children’s literature. She has published over 15 books.

Johnathan A. Franklin (10/23/1989)

Johnathan Franklin graduated from Dorsey High School and was named First Team All-City in his senior year. He then attended UCLA, playing four years for the Bruins. He was First Team All-American running back in 2012. He is the all-time UCLA rushing leader. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers. In 2014 Jonathan Franklin went to work for the University of Notre Dame as administrator for student welfare and development. He will coordinate outreach programs and workshops for the school’s student-athletes.


Paul Goldenberg graduated from Dorsey High School in 1946. After serving in the army he enrolled in a T.V. repair course and then opened a T.V. repair shop called Paul’s T.V. The business grew into one of the largest single store television retailers in the United States. His catchphrase was “I am the King.” He became a major philanthropist after retiring, contributing to the City of Hope and the Los Angeles Jewish Home. He also funded scholarships and trips to Washington D.C. for high school students.


Jerrald King “Jerry” Goldsmith is recognized as one of the most accomplished and influential film and television composers of all time. He began his career at CBS writing scores for weekly radio shows, and in 1959 writing the score for The Twilight Zone, and later Dr. Kildare, Barnaby Jones and The Man from UNCLE. In the sixties he was writing major scores for Hollywood films such as Sand Pebbles, and Planet of the Apes. His compositions included Patton, Star Trek, The Wind and The Lion, Chinatown, Hoosiers and over 250 other films until his death. He received eighteen film score Academy Award nominations but won only once for The Omen. The American Film Institute ranks his scores for Planet of the Apes and Chinatown in their top 25 film scores of all time. He received 5 Emmys for his television scores.
Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Author, Activist (10/8/41)

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a journalist, author and activist in Los Angeles. He is the author of numerous books dealing with political and racial issues. He also hosts a radio program, *The Hutchinson Report*, in Los Angeles and appears nationally as an expert on social and racial issues in America. *A Colored Man’s Journey Through 20th Century Segregated America* and *Betrayed, the Presidential Failure to Protect Black Lives* are two of his most well-known books.

Robert Irwin, Artist (9/12/1928) 1946


He taught at the Chouinard Art Institute from 1957 to 1958. He is famous for his “hard edge painting” and use of light and space. He does “site specific” art. Irwin’s work is held in more than thirty public collections worldwide, including the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; the J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; and the Dia Art Foundation, New York.

Hue Jackson, Football (10/22/1965) 1983

Hue Jackson graduated from Dorsey High School in 1983. He then attended Glendale Community College and Pacific University. His 19 year coaching experience included the University of the Pacific, UC Berkeley, Arizona State and USC, and numerous professional football teams. He was the Head Coach of the Oakland Raiders and is the current Head Coach of the Cleveland Browns.
Keyshawn Johnson, Football  (7/22/1972)  1991

Joseph Keyshawn Johnson was a collegiate All-American football player for the University of Southern California. Johnson then played for the New York Jets, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Dallas Cowboys and the Carolina Panthers during his ten year career. He was a three-time Pro Bowl selection at wide receiver, and played in Super Bowl XXXVII.


Michael “Butch” McColly Johnson graduated from Dorsey High School and then attended the University of High School, Riverside. He was drafted number 87 in the 1976 NFL Draft. He played wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys from 1976 to 1983 an from 1984 to 1985 with the Denver Broncos.


Robert George Kardashian was a Los Angeles Attorney who represented O.J. Simpson in his murder trial in 1994. He was also the father of the celebrity Kardashian family.

Sheila Kuehl, Actress, Legislator  (2/9/1941)  1957

Sheila Kuehl graduated from Dorsey High School with the Summer Class 1957. She played a starring role in the 1960’s sitcom, The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis. She graduated from Harvard Law School in 1978 and became an activist for gay and lesbian rights in California. She was elected to two terms in the California State Senate, and then the three terms in the State Assembly, becoming the first woman to serve as Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly. She was also the first openly gay person elected to the California State Legislature. She was elected a Los Angeles County Supervisor in 2014.

She is the Founding Director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College and, in 2012, was Regents’ Professor in Public Policy at UCLA. Kuehl served as chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Natural Resources and Water Committee, and Budget Subcommittee on Water, Energy and Transportation, as well as the Assembly Judiciary Committee.
She authored 171 bills that were signed into law, including legislation to establish paid family leave, establish nurse to patient ratios in hospitals; protect the Santa Monica Mountains and prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and disability in the workplace and sexual orientation in education. She fought to establish true universal health insurance in California.

Prior to her election to the Legislature, as a public-interest attorney Kuehl drafted and fought to get into California law more than 40 pieces of legislation relating to children, families, women, and domestic violence. She was a law professor at Loyola, UCLA and USC Law Schools and co-founded and served as managing attorney of the California Women’s Law Center.

Jackie Phillips Lacey, District Attorney  (2/27/1957)  1975

Jackie Lacey graduated from Dorsey High School in 1975. She then graduated from UCSB and earned her law degree from the USC School of Law in 1982. She joined the District Attorney's Office in 1986 as a deputy district attorney. Lacey prosecuted hundreds of criminal cases while serving as a deputy district attorney, including a successful prosecution of the first race-based hate crime murder in the United States. Jackie Lacey continued to move up through the ranks, taking on management and executive roles in the office in 2000. In 2011, she was named Chief Deputy District Attorney. She is currently a District Attorney for Los Angeles County. She is the first woman and first African American to serve as District Attorney since the office was established in 1850.

Eric Gerald Laneuville, Actor  (7/14/1952)  1970

Eric Laneuville began acting at Audubon Junior High School graduated from Dorsey High School in 1970 where he participated drama and theater. He began his acting career while at Dorsey High School. His first major roles were in the Omega Man in 1971 and the T.V. series Room 222. He starred in the T.V. series St. Elsewhere.

Ron Lang graduated from Dorsey High School in 1955. He was a member of the first US Olympic Volleyball team in 1964. Overall he won 50 beach volleyball titles. From 1958 to 1967, Lang earned nine First-Team All-American selections, one Second-Team All-America honor, and three Open National Championships for a variety of teams. The United States Volleyball Association named Lang an All-Time Great Male Player in 1982, and he was further honored in 2003 as a member of USVBA's 75th Anniversary Men's 1953 to 1977 All-Era Team. He was the first athlete named to the US Beach Volleyball Hall of Fame and US indoor Volleyball Hall of Fame in 1988.

Bill Le Vine graduated from Dorsey High School in the Summer of 1939. At Dorsey High School he took print shop classes. In 1943 he founded Postal Press and built it into one of the largest printing firms in Southern California. In 1964 he revolutionized the printing industry with the creation of PIP – Postal Instant Press. The concept of a “print while you wait service” filled an untapped niche in the printing industry. PIP reached over 1000 franchises internationally.

Charles Grant Lewis graduated from Dorsey High School with the Summer Class of 1965. He is a highly recognized, African-American architect. Lewis was known for a lifelong commitment to advancing opportunities for young black men, especially design professionals.

Lewis designs included the African American Library and Museum at Oakland, Thomas L. Berkley Square, San Francisco International Airport Pacific Bell Park and the Cecil Williams Glide Community House in San Francisco, among other buildings.

One of Lewis' proudest achievements was the restoration of homes along 34th Street in Oakland. His designs transformed dilapidated buildings into proud Victorians with modern amenities. As each house had a face-lift, the spirit of the neighborhood seemed to lift as well. Before starting his own firm, Lewis managed projects for Michael Willis Architects in San Francisco. He was part of the team that restored the African American Library, a project that preserved historic beaux-arts architecture while integrating new elements.
**The Beach Boys**

Mike Love, The Beach Boys, Vocalist  (3/15/1941)  1961

Michael Edward Love was the co-founder, vocalist and lyricist for the iconic 1960’s band the “Beach Boys.” Their songs helped define the 1960’s and included *California Girls, Little Deuce Coupe, I Get Around, Surfin USA, Fun, Fun, Fun, and California Dreaming.* Mike Love has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Willard Love, Educator  (11/13/1941)  1959

Willard Love graduated from Dorsey High School in 1959 and then attended Los Angeles City College and Cal State University Los Angeles. He became an educator in the Los Angeles Unified School District where he returned to Dorsey High School to serve as its Assistant Principal and Interim Principal. He also served as Principal of Gompers Middle School where he was honored as “Principal of the Year.”

He has been honored extensively as an educator including awards from the Council of Black Administrators, the Stovall Uplift Foundation and the Augustus Hawkins Distinguished Service Award. He was also honored for his exemplary work at Jefferson High School as profiled in Mentor Magazine and receiving the DEMO Pride Award. The Dorsey High School historical gymnasium, originally built in 1937 was named the Willard Love Athletic Center in 2015.

John Edward Maupin Jr., Medicine  (10/28/1946)  1964

John Edward Maupin graduated Dorsey High School in 1965 and then attended San Jose State University. He received his D.D.S. degree from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. He also holds an MBA from Loyola College in Baltimore.

He became the President/CEO of Meharry College Medical College, a position he held for 12 years. His research programs included programs in cancer, HIV/AIDS, women’s health and unintentional injury. His most recent position was as CEO of the Morehouse School of Medicine. During his career he has held numerous leadership positions including Director of Morehouse Associates, Deputy Commissioner for Baltimore Medical Services, National Health Care Workforce Commission to name a few.
Jon M. Mayeda, Judge (1946) 1964

Jon Mayeda graduated Dorsey High School in the Summer 1964. He served as a Los Angeles Superior and Municipal Court Judge for 26 years. He also taught law at the Judicial Institute of California. He is also a founding member of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of L.A. County. He was also a former President of the California Asian Judges’ Association.

Art S. Mazmanian, Baseball (5/1/1927) 1944

Art Mazmanian graduated from Dorsey High School with the Winter Class of 1944. He was a long time baseball coach at Mount San Antonio College. The baseball field at Mt. SAC is named in his honor.

Marni McEathron Nixon, Vocalist (2/22/1930)

Marni Nixon was seldom seen in film, but she was heard. She was famous for dubbing for some of the greatest actresses in some of the most iconic films of our time. These films included *The King and I, Westside Story, My Fair Lady, Joan of Arc, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, Boy on a Dolphin* and *Gypsy*.

She has taught at Cal Arts and at the Music Academy of the West and performed on stage nationally and internationally earning two Grammy nominations.

Lisa Nichols, Author 1994

Lisa Nichols graduated from Dorsey High School in 1994. Lisa Nichols is one of the world’s most-requested motivational speakers, as well as media personality and corporate CEO whose global platform has reached and served nearly 30 million people. From a struggling single mom on public assistance to a millionaire entrepreneur, Lisa’s courage and determination has inspired fans worldwide and helped countless audiences break through, to discover their own untapped talents and infinite potential.

As Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Motivating the Masses, Inc., one of the country’s only publicly traded personal and business development training companies, Lisa Nichols has helped develop
workshops and programs that have transformed the lives of men and women, and altered the trajectory of businesses throughout the country and across the world.

Lisa is also a best-selling author of six books and her 7th book, ABUNDANCE NOW! She is also a noted media personality who has appeared on Oprah, The Today Show, the Steve Harvey Show, and Extra – just to name a few, is also celebrated for the impact she has on the lives of teens. Through Lisa’s non-profit foundation Motivating the Teen Spirit, she has touched the lives of 211,650 teens, prevented over 3,800 teen suicides, supported 2,500 dropouts in returning to school, and has helped thousands reunite with families.

She has been recognized with a Humanitarian Award from the country of South Africa, The Ambassador Award, and the LEGO Foundation’s Heart of Learning Award. The City of Henderson, Nevada named November 20th as Motivating the Teen Spirit Day; and the City of Houston, Texas named May 9th as Lisa Nichols Day for her dedication to service, philanthropy and healing.

Dennis LaMont Northcutt, Football (12/22/1977)

Dennis Northcutt attended Dorsey High School and led the Dons to the City 4A Championship and was named City Player of the Year in 1995. He then attended the University of Arizona where in 1999 he was a First Team All-American selection and also set the Arizona receiving record. He played professionally for the Cleveland Browns, Jacksonville Jaguars and Detroit Lions.

Fred Warren Ockrim (10/7/1946) 1964

Fred Ockrim graduated from Dorsey High in 1964 and then attended UCSB and then received his Pharmacist Degree from the University of Southern California. In 1982 he developed a generic pharmaceutical company which went public in 1986 and later sold to Barr Laboratories. He is currently the President and CEO of Sea Snak Foods, Inc. He also serve on several other Boards.

Paul Olden, Announcer, New York Yankees

Paul Olden graduated from Dorsey High School and attended LACC. He has had a long and highly successful career as an announcer in professional sports. He has worked with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, California Angels, Cleveland Indians, Philadelphia Eagles, UCLA Bruins, Los Angeles Rams, New York Jets and New Jersey Nets. In 2009, he became the voice of the New York Yankees. In 2009 he also earned a World Championship Ring as the Yankees won the World Series of baseball.
Sallyanne Peyton, Chief Counsel, UDOT, Washington D.C.

Sallyanne Peyton received her B.A. and Law Degree from Stanford University. She was Chief Counsel for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (USDOT). She is currently a Professor of Law at the University of Michigan teaching Administrative Law with a specialty in Health Law. With this specialty, she has been an advisor to federal health reform. She has served as Chair of the Administrative Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools. She is also a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.


William Everett Preston was a songwriter, singer and keyboardist. He earned fame backing up some of the best musicians of the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, including Sam Cooke and Ray Charles. He also gained fame for songs such as Nothing from Nothing, You Are So Beautiful, and Will It Go Round in Circles. He worked closely with the Beatles and continued to produce hit songs and albums until his death in 2006.

Apostle Frederick K.C. Price, Pastor, Crenshaw Christian Center (1/3/1932)

Frederick Price attended Foshay Junior High school, Manual Arts High School and graduated from Dorsey High School. He completed two years at LACC and holds an honorary diploma from Rhema Bible Training Center awarded in 1976. He also holds an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Oral Roberts University.

He began his ministry as an assistant pastor in a Baptist church from 1955 to 1957, then pastored an African Methodist Episcopal church in Val Verde, California from 1957 to 1959. From there he served in a Presbyterian church and then joined the Christian and Missionary Alliance at West Washington Community Church in 1965. Apostle Frederick Price and his wife Betty, who met at Dorsey High School, then co-founded the Crenshaw Christian Center in the Crenshaw section of West Los Angeles, California.
Franklin Nathan Rayor, Business  (3/2/1924)  1942

Franklin Rayor graduated from Dorsey High in the Summer of 1942. In 1963 he co-founded the Imperial Bank of California. Imperial Bank became the 9th largest bank in California. He also became the founder of Rayor and Company Realtors. He is a past president of the Inglewood Board of Realtors and Trustee for the University of West Los Angeles.

Michael Brian Schiffer, Behavioral Archaeology

Michael Brian Schiffer graduated Dorsey High School and then UCLA. He received his M.A. and PhD from the University of Arizona in 1973. He is one of the founders and pre-eminent exponents of behavioral archaeology. His earliest ideas in his 1976 book Behavioral Archaeology are concerned with the formation processes of the archaeological record. His most important early contribution to archaeology was the rejection of the common processualist assumption that the archaeological record is a transparent fossil record of actual ancient societies. In fact, he argues, artifacts and sites undergo, respectively post-use and post-occupational modification by diverse formation processes. He is currently a Research Associate in the Lemelson Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and Research Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland.

Donald Singer, Education  (1936)  Winter  1954

Dr. Donald Singer graduated from Dorsey High School in 1954 and then earned a PHD in Education for the University of Southern California. He was President of Crafton Hills College in Orange County and president of the American Sports University. He was also President of San Bernardino Valley College. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the California Community College Trustees.

Brenda Sykes, Actress  (6/25/1949)  1967

Brenda Sykes graduated from Dorsey High School in 1967. She had starring roles in Mandingo, Black Gunn and Pretty Maids All in a Row. She also played in the 1970’s sitcom, Good Times.
Richard Teague, Automobile Executive and Designer  (12/23/1923 – 5/5/91)

Richard Teague was one of the most innovative automobile designers of the 20th century. His creations, as an AMC executive, included the Jeep Cherokee, Pacer, Gremlin, Javelin, and Neon. He also designed numerous “concept cars” and future cars for AMC.

Derrel Thomas, Baseball

Derrel Thomas played professional baseball for fourteen years for eight different professional teams from 1971 to 1985. In 1981 he was a World Series Champion with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Ralph Tilley, Track and Field  1969

Ralph Tilley won 17 Los Angeles City Track and Field Championships including the 2005 California State Championship.

Jody Watley, Vocalist, Shalimar  (1/30/1959)

Jody Watley began her music career on Soul Train and at the same time attended graduated from Dorsey High School. He 1977 she became a member of the group Shalimar and stayed with them until 1983. The group had several major R&B hits including Dead Giveaway, The Second Time Around, for the Lover in You, and A Night to Remember. As a soloist in 1987 she released the Album Jody Watley. The album’s lead single, Looking for a New Love, became a hit and was certified gold. The album peaked at #10 on Billboard, number-one on the Billboard and sold a total of four million copies worldwide. In 1988 Jody Watley won a Grammy for Best New Recording Artist, and was nominated for Best Female R&B Performance. She also received nominations for three Soul Train and one MTV awards. Her next album was Larger than Life in 1989, sold four million albums.
Diane Watson, Congresswoman  (11/12/1933)  1952

Diane Edith Watson was a Democratic California State Senator before being elected to the United States Congress in 2001 representing the 33rd District. She served eight years in Congress as an advocate for a wide range of liberal causes before retiring in 2008. She later served as Ambassador to Micronesia.

Howard Weitzman, Attorney  (9/21/39)  1951

Howard Weitzman is one of the exceptional Los Angeles attorneys. He has been recognized as Lawyer of the Year and Music Lawyer of the Year, while representing high profile clients that include John Delorean, Michael Jackson, O.J. Simpson, Magic Johnson and Arnold Schwartzenegger.

Kirby Wilson, Football  (8/24/1961)

Kirby Wilson graduated from Dorsey High School and then attended Pasadena City College and then transferred to the University of Illinois. Kirby Wilson became a collegiate running back coach for eleven years from 1985 to 1986 with school such as USC, Wyoming and Iowa State. He then became an NFL running back coach. He is currently the running back coach for the Minnesota Vikings. He was a Super Bowl XXXVII and XLIII Champion.
Gail Smith Wyatt graduated from Dorsey High School. She is a Clinical Psychologist, Sex Therapist and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at UCLA. She was the first African American woman to be licensed as a psychologist in the State of California.

Dr. Wyatt has to her credit more than 110 journal articles and book chapters, and has co-edited or written five books, including *Stolen Women: Reclaiming our Sexuality, Taking Back Our Lives* and *No More Clueless Sex: 10 Secrets to a Sex Life That Works for Both of You*. Dr. Wyatt is an Associate Director of the UCLA AIDS Institute and coordinates a core of behavioral scientists who consult with other researchers to recruit underserved populations and conduct research that effectively incorporates socio-cultural factors into HIV/AIDS research.
John R. Attwood, Senior Vice President Coca Cola

John R. Attwood is the former President of Beatrice Foods, the parent company of Coca Cola, Los Angeles and the former Chairman of Coca Cola, Los Angeles. He is currently the President of Attwood Enterprises, a consulting firm. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Verdugo Hills Hospital and Sport Chalet.

Robert Beauchamp, Dentist (1933 – 2008)

Dr. Robert Beauchamp is the founder of Western Dental that today comprises 200 dental offices, the largest dental HMO in the nation. Dr. Beauchamp revolutionized the dental industry by first providing the first “credit-dentistry” model. He then provided extensive services to the African American community in Los Angeles and nationwide at a period of time when many other dentists would not.

Roger Bobo, Tuba (6/8/1938)

Roger Bobo is a virtuoso soloist on the tuba and renowned teacher of brass instruments, judge of major musical competitions and conductor. He has taught around the world and has an extensive list of recordings. He became interested in the tuba when his music teacher at Eagle Rock High School put one in his hands while in the school orchestra.

Luis Bonilla, Trombonist, Composer, Arranger (10/12/65)

Luis Diego Bonilla is a Grammy Award winning composer, arranger and trombonist. He has mastered a wide array of musical styles from pop to Latin jazz. He has worked as a sideman and studio musician for most major artists in the world. He is currently a member of the Vanguard Musical Orchestra, an Afro-Latin jazz group in New York City and the Dave Douglas Brass Ecstasy orchestra. He has been critically reviewed for his musical styles, and unique understanding and execution of varying jazz styles.

At the same time Bonilla is a highly recognized professor of music and jazz at Temple University and the Manhattan School of Music.
James Brubaker began his career in film as a driver at MGM after leaving the army. He became head of transportation for the studio and then worked in production. He went from production manager on films like *Raging Bull* to Associate Producer for *Rhinestone, Rocky III, Comes Confessions, Rambo III, Rocky IV* and *The Right Stuff*.

During his forty-year career he worked on numerous television shows and over fifty feature films. His recent credits as Executive Producer include *Life, Liar, Liar* and *A Walk in the Clouds*. He also worked as producer on the HBO movie *Gia*, a multi-award winning production. He was also the co-producer of *The Nutty Professor*.

James Brubaker also lectures at UCLA and USC, and serves as a board member of Streetlights, a training program in film crafts for disadvantaged inner-city youth. He creates opportunities for these trainees on his films providing them with the necessary career experience. He is also the founding partner of 404 Studio Partners.

Conrad Buff III began his architectural firm with his partner Donald Hensman in 1952. They immediately were part of the prestigious Case Study House program, a midcentury experiment in residential architecture sponsored by Arts & Architecture magazine. Like other Case Study architects, such as Richard Neutra and Pierre Koenig, Buff and Hensman were partial to simple post-and-beam construction, which called for glass walls and spacious floor plans. Conrad Buff contributed to the innovative and transformative architectural styles that defined 1960’s “cool” — low, flat homes that were easy to get around, with all the most current technologies and materials. He designed homes for many of the era’s reigning celebrities, including the Governor’s Mansion for Ronald Reagan and private residences for James Garner, Steve McQueen, and Frank Sinatra.

Overall, Buff and his partner designed and built more than 300 homes throughout Southern California, including forty-four projects in Pasadena. He earned more than 40 awards from the AIA.
Conrad Buff IV, Film Editor  (7/8/1948)

Conrad Buff graduated Eagle Rock High school and attended Pasadena City College and then enlisted in the Navy. It was in the Navy that he learned film editing. He began his film career as a visual effects editor on films such as The Empire Strikes Back in 1980 and Ghostbusters in 1984. He was Assistant Editor on Return of the Jedi.

In 1997, Conrad Buff won an Academy Award for Best Film Editing and an ACE Eddie Award for Titanic. In 2000 he won a Satellite Award for Best Film Editing for Thirteen Days. He has edited more than 25 films since 1985 including The Abyss in 1989. He was then nominated for an Oscar and Eddie for Terminator 2 in 1991 and for True Lies in 1994.

Dan Cantore, Weightlifter  1964

Dan Cantore graduated Eagle Rock High School in 1964 and then earned his B.A. from UC Berkeley. He became a weightlifter in the lightweight class holding numerous American and Pan American Game records in his class. He was a two-time Olympian, the U.S. Weightlifter of the Year in 1974 and is a member of the Weightlifting Hall of Fame.

Dr. Benjamin Culley, Dean, Occidental College  (1913)

Benjamin Culley graduated Eagle Rock High School in 1931 and the University of Southern California. He taught at Eagle Rock from 1936 to 1943 before joining the faculty at Occidental College. Benjamin Culley was a teacher and Dean at Occidental College and a strong supporter of the Occidental Track and Field program for over five decades, 1943 to 1982. The Occidental athletic facility is named the Benjamin Culley Field House.
**Don Dustin, Music teacher and Director**  (1955)

Don Dustin was the instrumental music teacher at Locke High School, leading the iconic Locke Saints marching band into Los Angeles Unified School history winning two consecutive District Marching Band Championships. The Saints band toured extensively.

At the same time, Don Dustin was the teacher and mentor to some of the greatest jazz artists of our time including Gerald Albright, Patrice Rushen and Ngudu Chancle. Don Dustin later became the Performing and Visual arts director for the Los Angeles Unified School District leading a major transformation in arts programs from elementary through high school.


Jack D. Forbes was born to Native American parents of Powhatan-Renape and Lanape heritage. He began his writing career writing for the Eagle Rock High School newspaper. He earned his B.A. in Philosophy from USC in 1953 and then a Masters and PHD in history and anthropology. He is one of founders of the Native American movement in the early 1960’s.

Jack Forbes became a pioneer in developing Native American Studies in colleges and universities throughout the United States. Forbes first taught at San Fernando Valley State College and the University of Nevada, Reno. He joined the University of California, Davis in 1969, where he helped found a program in Native American studies, one of the first at a major university. He then founded the Deganawidah-Quetzalcoatl, D-Q University, the first Native American college located outside of a reservation.

He published *Africans and Native Americans: The Language of Race and the Evolution of Red-Black Peoples* in 1993, the result of 20 years of research. He received the American Book Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1997, Writer of the Year from Wordcraft Circle in 1999 and in 2009 a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers’ Circle of the Americas.


Walter “Chico” Hopps graduated from Eagle Rock High School and then attended Stanford University transferring a year later to UCLA. At UCLA he studied microbiology and art history. He opened his first gallery, the Ferus Gallery, in Los Angeles in 1957. In 1962 he became the director of the Pasadena Museum of Art which later became the Norton Simon Museum. In 1967 he became the director of the...
Washington Museum of Modern Art and in 1970 the director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. From 1972 to 1979 he was the curator of 20th Century Art at the Smithsonian.

Hudson Houck, Football (1/7/1943)

Hudson Houck was the offensive line coach for the University of Southern California helping them to a National Championship in 1962. He was later the offensive line coach for the Dallas Cowboys, instrumental in their Super Bowl victories in Super Bowl XXVIII and XXX. He retired from football in 2012.

Each of his positions as a curator was characterized by a unique, outside the box, creative display of art. He did not allow the usual wall by wall displays but rather looked to how each piece could be displayed in a manner to attract and engage the observer.

In 1979 he became a consultant to the Menil Collection. In 2001, the Menil Foundation established the Walter Hopps Award for Curatorial Achievement.


Craig Kauffman was an artist who worked with translucent and transparent materials. His work was described as the “L.A. Look” working with commercial materials and utilizing light and shadows. He has been exhibited beginning in 1951. His paintings and relief wall sculptures are in over 20 museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney, the Tate Modern and MOCA in Los Angeles.

Dr. Richard P. Kratz, Ophthalmologist

Dr. Richard Kratz enlisted in the army before completing his residency. He quickly became the chief of ENT at the U.S. Army General Hospital in Tokyo. After the war he completed his residency at Duke University in 1951.

Dr. Richard Kratz is one of the most important figures in ophthalmology today. Procedures such as phacoemulsification and IOL implantation and the teaching of these procedures as part of cataract surgery are two of his seminal contributions to medicine affecting tens of millions of people. He is recognized for his groundbreaking contributions to cataract surgery and it teaching. He was also the major force in convincing Congress to approve IOL implantation for Medicare coverage.
Dr. Ralph Kuncl  Medical Researcher, President University of Redlands

Richard Kuncl grew up in Eagle Rock and graduated from Eagle Rock High School and earned his B.A. from Occidental College. He received his doctorate and medical degrees from the University of Chicago. He then became a professor of neurology and pathology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. He is an expert in the field of ALS research. He served as the Provost at Bryn Mawr College and the University of Rochester in 2007. Richard Kuncl was appointed the President of the University of Redlands in 2012.

Jere H. Lipps, Curator, Professor  (August 28, 1939)

Jere Henry Lipps graduated from Eagle Rock High School and then attended the UCLA earning a B.A. and later a Ph.D. from UCLA in 1966. During this period, he became involved in paleontological research on the Southern California Channel Islands, the topic of his PhD dissertation.

Jere Lipps is a geologist, paleontologist and marine biologist. He taught courses on marine and field geology, climate change, tropical islands, and paleontology.

He served as the UC Berkeley Chair of Integrative Biology from 1991 to 1994. He was then the Curator of Paleontology at the University of California, Museum of Paleontology. Jere Lipps was also the ninth Director of the museum from 1989 to 1997. He is now the Director of the John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center, Santa Ana and Professor Emeritus, Department of Integrative Biology, UC Berkeley.

He has also received a number of awards for his continued work including the R. C. Moore Medal of SEPM, the Joseph A. Cushman Award, Friend of Darwin Award of NCSE, the Centennial Fellowship of the Paleontological Society, and the Antarctic Medal of the US. An island, Lipps Island, in Antarctica is named for him, as are several new species of foraminifera.

Jay North, Actor  (8/3/1951)

Jay Waverly North began acting at the age of six on television variety shows. His most famous role was in 1959 as Dennis the Menace, the television series based on the comic strip Dennis the Menace. After leaving the Dennis the Menace, series he acted in several television and film roles. As an adult he co-founded "A Minor Consideration" an organization dedicated to counseling child actors.
Ruth Orkin, Photographer, Filmmaker  (9/3/1921 – 1/16/1985)

Ruth Orkin attended Eagle Rock High School and then the Los Angeles City College where she studied photojournalism. Orkin moved to New York in 1943. She worked for all the major magazines in 1940s, and also went to Tanglewood during the summers to shoot rehearsals. She photographed many of the worlds’ greatest musicians of the time including Leonard Bernstein, Isaac Stern, Aaron Copland, Jascha Heifitz, Serge Koussevitzky and many others.

In 1951, Orkin traveled to Italy where in Florence where she met Nina Lee Craig, an art student and fellow American, who became the subject of “American Girl in Italy.” The photograph was part of a series originally titled “Don’t Be Afraid to Travel Alone” about what they encountered as women traveling alone in Europe after the war.

On her return to New York, Orkin married the photographer and filmmaker Morris Engel. Together they produced two feature films, including the classic “Little Fugitive” which was nominated for an Academy Award in 1953.

Robert Perry, Landscape, Architect

Robert Perry’s academic career began in 1972. Today he is Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at Cal Poly Pomona. He has taught at the UCLA Extension Program in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Architecture Studies at USC, and at Cal Poly University Pomona.

Robert Perry has been focused on the study of plants and water conservation. He has written two previous books on landscape plants and water conservation including: *Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes*, 1980, and *Landscape Plants for Western Regions*, 1992. His latest effort, *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*, continues in this tradition. This latest book greatly expands the scope of coverage and thoroughness of photography.

Robert Perry has been a licensed landscape architect since 1972 and has actively participated in many professional projects where his expertise on California native plants and landscapes for water conservation has been applied and refined.
Ralph B. Potter, Professor of Ethics, Harvard

Ralph Potter is a Professor of Ethics at Harvard University and the creator of the Potter Box, a guide for making ethical decisions. The Potter Box is a systematic guide for making ethical decisions based on moral reasoning. Ralph Potter is also an ordained Presbyterian minister.

Lili St. Cyr, Dancer  (June 3, 1918 – January 29, 1999)

Willis Marie Van Schaak attended Eagle Rock middle school and left the high school in the 9th grade to pursue an acting and dancing career. She became one of the most recognized “strip-tease” artists of the 1940’s and 1950’s. She was also known for her “pin-up” photographs.

Marley Shelton, Actress  (4/12/1974)

Marley Eve Shelton graduated from Eagle Rock High School and then attended UCLA majoring in Film and Theater. She began acting in 1951 in films such as Grand Canyon, The Sandlot, Nixon, Warriors of Virtue and Trojan War. She continued to make films in a wide range of genres including “indies,” studio features, commercial and art house films. She has received critical acclaim for her roles in Pleasantville, Sugar and Spice, Grindhouse, Bubble Boy, Never Been Kissed and Sin City. She recently made two important films, Decoding Annie Parker in 2014 and Solace in 2015.

Art Spander, Sports Writer  (1938-)  1956

Art Spander graduated from Dorsey High School with the Winter Class of 1956 and then graduated from UCLA. He began his career as a news writer for United Press International in Los Angeles in 1960, and started writing sports full-time in 1963 for the Santa Monica Outlook where he was the beat writer for the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Dodgers and covered UCLA and USC football and basketball. In 1965 he moved to the San Francisco Chronicle, where he covered golf, football, baseball and basketball. Spander became the lead sports columnist for the San Francisco Examiner in 1979.
He is currently a free-lance columnist for the San Francisco Examiner. In 1999, he was awarded the McCann Award, earning him a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and in 2007 he was honored with the Masters Major Achievement Award.

Arthur Spander has covered 42 consecutive Masters Tournaments, 32 Super Bowls, 40 U.S. Open Golf Tournaments, 29 British Open Golf Tournaments, 25 Wimbledon and 25 Final Fours. He has also attended 55 consecutive Rose Bowls, initially as a spectator and vendor and the last 45 as a journalist.

He was voted "California Sports Writer of the Year" by his peers in 1980, and is the only person to win Golf Writers Association of America first place awards in each of five decades.

Robert Totten, Actor and Director  (2/5/37 – 1/27/95)

Robert Totten is a director and actor best known for Gunsmoke, The Sacketts, Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color, and The Red Pony. He directed and acted in many other films and television series until his death in 1995.

Tui St. George Tucker, Composer  (11/25/1924)

Lorraine St. George Tucker attended Eagle Rock High School graduating in 1941 and then attended Occidental College from 1941 to 1944. She then traveled to New York in 1946 to pursue a career as a composer, conductor and recorder player. She designed new recorders allowing for the playing of quarter tones. One of her early compositions, Indian Summer: Three Microtonal Antiphons on Psalm Texts, introduced quarter tones. Her works have been performed by such artists as the Kohon Quartet, pianists Grete Sultan and Loretta Goldberg, and recorder player Pete Rose.

Carlos Vega, Drummer  (4/7/1998)  1957

Carlos Vega was a drummer most known for his work with James Taylor in the 1980’s. In addition to Taylor, he played with musicians and singers such as Linda Ronstadt, Boz Scaggs, Lee Ritenour, Reba McIntire, Olivia Newton-John (including the “Grease” soundtrack), Joni Mitchell, and Randy Newman.
Victor Veysey was a Republican United States Congressman representing the Imperial Valley of California for two terms, 1971-1975. He was also a professor at Cal Tech in Pasadena and Stanford University in the 1940’s.

Lindsay Wagner is most remembered in her Emmy winning role as the Bionic Woman of television fame of the 1970’s. Her first film recognition came in the 1973 movie, The Paper Chase.

She has also been an author and advocate, utilizing her versatile acting talents in a range of films addressing major social-documentary issues. They include The Incredible Journey of Doctor Meg Laurel (1979), I Want to Live (1983), Child’s Cry (1986), The Taking of Flight 847: The Uli Derickson Story (1988), Evil in Clear River (1988), Shattered Dreams (1990), Fighting for My Daughter (1995), and Thicker Than Water. These films all highlight her as a major spokesperson for child abuse, terrorism, spousal abuse, and animal rights. She has also become a national spokesperson for holistic healing.
Jamal Sharif Anderson, Football  (9/30/1972)

Jamal Anderson played football at El Camino High School where he was 4-A first team in 1989. He then played in college at the University of Utah. He played professional football for eight seasons for the Atlanta Falcons from 1994 to 2001. He was a Pro Bowl selection, first team All Pro and NFC Rushing Leader in 1989 with the Falcons.

Paul Beatty, Author, Poet  (1962)

Paul Beatty graduated from El Camino High School in 1980 and then earned his MFA in writing from Brooklyn College and MA in psychology from Boston University.

In 1990, Paul Beatty became the first ever Grand Poetry Slam Champion of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe. He then published his first volume of poetry, *Big Bank Takes Little Bank*. His next book of poetry was *Joker, Joker* and *Deuce*. In 1993, he was awarded a grant from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists Award.

His first novel was *The White Boy Shuffle*. His second book was *Tuff*. Both books received critical acclaim. He wrote *Slumberland* in 2008 and *The Sellout* in 2015.

America Ferrera, Actress  (4/18/1984)

America Ferrera attended Calabash Elementary School and Hale Middle School before graduating from El Camino High School. She is best known for her role in *Ugly Betty* in 2006 to 2010 for which she received a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress and a Prime Time Emmy Award. She has won numerous awards for her film and stage work including an NAACP Image Award, Imagen Award and Best Actress at the Sundance Film Festival for the *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*.
Brad Garrett, Actor  (4/14/1960)

Brad Gerstenfield “Garrett” began his career as a comedian getting his big break on the Johnny Carson Show in 1982. Following that appearance, he was booked into major shows in Atlantic City and Las Vegas where he earned the title, “Best Comedian on the Strip.” In 1996, he starred in Everyone Loves Raymond which ran until 2005 and for which he received three Prime Time Emmy Awards. He also starred or did voice-overs for a variety of Hollywood films.

Allan Stephen Kennedy, Football  (1/8/1958)

Allan Kennedy graduated from El Camino High School and then attended Washington State University. In 1981 he was drafted by Washington State University. He then played offensive tackle for the San Francisco 49ers. With the 49ers he was a two-time NFC and Super Bowl Champion in 1981 and 1984. Allan Kennedy has been inducted into the Washington State University Sports Hall of Fame.

Randy Wolf, Baseball  (8/22/76)

Randall Christopher Wolf was player of the year in high school baseball in 1994. He played baseball at Pepperdine University and then professional baseball from 1999 to 2014 mostly with the Philadelphia Phillies. He was an All-Star selection in 2003.
Byron Allen, Comedian  (4/22/1961)

Byron Allen began his comedy career at age of fourteen in Los Angeles clubs. Being discovered by Jimmie Walker, he became a comedy writer, working alongside Jay Leno and David Letterman. At eighteen, he made his debut on the Tonight Show, and thereafter he became a television personality. He also founded in 1993, Entertainment Studios producing a wide range of Emmy winning shows.

Herb Alpert, Musician  (3/31/1935)  1953

Herb Alpert is one of the most recognized musicians of his time. He has received the Presidential Medal of the Arts, nine Grammys and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He has sold over seventy-two million records, fourteen platinum albums, and fifteen gold albums. He is the only performer to have a number one hit on the Billboard charts as an instrumentalist and a vocalist.

Tijuana Brass became one of the major and most recognized groups of the 1960’s, disbanding in 1969. Beginning in a garage in 1962, Herb Alpert, playing the trumpet, produced his first hit record, The Lonely Bull. By the middle 1960’s the Tijuana Brass and Herb Alpert were a highly requested band both on television and for live performances.

Herb Alpert continued solo performances and also co-founded A&M records, one of the largest recording studios in the industry. Alpert is also a recognized philanthropist with the Herb Alpert Foundation that contributes to music education in the schools as well as other projects.

David Arquette, Actor, Director, Producer  (9/8/1971)  1989

David Arquette is an actor, film director, producer, screenwriter, and fashion designer. As an actor, he received his first critical acclaim in the film Scream in 1996 and followed with films such as Buffy and the Vampire Slayer, Airheads, and Never Been Kissed.
Gower Carlyle Champion is a Broadway legend as an actor and theater director. Beginning as a dance team with his wife Marge, Marge and Gower Champion, made seven film musicals while at the same time he began his Broadway career as a director and choreographer. His success on Broadway was iconic. He has an unprecedented fifteen Tony nominations and nine Tony’s in his career, making him the most awarded director and choreographer in history of theater. His musicals included the productions of Carnival, Bye Bye Birdie, 42nd Street, and Hello Dolly.

James Curtis Counts was the Director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service under the Nixon administration. He worked at resolving a range of labor disputes with the Teamsters, Electrical Workers, United Auto Workers, the International Longshoreman’s Union, and AFL-CIO during very contentious strikes and negotiations.

Mark Damon, born Alan Harris is an actor and film producer. As an actor, he appeared in fifty movies including the House of Usher and La Dolce Vita. Leaving acting, he became a major producer in the 1970’s forming the Producer’s Sales Corporation. He invented the foreign sales market for American film production, licensing over 300 films onto the international market. In addition, he produced seventy films including the critically acclaimed Das Boot and Monster.

Joyce Eisenberg-Keefer is a major philanthropist in the Los Angeles Jewish community. She has endowed chairs for cancer and multiple sclerosis research and for new professors and directors, respectively, at The Weizmann Institute of Science. She has also financed the pediatric wing of Shaare Zedek Hospital. Other
recipients of her magnanimity include the Anti-Defamation League, United Jewish Fund, National Diabetes Foundation, UCLA Medical Center, Pacific Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and Jewish Home for the Aging.

Eisenberg-Keefer has also supported the Israel Children's Centers, an organization with fifteen community complexes for teens located throughout Israel. She also supports the John Wayne Cancer Center, which she attributes to keeping her late husband Ben Eisenberg alive for ten years after being diagnosed with cancer. These are a few of Joyce Keefer’s philanthropic endeavors.

Lee Earle James Elroy, Author  (3/4/1948)

Lee Earle James Elroy left Fairfax High School in 1965. He became a noted crime novelist with works such as The Black Dahlia, L.A. Confidential, The Big No Where, and White Jazz. An American Tabloid earned him the Times Fiction Book of the Year in 1995. My Dark Places, was a memoir of his own mother’s murder in 1958. Six of his works have been made into films including The Black Dahlia and L.A. Confidential.

Bob Falkenburg, Tennis  (1/21/1946)

Bob Falkenburg was the 1948 Wimbledon singles champion, the 1947 Wimbledon Doubles Champion and the 1944 U.S. Open Doubles Champion. Following a tennis career, Bob Falkenburg became a successful businessman who introduced soft ice cream and fast foods to Brazil and franchised Bob’s restaurants throughout Brazil.


Lawrence Simon Gelbart is television writer and producer who became a comedy writer before finishing high school. He worked for most major television comedian’s including Jack Benny, Jack Carson, Sid Caesar, and Bob Hope. One of Gelbart’s greatest accomplishments was writing over ninety segments of M.A.S.H. Gelbart also wrote for the theater with hits like “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum.” He also worked in film, most notably with Tootsie that earned him an Academy Award Nomination and Film Critic’s Awards in Los Angeles and New York.

Larry Gelbart has won three Tony’s, three Emmys and the Laurel Award for Life Time Achievement in Television Writing from the Writer’s Guild of America.
### Guns and Roses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slash, Saul Hudson, Guitarist (7/23/1965)</th>
<th>Steven Adler, Drummer (1/22/1965)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saul Hudson is one of the original members and guitarist for Guns N’ Roses and Velvet Revolver. He attended Burroughs Middle School where he met Steven Adler. Slash then dropped out of Fairfax in the 11th grade to pursue his music. In 1986, he became a member of Guns and Roses. He quickly had a string of number one hits on the Billboard 100, and consistently had hits in the top ten including <em>Sweet Child of Mine</em>, and albums like <em>Use Your Illusion I and II</em>. Their first major album in 1986 was <em>An Appetite for Destruction</em>. A hard rock band, Guns and Roses is credited with reviving rock music in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. Guns and Roses has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.</td>
<td>Michael Coleti, “Steven Adler” was the drummer for the band Guns and Roses from 1985 to 1990. He has since formed several other bands and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. He met Slash, Saul Hudson, when they were students at Bancroft Middle School. He attended Fairfax and then transferred.</td>
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#### Harry Handler, LAUSD Superintendent (2/20/2005) 1946

Harry Handler served six years as the Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District from 1981-1987. He is credited with addressing significant Board of Education interpersonal issues, and setting achievable goals for the District that included improving student achievement, providing safe and orderly schools, strengthening support from parents and the community, raising staff morale, and restoring relationships, and district credibility with state and federal legislators.

In the process he addressed severe overcrowding in schools and began major reforms as part of the national reform movement. He served as a professor at UCLA following his retirement.

#### James Hardy, Football, Los Angeles Coliseum Commissioner (5/24/1923)

James Hardy graduated from Fairfax High School and then the University of Southern California where he played football. He was named the most Valuable Player in the 1945 Rose Bowl game. James Hardy later served as the General Manager of the Los Angeles Coliseum Commission.
Gilbert Avery Harrison was the owner and editor of the New Republic for twenty-one years from 1953 to 1974. Under his leadership, he made the *New Republic* into an influential magazine and political and cultural journal.

Dorothy Poynton-Hill graduated from Fairfax High School in 1933. She competed in diving at the 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympics. She was a Gold Medalist in the 10 meter platform diving in 1932 and 1936 and won the Silver Medal in the 3 meter springboard at the 1928 Olympics and the Bronze Medal in 1936. After retiring from competitions Poynton-Hill ran an aquatic club in Los Angeles. In 1968 she was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

Jerome Hines (Heinz) was an operatic bass vocalist who was the leading voice for the New York Metropolitan Opera for 41 years from 1946 to 1987. This was the longest career in Met history for a leading singer. He had a resounding, deep voice. He was known for deeply researching his characters and could sing in Italian, German and Russian. Hines turned composer in writing *I Am the Way* based on the life of Christ, which came to the Met in 1988.

Darla Hood was the leading lady of the *Little Rascals* filmed between 1935 and 1941. Her short career included 102 short films which ran on television into the late 1950’s. She had a brief singing career and made television appearances until her death in 1979.
Timothy Hutton, Actor  (8/16/1960)

Timothy Hutton realized he wanted to be an actor while at Fairfax High School playing Nathan Detroit in the school production of *Guys and Dolls*. He first became recognized as an actor in 1980 in the film *Ordinary People* winning him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. At nineteen, he was the youngest person to win an Oscar in this category. Tim Hutton went on to make over seventy films and stage appearances including fifteen feature films between 2006 and 2008. He has also starred in two television series, *Leverage* from 2008-2012 and the *Nero Wolfe Mysteries* from 2000-2002 where he also directed several episodes.

Chanel Iman, Model  (December 1, 1990)

Chanel Iman Robinson is an international fashion model best known as Victoria Secret’s “Angel” model and a regular model for Victoria’s Secrets Fashion Walks. She has appeared in most all fashion magazines including Elle, Vogue, Harper’s Bazaar and Vanity Fair while modeling for most major designers in the country including Ralph Lauren, DKNY, the Gap and Bottega Veneta. Most recently she has been involved in a variety of humanitarian campaigns including fighting famine in East Africa.

Dan M. Isaacs, Educator

Dan Isaacs graduated from Fairfax High School and then U.C.L.A. He became principal of Grant High School in 1978. He then took a major leadership position in the Los Angeles Unified School District when he became the Assistant Superintendent of the Senior High Schools Division. Under his leadership new programs addressing access and equity for all students, high school writing programs and reducing the student dropout rate had a significant impact on schools and students. Dan Isaacs then became head of operations for LAUSD and the Chief Operating Officer. He currently provides support to the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles. Throughout his career he has been highly recognized for his accomplishments at the Federal, State and local level.
### The Jackson Five

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jackie Jackson, Vocalist</th>
<th>Tito Jackson, Vocalist</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(5/4/1951)</td>
<td>(10/15/1953)</td>
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Sigmund Esco "Jackie" Jackson was a high tenor singer for the Jackson Five of the late 1960’s and early 70’s. The Jackson Five was formed in 1965 in Gary, Indiana and signed with the Motown Label in 1969. In 1970, their first four singles reached number one on the charts.

The Jackson Five had a profound influence in the history of Rock and Roll. As a result, The Jackson Five has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and they have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Jackie Jackson currently owns and operates two record companies in Los Angeles.

Toriano Adaryll "Tito" Jackson was a singer and guitarist with the Jackson Five in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s. The Jackson Five was formed in 1965 in Gary, Indiana and signed with the Motown Label in 1969. In 1970 their first four singles reached number one on the charts.

The Jackson Five had a profound influence in the history of Rock and Roll. As a result, The Jackson Five has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Vocal Group Hall of Fame, and they have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

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### David Janssen, Actor  
1949

Born David Harold Meyer, David Janssen attended Santa Barbara Elementary School in the sixth grade and Burroughs and Edison Junior High Schools. He then attended Fairfax High School.

He began his acting career in the early 1950’s appearing in supporting roles in over thirty films. In the late 1950’he starred in the television series, *Richard Diamond, Detective*. His major success came in 1963 when he starred as Richard Kimble in the iconic series, *The Fugitive* that ran for four seasons. At one point it was the highest rated show in television history. Following the Fugitive series, he appeared in several short-running television series.

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### Jack Kemp, Football and Congressman  
(7/13/1935 – 5/2/2009)  
1946

Jack French Kemp was a professional football player, playing thirteen years in the AFL and NFL for the Buffalo Bills and the San Diego Chargers, becoming the AFL Player of the Year in 1965. After his retirement...
from football, he became a United States Congressman from New York and Secretary of Housing under George Bush. In 1996, he became the Republican candidate for Vice President.

He was a conservative Republican, but his views spanned a wide range of political issues. He was an advocate for “supply side economics”, but at the same time supported immigration reform. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009.

Lenny Krayzelburg, Olympian  
(9/28/1975)  1993

Leonid Krayzelburg is a four-time swimming Olympic Gold medal winner in the backstroke in 2000 and 2004 Olympics. He was at one point the world record holder for the event.

Mila Kunis, Actress  
(8/14/1983)

Mila Kunis attended Rosewood Elementary School, beginning in the 2nd grade not being able to speak English. She then attended Bancroft Middle School and graduated from Fairfax High School.

She began her career doing commercials and then was cast in the That Seventy’s Show. The show ran for eight seasons and she won two Young Star Awards for Best Young Actress. She then was cast in the animated television series Family Guy. She transitioned to movies in the 2000’s and had her breakthrough film in 2009, The Book of Eli. She then received a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild award nomination for her role in Black Swan in 2010 along with a Venice Film Festival Best Young Actor Award. Her more recent films include Friends with Benefits, Oz the Great and Powerful, Blood Ties, and The Angriest Man in Brooklyn.

Steven D. Lebowitz, Business and Philanthropy

Steven Lebowitz is the President and Co-Chairman of the Board of G&L Realty Corporation which he co-founded in 1993. After graduating from Fairfax High School, he attended Los Angeles City College and then earned his B.S. in accounting and MBA from the University of Southern California. Prior to founding G&L Realty, he worked for the Brookings Institute, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and John Kennedy’s Poverty Initiative. Along with his wife Debi, Steven Lebowitz has been involved in a variety of philanthropic endeavors contributing to Fairfax High School and Los Angeles City College. He is also the Chairman of the Board of the USC Davis School of Gerontology.

Jerome Leiber along with his partner Mike Stoller became one of the most prolific and recognized songwriting teams of the 1950’s and 60’s. Jerry Lieber, a lyricist, wrote major hits including *Kansas City, Hound Dog, Yakety Yak, Love Me, Jail House Rock, and Stand by Me*. In all, they wrote over seventy chart-topping songs.

Jerry Lieber’s awards include induction into the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Grammy awards and nominations, along with a Tony Award for *Smokey Joe’s Café*. Jerry Lieber is one of the greatest lyricists in American music history.

Quinn Martin, Producer  (5/22/1922 – 9/5/1987)

Irwin Martin Cohn, “Quinn Martin” was one of the most famous and prolific American television producers. In the 1970’s, his QM productions dominated the prime time television scene. For twenty-one years, 1959-1980, he had at least one prime time show. He is also best known for developing the one-hour adventure television programming formula – number of acts and epilogue.

His sixteen one-hour television shows included *The Fugitive, The F.B.I., The Invaders, The Streets of San Francisco, Cannon, and Barnaby Jones*. In addition, he produced twenty feature films.

Howard Miller, LAUSD Board of Education Member

Howard Miller was appointed in the Los Angeles Board of Education in 1976 and served as its President. He came to the post as a law professor at the University of Southern California. He was recalled from office after attempting to implement court ordered integration and bussing. He has since served as the 85th President of the California Bar Association from 2009-2010. He is currently a partner at Girardi and Keese in Los Angeles.

Ricardo Montalban is one of the first Latino superstars of American film. His film career began in 1947 and continued into the late fifties with roles in film such as Border Incident, Battleground and Across the Wide Missouri. He played opposite some of the most well-known stars in Hollywood, building for himself a strong reputation. He returned to the Broadway stage in the late fifties with roles in Can, Can, South Pacific, Don Juan in Hell, and Seventh Heaven. He earned a Tony nomination for stage play Jamaica.

In the early sixties Montalban became a regular on network television appearing in shows from Loretta Young, Playhouse 90, Colgate Theater, and numerous other series and productions. In 1977 in played the role of Mr. Roarke in Fantasy Island which ran for seven seasons.

Montalban was always an outspoken advocate for Latino actors. He helped to found the "Nosotros" organization, a Los Angeles theatre-based company designed for Latinos working in the industry. The organization, with the help of Montalban, bought the Doolittle Theater and renamed it after Montalban.

Demi Moore, Actress  (11/11/1962)

Demi Moore (Guynes) left Fairfax High School at 16 to find work in Hollywood. At nineteen she was a regular on General Hospital in 1981, and then began film roles in the mid-eighties and nineties that included St. Elmo’s Fire, Ghost and Indecent Proposal. In addition to acting, Demi Moore was the Executive Producer for the Austin Powers series and one of the initial investors in Planet Hollywood in 1991. In 2009, Demi Moore and husband Ashton Kutcher launched The Demi and Ashton Foundation, a non-profit, non-governmental organization directed towards fighting child sexual slavery.

Jack Moscowitz, Educator  (1934 – 2014)

Jack Moscowitz graduated from Fairfax High School and began teaching science at University High School. He later became a highly recognized principal at University High School and then administrator for the Association California School Administrators. He is responsible for founding the University High School Education Foundation.
Robert W. Rand, Neurologist  (1/28/1923 – 12/14/2013)

Robert W. Rand graduated Fairfax High School, Harvard and then the University of Southern California, School of Medicine. He became one of the most respected neurosurgeons of his time. He was a founding member and Professor of Neurosurgery at UCLA, receiving a UCLA Professional Achievement Award in 1995 along with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International College of Surgeons in the same year.

He was an author of eight textbooks addressing ground breaking work in subjects such as micro-neurosurgery, and is credited with new surgical procedures using a Gamma Knife, Cryosurgery, and use of the surgical microscope.

Aaron Rosenberg, Football, Producer  (8/26/1912 – 9/1/1979)

Aaron Rosenberg graduated from Fairfax High School in 1930 and then attended the University of California where he competed in football and earned All American Honors in 1932 and 1936. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1966.

He was also a film and television producer. His films included The Glenn Miller Story in 1954, the Benny Goodman Story in 1956 and Mutiny on the Bounty in 1962 for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Picture.

Anne Rutherford, Actress  (11/2/1917 – 6/11/2012)

Therese Ann Rutherford made her stage debut at the age of eight, and her film career at eighteen in Waterfront Girl in 1935. He had a major role in 1936 in Gone with the Wind. As Polly in the Andy Hardy series that began in 1938, she reached super star status. She continued to make films after the end of the Andy Hardy series in the early 1940’s through the mid 1970’s.
### Red Hot Chili Peppers

| **Anthony Kiedis, Vocalist**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>(11/1/1962)</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Kiedis was the lead singer, lyricist and co-founder of the Red Hot Chili Peppers in 1983. A punk-fusion band, they created a different style and tone designed to appeal to a much wider audience. They have sold over sixty million albums over the past thirty years and had five albums hit the top five on the charts. In 2012, the Red Hot Chili Peppers were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.</td>
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| **Hillel Slovak, Guitarist**  
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillel Slovak was a founding member of the Red Hot Chili Peppers and its lead guitarist. Slovak played with an intense punk-hard rock style that defined the band. Hillel Slovak was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012.</td>
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| **Michael Peter Balzary, “Flea,” Guitarist**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>(10/16/1962)</em></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Balzry was the bass guitar as well as composer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Meeting Anthony Keidis for the first time at Fairfax High School, they became close, lifelong friends and co-founded the band in 1983. Flea developed his own bass guitar style, combining funk-style bass with psychedelic, punk, and hard rock. As a result, Flea is recognized as one of the most famous bassists in rock music. Rolling Stone magazine has recognized him as the second best bassist of all time. The Red Hot Chili Peppers were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012.</td>
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| **Jack Irons, Drummer**  
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Irons was a founding member and drummer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Irons left the band in 1988 after the death of Hillel Slovak. He returned to work with Pearl Jam and did several solo albums. Irons, along with the rest of the Red Hot Chili Peppers was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Henry Samueli, Business, Philanthropy  (9/20/1954)

Henry Samueli became interested in technology after taking an electronics class at Bancroft Junior High School in 1966. That interest led him eventually to the founding of Broadcom, a leader in the broadband wireless communication industry of which Samueli is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Technology Officer. Broadcom is a Fortune 500 company. Samueli is also the owner of the Anaheim Ducks.

Henry Samueli also is an important philanthropist in Southern California with major contributions to UCLA and Irvine Schools of Engineering. He has also founded the Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library at Chapman University. He also established the Center for Integrative Medicine at the UC Irvine, and the Samueli Institute for Information Biology in Washington, D.C. In addition, the Samueli’s have supported a range of educational and social programs as well as Jewish causes working to preserve Jewish history.


Allan Sherman is a musician, parodist, satirist, and television producer. In the early 1950’s of television he created and produced the hit show *I’ve Got a Secret*. In the late 1950’s and early 60’s, he became a song parodist. This included his song *Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah*, a novelty hit that reached number two on Billboard.


Lawrence Sherry was a major league pitcher for ten years with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Detroit Tigers, Anaheim Angels and Houston Astros. In 1959, he was the World Series Champion and MVP of the series.

Norm Sherry, Baseball  (7/16/1931)

Norm Sherry was a catcher for fourteen years in major league baseball with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets. He is credited with turning Sandy Koufax into one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history.
P.F. Sloan, Songwriter  (9/18/1945)

Philip Gary Schlein is a song writer and singer whose hit song, Eve of Destruction, was the rallying cry for the 26th Amendment to the Constitution to lower the voting age to 18. He wrote songs for Barry McGuire, Mamas and the Papas, Herman’s Hermits and Johnny Rivers throughout the sixties. P.F. Sloan also attended Burroughs Junior High School.

Phil Spector, Songwriter, Producer  (12/26/1939)

Harvey Phillip Spector is one of the most important figures in music during the 1960’s creating the “Wall of Sound” in music. As a record producer and song writer, he produced twenty-five top forty hits during the early sixties.

As a songwriter, he co-wrote the 1965 hit You’ve Lost that Loving Feeling for the Righteous Brothers, the most played sound of the 20th century. His career began performing Rock Island Line in a Fairfax High School talent show. While in high school he wrote To Know Him is to Love Him.

As a producer, writer and musician his songs included On Broadway, Spanish Harlem, Twist and Shout and I Love How You Love Me, He’s a Rebel, Be My Baby, and Unchained Melody. Spector was both a producer and creative artist. Rolling Stone magazine ranks him 63rd on the greatest artists of all time. He has been inducted into the Rock and Roll and Songwriters Hall of Fame.

George “Tuck” Stainback, Baseball*

George “Tuck” Stainback played thirteen years in the major leagues (1934-1946), for the Cubs, Cardinals, Phillies, Brooklyn Dodgers, Tigers, Yankees and Philadelphia Athletics.

Peggy Stevenson, Los Angeles City Councilman  (1/29/1924 – 10/16/2014)

Peggy Stevenson was a Los Angeles City Council Member from 1975 to 1985. She was a major force in the redevelopment of Hollywood.
Roger Wagner, Conductor and Educator  
(1/16/1914 – 9/17/1992)  1929

Roger Wagner was an educator, conductor and chorale director for five decades leading the Roger Wagner Chorale and later the Los Angeles Master Chorale. Wagner was also a professor of music on the UCLA faculty for thirty-two years. He won a Grammy for Best Classical Recording in 1958, and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Roberta Weintraub, LAUSD Board of Education Member

Roberta Weintraub began her political career as a strong anti-bussing advocate and the founder of Bus Stop in the late 1970’s. She began her fifteen-year service on the LAUSD Board of Education in 1978. She was an advocate for a wide range of educational initiatives including student police academy magnet programs. She was also the driving force behind the founding of High Tech High Los Angeles.

Zev Yaroslavsky, Los Angeles County Supervisor  
(12/21/1948)  1966

Zev Yaroslavsky attended Melrose Ave, Bancroft Junior High School and graduated from Fairfax High School. He was a Los Angeles City Councilman from 1975 to 1994 and then he was elected to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors until his retirement in 2014. Yaroslavsky began his career at UCLA supporting Jewish causes in the then Soviet Union. Publicly, he has been an advocate for “managed development” and land use, public transportation, LAPD accountability, homelessness and expansion of cultural and arts programs.
Alan Arkin, Actor, Producer, Director  (3/26/1934)  1951

Alan Wolf Arkin is a movie actor, producer, director as well as a singer and composer. In 1956, he co-wrote the Calypso “Banana Boat Song.” His next big break came in 1963 in the Broadway comedy “Enter Laughing,” for which he won a Tony Award. In the sixties, he produced off Broadway hits like *Eh, Little Murders*, and *The White House Murder Case*. He also directed the original version of *The Sunshine Boys* in 1972, which ran over 500 performances.

In 1966 Alan Arkin won an Academy Award nomination for Best Actor in the film *The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming*, and a second nomination for *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. He won an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in *Little Miss Sunshine*. Arguably his best film performance was in *Catch 22*. He has won a Golden Globe, New York Critic’s Awards and several Laurel Awards for his film and stage work.

Lee Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff  (5/27/1942)  1961

Leroy David "Lee" Baca was the Los Angeles County Sheriff for four terms from 1998 to 2014.

John “Jack” Beckner, Gymnastics  (6/9/1930)  1948

Jack Beckner graduated from Franklin High School in 1948. As a gymnast he participated in the 1952, 1956 and 1960 Olympics. He later became the head coach of the United States Gymnastic team at the 1968 Olympics and was the USC gymnastics coach for 24 years from 1954 to 1981. While at USC he coached 16 NCAA Gold Medal Gymnastic Champions. He was also a highly respected gymnastics judge. He is a member of the U.S. and International Gymnastics Hall of Fame. He has also been inducted into the USC Athletic Hall of Fame and the International Gymnastics Judges Hall of Fame.
Rocky Delgadillo, Los Angeles City Attorney  (7/15/1960)  1978

Rockard John "Rocky" Delgadillo was the Los Angeles City Attorney from 2001 to 2009. As City Attorney, Delgadillo moved attorneys into communities to directly address the community concerns. He also increased gang injunctions to curtail gang activity.

Daryl Gates, Los Angeles Police Chief  (8/30/1926 – 4/16/2010)  1944

Daryl Francis Gates was the Los Angeles Police Chief for fourteen years from 1978 to 1992 that included the Rodney King riots. He is credited with the creation of the SWAT team and the DARE program in Los Angeles Unified School District Schools.

Patrick Hillings, U.S. Congressman  (2/19/1923 – 7/20/1994)  1941

Patrick Jerome Hillings served in the United States Congress four terms from 1951 to 1959 representing the seat formerly held by Richard Nixon.

Dr. Sammy Lee, Olympian, Physician  (8/1/1920)  1939

Dr. Samuel "Sammy" Lee, a Korean-American, is the first Asian-American to win an Olympic Gold medal in 1948 and the first man to win back to back platform diving gold medals in 1952. At the same time, he was a student-athlete at the University of Southern California where he earned his medical degree. Dr. Lee is a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame and the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. A Los Angeles City School is named after Dr. Lee.
Louis Nowells, Los Angeles City Councilman  (1915 – 2005)

Louis Nowells was a twenty-three year veteran of the Los Angeles Fire Department and then a Los Angeles City Councilman from 1963 to 1974. He was a conservative Republican and an outspoken opponent of busing to integrate schools, and led the effort of the L.A. City Council to oppose busing. He also led the fight to preserve Romulo Pico Adobe, built in 1834, and an historical site in Mission Hills.

Bobby Riggs, Tennis  (2/25/1918 - 10/25/1995)  1935

Robert Larimore "Bobby" Riggs won three major singles championships during his career including Wimbledon and the U.S. National Championships in 1939. He is also won doubles and mixed doubles championships at Wimbledon. Bobby Riggs is also known for the “Battle of the Sexes” tennis match with Billie Jean King in 1973 which he lost.

Gene Roddenberry, Writer, Producer  (8/19/1921 – 10/24/1991)  1939

Eugene Wesley Roddenberry attended Fletcher Drive, Burbank Jr. High and Franklin High. He was the writer, producer and creator of *Star Trek* and *Star Trek the Next Generation*, the single most successful science fiction television and film series. The film series continued after his death in 1991 with five additional movies.


Rodger Ward is a two time Indianapolis 500 Champion in 1959 and 1962, and is a member of the Racing Hall of Fame. He had also accumulated numerous midget and stock car championships during his career. Following his retirement, he was a commentator for the Wide World of Sports for Indy and NASCAR racing events.
Arthur Alarcon, Federal Judge  (8/14/1925 – 1/28/2015)  1943

Arthur Lawrence Alarcón graduated the University of Southern California Law School and practiced law as a Deputy District Attorney and then worked for the Governor’s office on appeals, parole and extradition. He then became a Superior Court judge in 1964 and California Appeals Court Justice in 1978. In 1991, he was appointed by President Carter to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals where he served for 23 years until his death.


Ricky Lynn Bell was a star running back for the University of Southern California and finished 2nd and 3rd in the Heisman Trophy voting in 1975 and 1976. He was the first draft pick in 1977 and played professional football for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the San Diego Chargers. Bell died of a rare blood disorder in 1984. Mario Van Peeples played Bell in a film about his life, A Triumph of the Heart: The Ricky Bell Story. Ricky Bell was elected into the College Football Hall of Fame.

John Teddy Buckner, Trumpet  (7/16/1909 – 9/22/1994)  1928

John Edward “Teddy” Buckner was a disciple of Louis Armstrong, a Dixieland trumpet player. He began his career in 1949 joining Kid Ory’s Creole Jazz band playing at the Beverly Cavern. Five years later, he formed his own band. Teddy Buckner and his Dixieland Band played regularly at the “400 Club” at 3330 West 8th in Los Angeles in the 1950’s, and later played regularly at Disneyland’s New Orleans Square. Throughout the 1950’s, he worked with Lionel Hampton, Sonny Clay, Buck Clayton, T-Bone Walker, and later he recorded the soundtrack for King Creole with Elvis Presley. During this time, he also did world tours of Europe and Asia. He is also known for his work on the film St. Louis Blues in 1958.
Joe Caldwell, Basketball  (11/1/1941)  1960

Joe Louis Caldwell was a standout basketball player at Arizona State University, earned an Olympic Gold medal as part of the 1964 Men’s Olympic Basketball team and then played six seasons in the ABA and NBA. He was a four-time NBA-ABA All-Star.

His impact on the game may have been greater as the “father of free-agency” in professional basketball. Being one of the first basketball players to engage an agent to negotiate his contract, he then took the NBA to court for not allowing him to move to another league without sitting out a year. Caldwell challenged the owners, sued and won in Federal Court.

Don Cherry, Jazz Coronet, Trumpet  (11/18/1936 – 10/19/1995)

Donald Eugene Cherry spent so much time skipping classes at Fremont High School in order to play music at Jefferson High School that he was sent to Jacob Riis High School, a disciplinary school.

Don Cherry was a major force in American jazz both as a “pocket” coronet and trumpet player and as the creator of “World Fusion Music”, a mixture of African, Indian and Middle Eastern music tones and styles. He gained notoriety first with Art Farmer and then joined Ornette Coleman in the late 1950’s. The relationship between Cherry and Coleman had a dramatic effect on the development of jazz.

In the later part of his life, Don Cherry toured extensively both playing with a wide range of recognized and new talent and developing local talent internationally. He was also a Dartmouth professor of American jazz.

Willie Crawford, Baseball  (9/7/1946 – 8/27-2004)

Willie Crawford was one of the greatest high school athletes to come out of Los Angeles competing and starring in football, baseball and track and field. He was signed by Tommy Lasorda two days after graduation from Fremont High School. As a major league baseball player, he played fourteen seasons in the major leagues, twelve of which were with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He was a World Series Champion with the Dodgers in 1965.
Edward Davis, Los Angeles Chief of Police, California State Senator

Edward Michael Davis was the Los Angeles Police Chief from 1969 to 1978. Davis also served as a California State Representative and Senator. Davis gained notoriety during the Sharon Tate murders, and is recognized for his community policing program. He is also responsible for more controversial programs such as the Community Resources Against Street Hoodlums (CRASH) the anti-gang unit of the LAPD.


Eric Keith Davis played seventeen seasons in major league baseball as a second baseman, mostly with the Cincinnati Reds. While his career was hampered with health issues, he was a two-time All-Star, a three-time Golden Glove, two-time Silver Slugger, World Series Champion and the first player to hit thirty home runs and steal fifty bases in a single season. He was the Baseball Comeback Player of the Year in 1996. He also won the Roberto Clemente Award, and is enshrined in the Cincinnati Reds Hall of Fame.

Bobby Doerr, Baseball (5/7/1918) 1935

Robert Pershing “Bobby” Doerr played fourteen seasons with the Boston Red Sox, 1937 to 1951. He was a nine-time All-Star during his career. His uniform #1 has been retired by the Red Sox, and is a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

John Dominis, Photojournalist (1921)

John Dominis was a graduate of Fremont High School and the photojournalism class of Clarence Bach. He enrolled in cinematography at USC only to leave school in 1943 and enlist in the Air Force. After the war, he became a freelance photographer and worked for Life magazine. John Dominis covered the globe, including six Olympics. It was the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City that he shot his iconic photograph of Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising their fists in protest on the medal stand. During his
career he covered the war in Vietnam, shot classic photographs of major celebrities and the three Kennedy brothers during their careers.

Juan Flecha, Educator

Juan Flecha graduated from Fremont High School and became a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District and then principal for Eagle Rock High School and Thomas Jefferson High Schools. He then took over as Administrator of Operations in Educational Service Center North, which covered 200 schools K-12 from Verdugo Hills to Woodland Hills. In March 2015, he was elected President of the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles.

Lou Fillipo, Boxer, Referee  (12/1/1925 – 11/2/1992)

Lou Fillipo was a professional boxer who had over 200 amateur fights and forty professional fights. It is during his post-boxing career that Lou Fillipo gained recognition as a referee. He was the referee in over eighty professional fights and including all four of the Rocky movies. Lou Fillipo was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame.


John Florea was a photojournalist known for his work with Life magazine and during World War II. He photographed key moments of both VE and VJ Days. One of his first assignments was the Life essay “A Day in the Life of the Marine Corps Raiders.” He became a 1st Lieutenant and headed to the South Pacific as one of the first war correspondents. He covered Tarawa and Rabaul. He then covered the liberation of the Bergen Belsen concentration camp. He covered the surrender of the Japanese on the USS Missouri as well as the liberation of Paris.

After the war he became a celebrity photographer for Life magazine and Colliers. In the latter part of his career, he was a producer and director from the 1960’s through the 1980’s.
David Fulcher, Football (11/28/1964)

David Fulcher graduated Fremont High School and attended Arizona State University. He played eight seasons in the NFL mostly with the Cincinnati Bengals. As a defensive back, he was a three-time Pro Bowl Selection and an All-Pro selection in 1989. David Fulcher has a non-profit organization designed to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis and another to address incarcerated adults. He is the Head Coach of Cincinnati Christian University beginning in 2016.

Kenneth Hahn, L. A. County Supervisor (8/19/1920 – 10/12/1997) 1938

Kenneth Hahn is an iconic politician in Los Angeles who served as an L.A. City Councilman from 1947 to 1952 and then served on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for 40 years until 1992. Kenneth Hahn was a strong supporter of civil rights throughout his entire career. In 1961, he was the only Los Angeles public official to meet with Martin Luther King following the Birmingham March. He established the paramedic program in Los Angeles and was one of the major forces in bringing the Dodgers to Los Angeles and putting call boxes on freeways. However, it was his consistent advocacy for social justice causes for which he will be remembered.

George Hendrick, Baseball (10/18/1949)

George Hendrick played eighteen years in Major League Baseball most memorably for the St. Louis Cardinals. During his career he was a four-time All Star, two-time Silver Slugger and two-time World Series Champion.


Ken Jones was the first African American anchor in Los Angeles for the television station KTTV. His major break in television came with his coverage of the 1965 Watts Riots. During his time as anchor, he covered the Robert Kennedy assassination and the Manson murders. He won an Emmy for a special on health care.
Mark Kaufman, Photojournalist (1923)

Mark Kaufman at seventeen was the youngest photographer to photograph Eleanor Roosevelt for the cover for Life magazine. He was a graduate of Fremont High School and Clarence Bach’s “ground-breaking” photojournalism class. He shot twenty covers for Life magazine during his twenty-year career with Life. In 1953 he became the founding photo editor for Sport Illustrated. He is also credited with changing sports photography using a motorized digital camera and telephoto lens. He then became Director of Photography for Playboy magazine in the 1970’s. Mark Kaufman has won the White House News Photographer Grand Award and Photographer of the Year from the Encyclopedia Britannica. In his later years he taught photography at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Chester Earl “Chet” Lemon, Baseball (2/12/1955)

Chet Lemon was drafted by the Oakland “A’s” after graduating Fremont High School in 1972. He played fifteen years in Major League Baseball with the Detroit Tigers and Chicago White Sox. During his career, he was a three-time All-Star and a World Series Champion in 1984.


Maxine Mitchell was a four-time U.S. Fencing Champion and five-time Olympian. She was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Fencing Hall of Fame.

John Muir, Gymnastics 1946

John Muir was the ASB president at Fremont High School where he lettered in basketball and gymnastics. He then attended Occidental College where he competed in gymnastics. He then coached gymnastics at Los Angeles High School where he won four Los Angeles City Championships.

In 1964 he was named U.S. Olympic Gymnastics coach. 1968 coached at Pierce College – 10 individual state champions in 8 years.
John Ottina (1932 - 9/30/2008)  1949

John Ottina, an ESL student at 79th Street School, rose to be the U.S. Commissioner of Education (Secretary of Education). He was also Assistant Secretary of Administration and Management in the former federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). He was also the Trustee Emeritus of the Kennedy Center. His career began as a teacher and counselor in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Helen Pastall Perez, Tennis  (5/7/1929 – 12/12/2005) Fremont 1946

Helen Perez (nee Helen Stella Pastall) graduated from Fremont High School in 1946. In the same year she won the U.S. Girl’s Title. She was ranked number 8 in the world in 1947. She reached the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open in 1949. During her career she defeated most all of the great players of her era. She was ranked in the top ten women’s players in 1948-1950 and 1953-1954.

The Penguins

Dexter Tisby, Vocalist  (3/10/1935)
Cleveland Duncan, Vocalist  (7/23/1935 – 11/7/2012)

Cleveland Duncan and Dexter Tisby were founding members of the Penguins. Their number one hit was *Earth Angel* in 1955. Recorded in a garage, *Earth Angel* was a classic song of rock and roll and the doo wop era. The song is listed on the top 500 songs of all-time by Rolling Stone Magazine. *Earth Angel* sold over ten million records. The Penguins broke up in 1958 and Cleve Duncan purchased the rights to the Penguins and continued to perform until his death in 2012. Cleve Duncan and Dexter Tisby have been inducted into the Vocalists Hall of Fame.
Curtiss Rowe, Basketball

Curtiss Rowe graduated Fremont High School and then played basketball at UCLA. At UCLA he was a key member of the team winning three National Basketball Championships in 1969, 1970 and 1971. He was drafted in the first round of the 1971 NBA draft and played eight years in the NBA with the Detroit Pistons and the Boston Celtics. He was an NBA All-Star in 1976.

John Smith, Track and Field*  (8/5/1950)

John Smith remains the World Record holder for the 440 yard dash and won Gold Medals in the 1971 Pan American Games in the 400 meters and 4X400 meter relay.

Richard Stebbins, Olympian  (6/14/1945)

Richard Vaughn Stebbins was an Olympic gold medalist in the 400 meter relay at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.


George Strock was a photo journalist and a graduate of Clarence Bach’s photo journalism class at Fremont High School in 1928. After graduation he photographed Hollywood stars, crime and sports for the L.A. Times and then he joined the staff of Life magazine in 1940.

He was assigned by Life to cover World War II first in Europe and then the South Pacific. He photographed campaigns of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, Kwajalein Atoll and Enewetak Atoll. He was nearly killed twice in New Guinea. At the Battle of Buna-Gona he shot a classic photo of American soldiers who had been killed on the beach. The photo was published by Life in 1943. Time Magazine called it “The photo that won World War II.”
Robert “Bobby” Tolan, Baseball  (11/19/1945)

Bobby Tolan played professional baseball from 1965 to 1979 for seven different teams. He was a World Series Champion in 1967 with the St. Louis Cardinals.

Gene Vollnogle, Football  (9/30/1930 -  ) 1948

Gene Vollnogle graduated from Fremont High School in 1948. While the football coach at Carson High school his teams won 10 City Section championships in his 34 seasons of coaching. He won two City titles as a co-coach at Wilmington Banning from 1957-62 and eight at Carson from 1963-90, when he became the school’s first football coach. His overall record was 289-73-1. At Carson, the Colts won titles in 1966, 1970, 1972, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1990. School, at one

Earle Washington, Vice-President, Rockwell

Earle Washington has held several key positions at Rockwell including Senior Vice President of Rockwell for Communications, Vice President for Advertising and Public Relations, Vice President of Transportation and Vice President of Strategic Management of Rockwell’s Defense Electronics businesses.

Bob Watson, Baseball  (4/10/1946)  1964

Robert José Watson had an eighteen-year career in major league baseball, thirteen of those years with the Houston Astros. He was a two-time All-Star. Following his retirement, Bob Watson became General Manager of the New York Yankees, becoming the second African American GM in baseball. He won a World Series title in 1996. He then became the Vice-President of Major League Baseball through 2010. Bob Watson was one of the first Black Major League Baseball executives.
Henry Waxman, U.S. Congressman  (9/12/1939)  1957

Henry Arnold Waxman has served the West Los Angeles area for 40 years. He is one of the most influential members of Congress and one of the most prolific lawmakers of modern times. He sponsored laws to make infant formula safer and more nutritious (1980) and bring low-priced generic drugs to market (1984). He sponsored legislation regarding clean the air (1990), and to provide services and medical care to people with AIDS (1996). He also led the reform and modernization the Postal Service (2006). Henry Waxman also was instrumental in the passage of the Affordable Care Act, President Obama’s signature health-care law, in 2010.

Roy Williams, Actor and Cartoonist  (7/30/1907 – 11/7/1976)

Roy Williams was a television actor who played Roy, the adult Mouseketeer on the Mickey Mouse Club. After graduating from Fremont High School, he was hired by Walt Disney in 1930. He is credited with designing the iconic Mickey Mouse “mouse ears.” He also designed over 100 insignias for the U.S. military during World War II. He has been recognized as a “Disney Legend” in 1992.


John Gerald Zimmerman became one of the most recognized and talented photographers of his time. Zimmerman at Fremont High School took a three-year photography course taught by future Hollywood cinematographer Clarence Bach. The program was responsible for launching the career of no less than six Life magazine photographers.

He began as a photographic correspondent for Life magazine, capturing the assassination attempt of Vice President Truman. Zimmerman then became one of the first staff photographers for Sports Illustrated from 1956 to 1963. He covered six Olympic Games beginning in 1952, four winter Olympics and most other sports.
Clarence Bach, Photojournalism Teacher

Clarence Bach developed in 1924, the first of its kind in the nation, photojournalism course at Fremont High School. During his career he trained six Life magazine photojournalists, the founding editor of Sports Illustrated and over 120 World War II combat photographers. Their photographs are recognizable worldwide.
Enos Cabell, Baseball (10/8/1949)

Enos Milton Cabell, Jr. played fourteen seasons in major league baseball as a third and first baseman from 1972 to 1986. Five of those years were with the Houston Astros. Cabell was inducted into the Astros Hall of Fame and currently works as a special assistant to the Astros General Manager.

Mark Cargill, Violinist

Mark Cargill is a smooth jazz violinist. He was classically trained, but blends classical music with R&B and jazz. He is a recording artist, and is also a mainstay of the American Idol Pit Band. He is also a Grammy Award winner.

Ralph Dills, California State Senator (1910 - 5/17/2002) 1927

Ralph C. Dills served forty-two years as a California State legislator. He began his career as a California Representative in 1939. He was one of two California legislators to oppose Japanese internment during World War II. Dills retired as a result of terms limits in 1998.

He advanced legislation to build El Camino College, Cal State Long Beach State University, and the UCLA Law School. He also proposed Drivers’ Education and sponsored collective bargaining. He also sponsored legislation in 1982 for partial reparations for Japanese interred during World War II.

Warren Furutani (10/16/1947)

Warren T. Furutani is a former California Assemblyman who served two terms from 2008-2012. He has also served on the Los Angeles Unified School District School Board, the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Los Angeles City Board of Public Works. While Assemblyman, he was a strong advocate for career-tech education, workforce issues and education.

Ernest Frederick Smith was an All-American football player and tackle at the University of Southern California. He then played four seasons with the Green Bay Packers from 1935 to 1939. He was an All-Pro and Pro-Bowl selection. He has been inducted into the Collegiate Football Hall of Fame.

Leo Terrell, Radio and Activist (2/1/1955) 1972

Leo James Terrell is a recognized civil rights attorney and talk radio host on Talk Radio 790 KABC in Los Angeles. He has been an outspoken advocate for civil rights and liberal causes, often appearing as an analyst on network news programs.

Harry Turtledove, Author (6/14/1949) 1966

Harry Norman Turtledove is a prolific writer whose work bridges several genres including history, alternative history, fantasy, and science fiction. He is a master of alternative history, writing alternative scenarios to historical events such as victory of the South in the Civil War or an alien invasion during World War II. His works include novels, novellas, short stories, biographies, essays and anthologies. He also wrote under numerous pen names. His notable works include World War Anthology, Southern Victory Series, Crosstime Traffic and the Two Georges.

Vern Wolfe, Coach (7/14/1922 – 10/26/2000)

Vernon Richard Wolfe became the track and field coach at the University of Southern California for twenty-one years from 1963 to 1984. During this period of time, USC won seven National Championships in track and field, and his athletes won twenty-nine individual championships.

Vern Wolfe is also credited as an innovator in track field by being a proponent of weightlifting as a part of the overall training regime. Wolfe has been inducted into the USC Athletic Hall of Fame and the Hall of Fame of the U.S. Track and Field Association.
Yolanda Aguerrebere graduated with the Winter Class 1966. She then attended Cal State L.A. earning her Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics. She then earned an M.S. and Teaching Credential from U.S.C. She then received her Administrative Credential, M.S. in School Management and Administration and her PhD in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University.

She began her education career at Garfield High School. From 1979 to 1982 she taught with Jaime Escalante. She then became principal of Belvedere Middle School from 1996 to 1998.

She is currently a professor at Pepperdine University. She is recognized internationally doing work at universities throughout Europe. In the U.S. she served as President of the Hispanic Outreach Task Force to improve the quality of life in the Hispanic community. She also served on the Board of Jovenes, Inc., which addresses homeless youth. She is also the Scholarship Committee Chair for Build the Dreams Scholarship Fundraiser, raising funds to support at-risk, low income and often homeless youth to have access to post-secondary experiences.

Yolanda Aguerrebere has been highly recognized at the Federal, State and Local level for her leadership in education and many accomplishments.

Richard Alatorre began his political career as the student body president of Garfield High School in 1961, his senior year. Eleven years later, he was elected to the California Assembly where he served for twelve years, 1973 to 1985. In 1985, he was elected to the Los Angeles City Council where he was a strong voice for civil rights. He was pro-development, established enterprise zones in minority neighborhoods and proposed homeless shelters. Richard Alatorre, following retirement from City Council, led several city and state agencies including the MTA for Los Angeles.

Carlos Almaraz was one of the early members of the Chicano Street Arts Movement and a founding member of Los Four, a famous and influential Latino art collective. He did a lot of artwork for Cesar Chavez.
and the Farmworkers Union. His Echo Park series of paintings in the late 1970’s achieved worldwide acclaim. His paintings continue to be exhibited widely.

William Anton, LAUSD Superintendent

William Anton was the first Hispanic Superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District. After graduating Garfield High School, he was drafted and served in World War II. Following the war, he earned his B.A. and Masters from Cal State L.A. and began teaching at Rowan Avenue School in 1952. In 1990, he became Superintendent only to resign twenty-six months later because of difficulties working with the Board of Education.

John Arguelles, California Supreme Court Justice (8/22/1927) 1945

John Arguelles served as a Municipal Court and then Superior Court Judge from 1963 to 1984. He then was appointed a California State Appeals Court Judge from 1984 to 1987. Beginning in 1987, he served as an Associate Justice for the California Supreme Court. He retired in 1989 after 25 years as a California judge.

Ersi Arvizu, Vocalist, Boxer, Boxing Trainer 1966

Ersi Arvizu as an eight-year old sang Ranchera songs with her sister and brother during intermission of boxing matches at the Olympic Auditorium. She began her professional singing career in mid-1960. In 1971 she recorded the East Los Angeles anthem and then released a million seller, Sabor a Mi. She became the lead singer with El Chanco on Kapp and MCA records. In 2008 she recorded her first solo CD, Friend for Life.” That CD also included Windows of Dreams which she also wrote. She also collaborated with Linda Ronstadt, as well as performing at the Apollo in New York and the Greek in Los Angeles.

Ersi Arvizu also began as a boxer and then a boxing trainer. She trained Jaime Castillo who won the NBA Super Featherweight Championship in 1995. She also worked in the corner of a thirteen-year old Oscar De La Hoya in a Hawaii amateur tournament in 1986. In 1999 she was selected as the United States assistant women’s boxing coach. She spent eighteen years training boxing to youth in East Los Angeles. Ersi Arvizu continues to perform in many local fundraisers to support high school educational programs.
Ernie Ayala, Community Leader

Ernie Ayala has been a two-term President of the Rosemead Chamber of Commerce and, President of the Rosemead Kiwanis Club and its Regional Lieutenant Governor. He was also a key member and officer in the Boys of Belvedere, a nonprofit organization providing scholarships to students from East Los Angeles.

Jon Bruno, Episcopal Bishop (11/17/1946) 1963

Joseph Jon Bruno has served since 2000 as an Episcopal Bishop in Los Angeles. Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1972, Bishop Bruno has been a powerful voice in Los Angeles as an advocate for youth and families, for gang diversion, and for immigration. He has also worked for civil and human rights. He was the founder of the Church’s Institute for Urban Research and Development. He also created the "Hands in Healing" initiative for education and action related to eradicating violence in local, regional, national, and international contexts.

Joe, Bob and Steve Delgado, Delgado Brothers, Musicians

The Delgado Brothers all attended Garfield High School. Joe Delgado played guitar and was the vocalist, Steve Delgado played the drums and Bob Delgado was on bass. They are a blues and R&B band with Latin overtones. They are original, fiery and exceptional musicians in telling their stories. The band is over thirty years old and has been described as passionate about East Los Angeles, its history and culture focusing often on topical issues. They have appeared regularly at venues throughout Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley.

*Man without a Plan* and *I Want to Know* on their *Learn to Fly* album reflect their approach to music that cuts across many age spans. In the 1990’s John Mayall covered two of their songs, *If I Don’t Get Home* and *Something about My Baby*. That financed the Brothers third CD and the establishment of their own record company, Bell Asher Records.
Oscar DeLaHoya, Boxing  (2/4/1973)  1991

Oscar DeLaHoya, “Golden Boy,” is one of the most famous boxers in American history. Following his amateur career, he won the Olympic Gold Medal in the Lightweight Boxing Class in 1992.

DeLaHoya won ten world titles in seven different weight classes during his professional career. He retired from the ring in 2009 having earned more dollars than any other boxer in history. He is the current owner of Golden Boy Productions.

Ofelia Esparza, Artist  (1930)

Ofelia Esparza graduated Garfield High School in 1950. She then attended East Los Angeles College and then earned her B.A. and teaching credential for Cal State Los Angeles. She began her thirty year teaching career in 1969. Since 1980 she has been known for her Day of the Dead altar installations, a tradition in her family for four generations.

Ofelia Esparza is a self-taught artist with an interest in pre-Columbian history and indigenous art. Her work is in both public and private collections including Plaza de la Raza, Chimaya Gallery, Pico House galleries, Southwest Museum, Orange Center of Contemproary Art, Japanese American National Museum, and the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach to name a few.

She has been recognized by the California Legislature, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, and the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor. She has also received numerous other awards for her work.

Harry Gamboa, Artist  (1951)

Harry Gamboa helped lead the 1968 student walkouts at Garfield High School, protesting the substandard conditions in East Los Angeles schools. Also at Garfield High School, he formed a performance art group with other students entitled Asco that included a spray painting protest at LACMA of the lack of representation of Latino artists at the museum. After graduation from Garfield High School, Henry Gamboa graduated from the Otis Art Institute and began a career as a photographer and urban artist. His work has been displayed internationally including at the Smithsonian. Mayor Villaraigosa recognized Harry Gamboa with the Latino Heritage Award in 2010. His photographs can be seen also throughout the City of Los Angeles. Henry Gamboa is currently also teaching at Cal Arts.
Alexander Gonzalez, Educator  (1946)

Alexander Gonzalez was the Provost at Fresno State University, President at Cal State University San Marcos and President at Sacramento State University beginning in 2003. Gonzalez recently completed “Destination 2010,” an initiative to transform the campus at Sacramento State into a premier metropolitan university. “Destination 2010” led to the creation of new academic and student programs, and community support for scholarships.

Dan Guerrero, Theatrical Agent and Producer

Dan Guerrero is an award-winning producer for network and cable television and live arts and concerts. He’s produced talk shows and music specials for NBC, PBS, HBO, Univision and Telemundo. He has also directed events at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the Kennedy Center.

Dan Guerrero also tours extensively with an autobiographical solo show, Gaytino. The show covers decades of Mexican-American/Chicano history and the gay experience from a unique and personal perspective.

Mark Guerrero, Guitarist, Songwriter

Mark Guerrero began playing in rock & roll bands at the age of 12 and led the popular East Los Angeles band Mark and the Escorts, who recorded two singles for G.N.P, Crescendo Records. He has recorded as a solo artist of Ode Records – produced by Lou Adler – Capitol Records, and with his group Tango for A&M Records. His songs have been recorded by such artists as Herb Alpert, Trini Lopez, Chan Romero, and his late father, Lalo Guerrero, known as the “Father of Chicano Music.” His song, “I’m Brown” was featured in the Grammy Museum in 2009 in an exhibit called “Songs of Conscience Sounds of Freedom.”

Mark has performed on stage with artists such as Eric Burdon, El Chicano, Tierra, Redbone and Lalo Guerrero. He also hosts a popular Chicano music website, markguerrero.com, which is dedicated to promoting and chronicling Mark’s music and history, as well as the history of Chicano music.

Mark Guerrero has lectured on the subject of Chicano music at universities, consulted for museums, and hosted an internet radio show called “Chicano Music Chronicles.” Mark Guerrero is currently performing as a solo artist with his band, the Mark Guerrero Band.
Wayne Alaniz Healy, Artist  (1964)

Wayne Healy graduated Garfield High School with the Winter Class, 1964. He then attended Cal State Polytechnic College in Pomona earning a B.A. in Aerospace Engineering and Mathematics in 1968. He then earned a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1973 from the University of Cincinnati. He received a Master of Fine Arts from Cal State University Northridge in 1999.

Wayne Healy as an artist has a wide range of public and personal art. His work includes historic murals and 3D and multimedia sculptures in concrete and bronze. His public works are exhibited in Maryland, Los Angeles, Nagoya, Utah and Burbank. His private works include serigraphs, mono-silk screen and etchings. His work is held in private collections internationally. He held his first exhibit of Chicano art in Europe in 1983. He has exhibited in Ireland, Egypt, Pakistan, Japan, Spain, Qatar, England, Scotland, Chile and Mexico. He has received numerous awards including the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment.

In East Los Angeles, his East Los Angeles “Streetscapers” provides job training and art experiences for young artists. He continues to run regular workshops throughout the Southland for young artists.

Antonia Hernandez, Director, California Community Foundation  1966

Antonia Hernandez in 2004 became the Executive Director of the California Community Foundation. The foundation supports nonprofit organizations and public institutions with funds for health and human services, affordable housing, early childhood education, community arts and culture and other areas of need. Previously she had been the President and General Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF).

She has also been a staff attorney with the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice and counsel to the United States Committee on the Judiciary. She is member of the boards of directors of the American Automobile Association, The Automobile Club of Southern California, Council of Foundations and the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities. In addition, she serves with the Commission on Presidential Debates, the Los Angeles 2020 Commission, the JFK Library Foundation’s Profile in Courage Award and the UCLA Board of Advisors. Throughout her career Antonia Hernandez has been recognized for her tireless commitment to minority communities, health and education as well as a wide range of social and civil rights issues.
Willie Herron, Artist and Musician

William F. Herron is a musician, visual artist and founding member of both the Chicano conceptual performance art group, ASCO and the Chicano punk band, Los Illegals. He studied art at the Otis Art Institute and the Pasadena College of Art and Design. His work in public art has been exhibited and reproduced worldwide for over forty years at venues such as the Royal College of Art in London, the Smithsonian and the George Pompidou Museum of Art in Paris. Willie Herron is also very supportive of new and often unappreciated Latino artists and provides assistance to their efforts. He currently operates a design studio in East Los Angeles.

Raymond Hill, Los Angeles Fire Chief (10/14/1914)

Raymond Hill was the Los Angeles Fire Department Chief from 1966 to 1975. He spent thirty-eight years in the Los Angeles Fire Department beginning in 1937.


William Hines was a highly recognized cinematographer in Hollywood for almost a half a century. He has worked on almost two dozen television series including The A-Team, Rhoda, McGyver, and Murphy Brown. He is also the author of two books, Operating Cinematography for Film and Video and Job Descriptions for Film, Video and CGI. He was a founder of the Film Craftsman Guild where he served on the Board of Governors for twenty years and as president for two years. He has received numerous awards for his work.

Harry Hufford, Chief Administrative Office, Los Angeles County (10/24/1931)

Harry Hufford graduated Garfield High School in 1949, UCLA in 1953 and Loyola School of Law. Hufford spent most of his life in Public Service becoming the Chief Administrative Officer for L.A. County in 2000.

Ray Jimenez “Lil Ray” was a “brown-eyed” soul singer in the 1960’s. His first record was *There’s Something on Your Mind.* He sang briefly with Thee Midniters. He was one of the major voices of the Eastside Sound with a dynamic stage presence and being able to sign up tempo rhythm and blues as well as soul.

Los Lobos

David Hidalgo, Vocalist, Songwriter and Guitarist (10/6/54)

David Hidalgo is the co-founder of the band Los Lobos and Latin Playboys that combines Rock and Latin Folk Music with a range of other music styles from Tex Mex to R&B. Hildago is a vocalist and guitarist who is also a songwriter for the group. Beginning in the early 1980’s, Los Lobos produced several albums and made a number of live performances. They reached international recognition with their version of *La Bamba* in 1987 that topped U.S. and British charts. Throughout the 1970’s and 1980’s Los Lobos toured internationally and they continued recording. From their beginnings 40 years earlier their songs stand a test of time including *Will the Wolf Survive?*, *Saint Behind the Glass*, *Angel Dance* and Matter of Time. They are multiple Grammy Award winners.

Louie Pérez, Drummer, Guitarist (1/29/53)

Louis Perez is the drummer, guitarist, principal songwriter and co-founder for Los Lobos and later the Latin Playboys.

Cesar Rosas, Guitarist, Vocalist and Songwriter (9/26/1954)

Cesar Rosas is a guitarist and vocalist for Los Lobos.

George Salazar, Drummer

Conrad Lozano, Bass Guitarist (3/21/1951)

Conrad Lozano started his first band, Euphoria in 1966 at Garfield High School. Later he became the bass guitarist for Los Lobos.
Hirth Martinez, Singer, Songwriter and Guitarist

Hirth Martinez was discovered by Bob Dylan. He recorded two critically acclaimed albums, *Hirth from Earth* and *Big Bright Street*. He has written thousands of songs and poems crossing multiple genres from sambas to ballads.

Hirth is known for his sophisticated melodies, lyrics, and rhymes. During the 1960’s, he was a guitarist for Don Tosti, Joe Loco and Sal Chico as well as working with jazz artists such as Art Pepper, Joe Pass and Ray Charles. His songs have been covered by great artists such as Carly Simon, Paul Butterfield, Manfred Mann and Julio Iglesias.

Carlos Mencia, Comedian

Ned Arnel “Carlos” Mencia graduated from Garfield High School and then attended Cal State Los Angeles majoring in electrical engineering. He left school to pursue a career in comedy. He was a regular at L.A.’s Laugh Factory, Comedy Store and L.A. Cabaret. In 2005, he had his own show on Comedy Central called the *Mind of Mencia*.

William Munnell, Judge

William Munnell graduate Garfield High School and the University of Southern California. He passed the State Bar in 1949 and was then elected to the California State Assembly where he served 5 terms. He left the legislature when he was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Dr. Max Offenberg, Physician, Community Activist, Philanthropist

Dr. Max Offenberg was an early advocate for universal health care. In the 1950’s the House Un-American Activities Committee investigated him for being a Communist. As a result, he was black-listed in the medical profession. He continued to serve the people of East Los Angeles, establishing clinics and providing health care for individuals least able to afford it.
Richard Polanco, California State Senator  (3/4/1951)

Richard G. Polanco was the senior class president at Garfield High School. He was first elected to the California Assembly in 1986 and served four terms until 1994. He was then elected to the California Senate in 1998 where he became the majority leader. He retired from the Senate in 2002.

He is best known for working to increase Latino membership in California government, increasing the number of Latinos in the legislature from 7 to 24. He was also a major proponent of education issues including after school and summer school programs, and the California Citizenship program.

George Ramos, Journalism  (10/21/1947 – 7/21/2011)

George Ramos was a reporter, editor and columnist at the Los Angeles Times who played a key role in a groundbreaking newspaper series on Latinos in Southern California that won the paper a Pulitzer Prize in 1984. The Latino Project received the Pulitzer gold medal for meritorious public service. Seventeen Latino journalists worked on the twenty-seven-part series. Ramos also contributed to the paper’s Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake. George Ramos throughout his career was an insightful, fair and tireless advocate for the Latino community in Los Angeles. George Ramos was also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern California.

Rick Rosas, Bassist  (9/10/1949 – 11/6/2014)

Rick Rosas was an accomplished bass player appearing with many of the greatest musicians of his time including Neil Young, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, Johnny Rivers, Jerry Lee Lewis, Paul McCartney and Ron Wood. Throughout his career he was one of the most sought after session musicians in Los Angeles. He also played with Buffalo Springfield and toured extensively with Neil Young and Crazy Horse. He also worked with Young on six albums from 1999 to 2008.
Estaban Torres, U.S. Congressman  (1/27/1930)  1949

Esteban Edward Torres contributed greatly to East Los Angeles and the greater L.A. community. In 1968, he founded The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU), a community action program that under his leadership grew to be one of the nation’s largest anti-poverty agencies. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter appointed Torres to the post of U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, France. He was then elected to the U.S. Congress in 1982 and served until 1999 when he retired.

Patssi Valdez, Artist  (1951)  1970

Patssi Valdez graduated Garfield High School in 1970 and then the Otis Art Institute. She is recognized today as an avant-garde expressionist painter. Her work is vibrant and colorful and reflects social, political and feminist issues affecting the Hispanic population. She is exhibited extensively nationally including at the Smithsonian and the National Hispanic Museum of Art.

She is highly recognized in the art world being a recipient of a J. Paul Getty Arts Fellowship, National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship and Brody Arts Fellowship. She is also a founding member of ASCO, an East Los Angeles Art Collective.

Leo Wolinsky, Journalism  1967

Leo Wolinsky worked at the Times for thirty-one years in a variety of senior positions, including executive editor and managing editor. He was part of Pulitzer Prize-winning teams that covered the Los Angeles riots in 1992 and the Northridge earthquake in 1994. He then became editor of the Daily Review which he left after one year.
Granada Hills Charter High School

Valerie Bertinelli, Actress  (4/23/60)

Valerie Bertinelli is an actress most remembered for the hit television show *One Day at a Time* in 1975. Following the show’s end in 1984, she made several movies and television appearances, most notably for commercials. She left high school before graduating.

Ray Braun, Baseball  (11/17/1983)

Ray Braun graduated Granada Hills High School and attended the University of Miami. He became a professional baseball player with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2007. During his career he has been a five-time All-Star and a five-time Silver Slugger. He was the National League’s most valuable player in 2011.

Donna Caponi-Young, Golf  (1/29/1945)  1963

Donna Caponi-Byrnes was a multi-time LPGA Champion in golf competing from 1969 to 1981. She has twenty-nine tour wins and four major Championships, including two LPGA wins. She has been inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

John Elway, Football  (1/28/1960)

John Albert Elway, Jr. was an All-American quarterback at Stanford University and played for the Denver Broncos for fifteen years from 1983 to 1998. During his career, he started five Super Bowls and won two in 1997 and 1998. Following his retirement, he became the Executive Vice-President of the Broncos in 2011 and in 2014, he became the Denver Broncos General Manager.
John Elway is a five-time AFC Champion, nine-time Pro Bowl selection and the 1987 NFL MVP. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2004, regarded as one of the best quarterbacks in pro football history.

Robert Englund, Actor (6/6/1947)

Robert Barton Englund is a prolific actor who has starred in over seventy-five feature films, four televisions series and countless television appearances. His greatest success began in 1984 as the iconic villain, Freddy Kreuger in the horror classic, Nightmare on Elm Street, and each of its subsequent six sequels.

Gary Frank, Actor (10/9/1950)

Gary Frank won an Emmy Award for his role in the television series Family. He also had a starring role in the 1974 television series Sons and Daughters. He continued to appear in television through the 1980’s.

Brad Garfield, Director (6/18/1957)

Brad Garfield won two Emmys as a director covering the Atlanta and Sydney Olympics in 1996 and 2000 for NBC. In 2005, he became artistic director of Bendheim Performing Arts Center of J.C.C. of Mid-Westchester in Scarsdale.


Robert Hite was the lead singer of the blues-rock band, Canned Heat, from 1965 to his death in 1981. Canned Heat was major act at Monterey Pop at 1967 and at Woodstock in 1969. At the same time, Robert Hite was instrumental to the West Coast Blues revival in the late 1960’s. His major song was the 1970 Gold record, Let’s Work Together.
Barry Michael Kerzin, Physician (11/1/1947)

Barry Kerzin was a member the Philosophy Club at Granada Hills High School. He then received his B.A. in philosophy from U.C. Berkeley in 1976 and his medical degree from USC. Traveling to India in 1988, he continued his interest in Buddhism. He became ordained as a Buddhist Monk by the Dalai Lama in mid-2000. He is the personal physician to the Dalai Lama, as well as serving patients throughout the Tibetan community.

Geoffrey W. Marcy, Astronomer (9/29/1954)

Geoffrey Marcy graduated Granada Hills High School in 1972. He received his B.A. in 1976 from the UCLA with a double major of astronomy and physics. He completed his PhD in astronomy at UC Santa Cruz in 1982.

He is a Professor of Astronomy at the University of California, Berkeley and an Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the San Francisco State University. He is recognized as one of the pioneers and leaders in the discovery and characterization of planets around other stars. His research teams discovered 70 out of the first 100 known exoplanets and also the first planetary system around a Sun-like star, Upsilon Andromeda. Marcy was a co-Investigator on the NASA Kepler mission that discovered over 4000 exoplanets.

He was the recipient of Henry Draper Medal in 2001, Beatrice M. Tinsley Prize in 2002 and the Shaw Prize in 2002 to name only a few of his recognitions and Awards.

Michael "Mike" Morhaime, Video Game Producer (1967)

Michael Morhaime graduated Granada Hills High School and then UCLA in 1990. He founded Blizzard Entertainment in 1991. In 2008 he won an Engineering Emmy Award for his creation, World of Warcraft. In 2008, Michael Morhaime was inducted into the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences' Hall of Fame. He is also a world class poker player.
Kristine Quance, Swimming (4/1/1975)

Kristine Quance graduated from Granada Hills High School in 1992 and then attended the University of Southern California. She was a 10-time United States national champion; and twice won the Kiphuth Award for highest individual point scorer at an individual national championship. She was also a member of the women’s swim team that won the Gold Medal in the 4x100 relay at the 1986 Atlanta Olympics. She was also a five-time Gold Medalist in both the World Championships and Pan American Games from 1991 to 1997.
Grant High School

Gilbert Arenas, Basketball (1/6/1982)

Gilbert Jay Arenas graduated Grant High School in 1998. He then attended the University of Arizona where he was All Pac 10. He was drafted in 2001 by the Golden State Warriors. He played twelve seasons in the NBA. Seven of those seasons were with the Washington Wizards. He was a three-time NBA All Star and Most Improved NBA Player in 2003.


Rodney Roy "Rod" Beck was a major league baseball relief pitcher for thirteen years, mainly with the San Francisco Giants from 1991 to 1995. One of his best years was 1993 when he recorded a franchise record forty-eight saves for the Giants. He had a league leading fifty-one saves in 1998. Rodney Beck was a three-time All Star. Following his death in 2007, his wife established the Pitch4Kids Foundation to work with families and in particular children affected by the addiction of a loved one.

Mike Curb, California Lieutenant Governor, Music (12/24/1944) 1962

Michael Curb was a composer, song writer, producer and California Lieutenant Governor. Mike Curb is recognized as a giant in the music industry having written over 300 songs and being recognized as one of the major producers in the industry. As founder of Curb records, he has produced over 300 number Billboard records. He is also Chairman of World Entertainment, the largest gospel music company.

Mike Curb began in the early 1960's with his band the Mike Curb Congregation, which rose to national prominence with a spot on the Glen Campbell Show. Number 1 hits included Put Your Hand In the Hand, Softly Whispering, I Love You, The Candy Man with Sammy Davis Jr. and All For The Love Of Sunshine with Hank Williams Jr. Curb Records, in the meantime, was releasing songs and albums by Eric Burdon, Linda Ronstadt, Buddy Miles, The Osmonds, Lou Rawls, Dwayne Newton, and Sammy Davis Jr. In addition, Curb has produced over fifty motion picture sound tracks. Curb is also the president of Verve records, releasing jazz albums by some of America’s greatest artists.

Mike Curb was elected Lieutenant Governor for California in 1979 and served one term. After leaving government, his record company continued to discover and sign major stars such as Lyle Lovett, The Everly Brothers, LeAnn Rimes and The Judds.
Mitch Gaylord, Olympian  (3/10/1961)

Mitchell Jay "Mitch" Gaylord in the 1984 Olympics became the first American to score a perfect 10, leading the men’s gymnastics team to their first Gold medal in the team competition. He is ranked the number seven U.S. gymnast of all time by Yahoo sports, and has been inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame and the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. He remains an analyst and commentator for gymnastic events on major networks.

Ricky Gelb, Business, Civic Leader

Rickey M. Gelb graduated Grant High School in 1962. He is currently the managing General Partner of the Gelb Group, a commercial realty and real estate management firm in the San Fernando Valley. He also is very involved in community affairs serving as the Vice-Chairman and Director of First Commerce Bank in Encino and Vice-Chairman of the Police Permit Review Panel for LAPD. He is also the CFO of the Encino Chamber of Commerce, President of West Valley LAPD Boosters, Treasurer for the Encino BID, and Board Member of the L.A. Sheriff’s Foundation, Tarzana Hospital Foundation, Jeopardy Foundation and other San Fernando Valley non-profit organizations.

He has received many awards including the prestigious Fernando Award, and the Ellis Island Award. Among Ricky’s many achievements include; a wheelchair program through LAUSD, establishment of an annual Teacher’s Recognition Luncheon in conjunction with West Valley PALS and the Encino Chamber of Commerce, establishment of the SFV Neighborhood Watch Programs, providing facilities for Van Nuys Jeopardy Foundation and the redesign and funding of the Junior Police Officer Badges in Spanish and English. He created an annual luncheon honoring Valley Leaders in Public Service who receive the Justice Armand Arabian Award for their dedication to the community. Another annual event Ricky instituted is the “Z” Awards, named for the Honorable Dennis P. Zine, which honors public employees who have made contributions above and beyond the call of duty.

Tom Griffin, Baseball  (2/22/1948)

Tom Griffin played fourteen seasons in major league baseball from 1969 to 1982 as a pitcher mainly for the Houston Astros.
Joel Grover, Investigative Reporter

Joel Grover graduated Grant High School in 1977. He then attended the University of California at Berkeley. Since 2004 he has been an investigative reporter for Channel 4 News. He has won twenty-two Emmys and six Edward R. Murrow awards for his reporting in addition to other major investigative reporting awards.

Louis Horvitz, Director

Louis Horvitz is a major television and show producer. He has directed seventeen Emmy Award shows, the Solid Gold series, as well as the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, MTV Awards, and has been recently signed to direct American Idol. He also directed the Super Bowl XXXVI Halftime Show featuring U2, Paul Simon's Concert in the Park, the Rolling Stones' Steel Wheels Tour, and Live Aid. He has also won five Emmys.

Kristy McNichol, Actress  (9/11/1962)

Kristy McNichol starred in the television series Family and Empty Nest. She won two Emmys for Best Supporting Actress in Family along with People’s Choice and Young Artist’s Awards. She has also received multiple Golden Globe and Emmy nominations.
George Michael "Micky" Dolenz, Jr. began his acting and singing career at the age of ten in the *Circus Boy* television series in 1958. He then made several more T.V. appearances before being selected for the *Monkees* T.V. Show in 1965 along with three others who would form the musical group the Monkees. In 1996, their first single, *Last Train to Clarksville* went to number one on the charts. The Monkees became a major band with number one hits including *Daydream Believer* and *I'm a Believer*. In all, The Monkees have sold over sixty-five million albums. In 2012, they had a successful reunion tour and Mickey Dolenz continues to write and produce songs and albums today.

Paul Neubauer currently teaches at Julliard and The New School of Music in New York City. As a virtuoso violinist, he was the youngest principal player for the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. He currently plays with the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society and performs as a soloist internationally. He has been the winner of numerous music competitions during his career.

Fran Pavley has served the West San Fernando Valley as Mayor of Agoura, Assemblywoman and currently as a State Senator. As Mayor of Agoura, she was awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award by the American Planning Association for her many projects that included a new Community Center, Transit Needs Study and Disaster Response Plan. As a state legislator, she has championed environmental concerns and regulating the loan industry.
Mike Post, Composer  (9/29/1944)  1962

Leland Michael Postil (Mike Post) began his career as a musician playing guitar for acts such as Sonny and Cher’s ‘I’ve Got You Babe.’ He won a Grammy for producing and arranging Mason William’s Classical Gas. Then, at 24 he became the musical director for the Andy Williams Show. He then became one of the most prolific and recognized composers in television. During his career he has written classical television themes for shows like the Rockford Files, Hill Street Blues, NYPD Blue, Hunter, L.A. Law, Magnum P.I., Law and Order, C.H.I.P.s and Murder One. He is a multiple Grammy Award winner and Emmy Recipient.

Stan P. Rachootin, Professor, Biological Sciences – Mt Holyoke College  
1969

Stan Rachootin is a Biology Professor at Mt. Holyoke College. He has been recognized as one of the top 300 professors in the United States by the Princeton Review. He is also the winner of the 2004 Mt. Holyoke Faculty Prize for Teaching.

His work has involved the study of evolution on which he has written several texts and is considered a foremost authority in that area of study. His work has also involved changing pedagogy in the teaching of sciences, breaking old high school methods and formats. Biodiversity on the school campus replaces the traditional textbook. He also served as President of the Mt. Holyoke Chapter of Phi Betta Kappa.

Tom Scott, Songwriter, Saxophonist  (5/19/1948)

Thomas Wright Scott is a multitalented musician as a song writer, director, producer and jazz saxophonist. He has written three major television themes for Starsky and Hutch, Family Affair and The Streets of San Francisco. Among his credits is also the score for Planet of the Apes.

However, it is as a jazz artist and saxophonist that he is internationally recognized. He has performed with a wide range of artists including George Harrison, Paul McCartney, the Beach Boys, Rod Stewart, Steppenwolf and John Lennon to name a few in an endless list. He was a founding member of the Blues Brothers Band, and today his newest band, the L.A. Express, is a major jazz fusion band founded in 1973. Tom Scott is a multiple Grammy Award Winner.
Tom Selleck, Actor (1/21/1945) 1962

Tom Selleck is a movie and television actor first coming to the public’s attention in the T.V. series *Magnum P.I.* He has appeared in several other television series and the movies made for T.V. including the *Jesse Stone* series. He is currently starring in the police drama *Blue Bloods*. He has won a Golden Globe, Emmys and multiple People’s Choice awards for his television work.

Michael Simpson, Composer and Songwriter

Michael Simpson, also known as EZ Mike, is a composer and song writer. Beginning in 1987, he has written and produced numerous albums including the Grammy Award winning Santana album *Supernatural* in 1999. He has written six film scores including *Zoolander* and *Fight Club*. In addition, he has composed soundtracks for *Beavis and Butthead*, *Shrek* and *Airheads*. He is a multiple Grammy Award and ASCAP winner.

Richard Steele, Sound Editor (10/13/1954)

Richard Steele is a sound editor for films such as *N.C.I.S.*, *Rommy and Michele’s High School Reunion*, and *Halloween*. He won the 2002 Emmy for sound editing for the *Lost Battalion*. He also has nine prime time Emmys for shows such as *Cosmos: A Time Space Odyssey* in 2014, *Hallmark Hall of Fame* in 2009, and *Courageous Heart of Irene Sendler*. 
Jeffery Thomas Porcaro was an accomplished and highly recognized studio drummer throughout the 1970’s until his death in 1995. He was also a songwriter, composer, and producer. But it was as a studio drummer that he achieved his greatest success working with a wide range of artists.

In 1977, he co-founded the pop-rock band, Toto, with his brothers and they quickly had number one hits with *Rosanna* and *Hold the Line* in 1978. Toto has produced over seventeen albums and thirty-five million records. They have won multiple Grammys, and in 1982 Toto won Grammys for Producer, Album and Record of the Year.

Steve Porcaro is a founding member of the pop-rock group Toto and for the past forty years has been one of the most requested keyboard session musicians in the industry, recognized twice by Keyboard magazine as the Keyboard Player of the Year. He has worked with Elton John, Barbara Streisand and Michael Jackson.

Steve Porcaro is also a song writer and composer, composing *Human Nature* and *This Girl is Mine* for Michael Jackson. He is also a composer for movies such as *Metro, Head Over Heels*, and *Justified*. He is now a part of a Reunion Band for Toto.

Steve Lukather is a guitarist, vocalist, composer, producer and arranger. As a student at Grant High School he was mentored by Jeff Porcaro and then after touring with Boz Scaggs, he joined Porcaro’s pop-rock band, Toto where he was the guitarist and later lead singer. While still working with Toto, he also became a first class session musician.

Steve Lukather in the 80’s contributed heavily to Michael Jackson’s *Thriller* Album, but also was playing with just about everyone in the business. He is today one of the most accomplished guitarists in the world. He has won five Grammys and has been inducted into the Musicians’ Hall of Fame.

Mike Porcaro was the bass guitarist for Toto, having to retire in 2007 after being diagnosed with ALS. As a guitarist he played and toured with Seals and Croft, Larry Carlton, Boz Scaggs and Michael Franks. He is a multiple Grammy Award winner and has been inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame.

As a session musician, he has worked with a wide range of artists including Michael Jackson, Quincy Jones, Aretha Franklin and others.

David Paich is another cofounder of the pop-rock band Toto at Grant High School. He is a multi-talented musician, composer, producer, song writer, arranger and lead singer. He has won six Grammys and an Emmy. As a prolific song writer, he has written or co-written such number one hit songs as *Hold the Line*, *99*, *Lowdown*, *Rosanna*, *Holyanna*, and *Got To Be Real*. He also wrote or co-wrote songs for Cher, The Jacksons, Andy Williams, George Benson, Glen Campbell, and Chicago.
Laila Ali, Boxer, Actress  (12/30/1977)

Laila Amaria Ali was an undefeated professional boxer winning twenty-four of twenty-four fights and being the Super Middle Weight Champion. After retiring from boxing, she has made television appearances in various series and as a host and sports analyst.

Jean Balukas, Billiards  (6/28/1958)

Jean Balukas won the National Congress of Billiards World Championship six times (1972-1978) and the U.S. Open seven times. She was also named the Player of the Year in billiards five times and has been inducted into the Billiards Hall of Fame. She has won thirty-eight major tournament titles. Jean Balukas retired in 1988, and is recognized as the most dominant and greatest female billiard’s player in the world.


Karen Ruth Bass began her political career in Los Angeles as Director of the Community Coalition, helping citizens to become active in addressing social justice issues in their communities. She then was elected a California Assemblywoman, and she became the first African American woman to become the Speaker of the California Assembly. She was then elected representative of California’s 37th congressional district in 2008. She was a strong leader in addressing the budget crisis of the 2007 great recession. She is the ranking member of the House Africa Subcommittee. She also created a bipartisan House Caucus on Foster Youth, and co-chairs the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. She also plays a leadership role in the Congressional Black Caucus. As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, she is particularly focused on social justice issues.

Her actions have also focused on Foster and Adopted Youth, sponsoring programs to address their needs such as the Nationwide Foster Youth Listening Tour and the recent Uninterrupted Scholars Act.
Howard Berman, U.S. Congressman (born April 15, 1941) 1958

Howard Lawrence Berman credits his high school government teacher, Blanche Bettington for inspiring him to enter politics. His career began with his co-founding the Young Democrats organization at UCLA which led to him being elected California Assemblyman in 1972. In 1983, he was elected as a United States Congressman representing the 26th District in Los Angeles. He served in that position for thirty years until 2013. Berman had been a strong supporter of Israel, the film industry and legislation protecting whistleblowers.

Albert Boime, Art Historian  (3/17/1933 - 10/18/2008)

Albert Boime was an art professor at UCLA for more than three decades. During that period of time he wrote twenty books and numerous articles that explored the social cultural and political context of art as well as style and form. He received major recognition for his four volume work, The Social History of Modern Art. He is recognized as one of the most important figures in the study of art in America.

Arvin Brown, Director (5/24/1940)

Arvin Brown is a Broadway Director who has been nominated twice for Best Director for The National Health in 1975 and Ah Wilderness in 1976. He won a Drama Desk Award for Best Director for A Long Day’s Journey into Night. He is best known as the artistic director of the Long Wharf Theater in Massachusetts for thirty years.

Warryn Campbell, Producer (4/12/1950)

Warryn Campbell is a music producer working with artists such as Mary Mary, Kanye West, Alicia Keys, Mos Def, Missy Elliott, Brandy and Dave Hollister. He is also an instrumentalist and produces and sings gospel music, resulting in three Grammys for Best Gospel Album and Song.
David Cassidy, Vocalist, Actor (4/12/1970)

David Bruce Cassidy was a television and singing star famous being part of the Partridge Family from 1970 to 1974. David Cassidy capitalized on his Partridge Family role to begin a singing career and as a pop idol in the early 1970’s. He had ten Partridge Family albums and five hit songs including Cherish and I Write the Songs, Then and Now, and The Last Kiss. His concerts were regularly sold out. David Cassidy returned to television and made appearances in a variety to shows and also toured with several Broadway companies.

Lorraine L. Foster, Mathematician (12/25/1938)

Lorraine Foster is a mathematics professor at California State University, Northridge. In 1964 she was the first woman to receive a PHD in mathematics from Cal Tech. She specializes in number theory, exponential diophantine equations, geometry and mathematical symmetry.


William Ginsburg is best known for representing Monica Lewinsky during the Bill Clinton White House scandal in 1998. Prior to that case, he was involved in other high profile cases including the death of Hank Gathers, basketball player for Loyola Marymount University. He has been involved in over 300 cases during his career.

Rowby Goren, Writer

Rowby Goren is an Emmy-winning comedy writer and internet performer. He wrote for Rowan and Martin’s Laugh In, and won Emmys for Best Writing for Game Show and Hollywood Squares in the 1970’s. He also wrote for numerous comedy series including Fat Albert, Teenage Mutant Turtles, Where’s Waldo and The Berenstain Bears. Goren was also one of the first writers to embrace the internet, streaming comedy with Rowby’s Comedies.
Joel Grey, Actor  (4/11/1932)

Joel Grey (born David Katz) is an actor who has won an Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor in Cabaret in 1973, and later an Emmy and Tony Award for Best Actor in Cabaret. On Broadway, some of the stage productions he starred in were George M, Anything Goes, Chicago, Come Blow Your Horn, and Wicked. He was nominated for Best Acting Tony Awards for George M, Grand Tour, and Goodtime Charlie. He also has appeared in film and on television where he was nominated for an Emmy for Best Actor in a comedy series, Brooklyn Bridge.

Alex Hannum, Basketball  (7/19/1923 – 1/18/2002)  1942

Alex Murray Hannum coached sixteen seasons in the NBA and ABA. He began his career as a player coach with the St. Louis Hawks leading them to an NBA Championship in 1958. He then coached the Philadelphia Seventy Sixers to a world title in 1967. In 1969, he coached the Oakland Oaks of the ABA to a title after finishing last the year earlier. Alex Hannum is a two-time NBA Coach of the Year, and has been inducted to the NBA Hall of Fame.

Rita Hayworth, Actress  10/17/1918

Rita Hayworth née Margarita Carmen Cansino is an iconic American actress. She didn’t get to graduate Hamilton High School when her father, Eduardo Cansino, a Flamenco dancer, needed her to perform with him in Mexico. Her first films included Strawberry Blonde, Gilda, Only Angels Have Wings, Blood and Sand, and You’ll Never Get Rich with Fred Astaire making her a superstar in the 1940’s. Rita Hayworth starred in sixty-two films during her career.

Joe Jares, Journalist  1955

Joe Jares began his journalism career as a sportswriter for the University of Southern California Daily Trojan in the late 1950’s. He then went on to be a reporter for Los Angeles Herald-Express, UPI, Los Angeles Times and Sports Illustrated before becoming the sports editor and columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News. He also taught sports writing at USC.
Paul Koretz, Los Angeles City Councilman (4/3/1955)

Paul Koretz attended Canfield Elementary, Palms Junior High School and graduated from Hamilton High School. He was elected to the California Assembly 42nd District in 2000, and then to the City of Los Angeles Council in 2009 representing the 5th District. His focus has always been on community-engaged style of governance. His efforts have resulted in preserving the Century Plaza Hotel and Los Encinos Park, preventing cuts to fire services, and protecting Los Angeles hillsides from development. He has also been a national force advocating for environmental issues.

Olympia LaPointe, Author

Olympia LaPointe, was a mathematician and designer of space rockets for Boeing that helped launch twenty-eight space shuttles. She then became an author of books designed to help children get rid of their fears of mathematics. LaPointe coined the term Mathaphobia and since has been a national author, radio and television personality regarding the teaching and learning of mathematics.

Michele Lee, Actress (6/24/1942)

Michele Lee Dusick is an actress most known for her television role on Knots Landing from 1979 to 1993. She won an Emmy and was also nominated two more times for Knott’s Landing. She also appeared on the Broadway stage in How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying and received a Tony nomination and Drama Desk Award for Best Actress and in a Musical in Seesaw in 1974.

Mamas and Papas

Michelle Phillips, Mamas and Papas, Vocalist (6/4/1944)

Holly Michelle Gilliam was one of the singers in the 1960’s rock group the Mamas and Papas. In 1966, the Mamas and Papas with their four-part harmony became a sensation on the charts with the songs California Dreaming and Monday, Monday. The Mamas and Papas broke up in 1968 and Michelle Phillips appeared in several movies and then had a role on Knott’s Landing in the 1980’s. The Mamas and Papas have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Antonio Manning, Business, Track and Field, Community Leader

Antonio Manning is the Regional Manager for JP Morgan Chase for Global Philanthropy. He manages philanthropic and community relations for the West and Southwest Regions of the United States. Previously, he had a long experience in banking services with Washington Mutual and as Western Director of the Fannie Mae Foundation. He has also been a very active member of the community as a founding member of African Americans in Philanthropy, Southern California. He was also appointed commissioner for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and serves on the Enterprise Leadership Advisory Council and Advisory Board for the USC Center on Public Policy and Philanthropy.

While at Hamilton High School in 1982, Antonio Manning was a star track and field athlete finishing 3rd in the State in the 100 meters and being the State Champion in the 200 meters. He also ran track and field for USC. He has been appointed as a Director of the USA Track & Field Foundation Board.

Al Michaels, Sportscaster  (11/12/1944)

Alan Richard "Al" Michaels has been an NBC sports broadcaster for over three decades. For twenty years, he was the voice of ABC's Monday Night Football. As an announcer, he has called some of the most memorable moments in sports including the “Miracle on Ice” in 1980. He has won five Emmys, named Sportscaster of the Year three times, has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and has been inducted into the National Sportscaster Hall of Fame.

Warren Moon, Football  (11/18/1956)

Harold Warren Moon was a quarterback at the University of Washington and the Rose Bowl MVP in 1978. Undrafted, he played in the Canadian Football League winning five Grey Cup Championships (1978-1982) and being named the MVP of two Grey Cups and the CFL Player of the Year in 1983. In 1984, Warren Moon came to the NFL where he played for the Houston Oilers and Minnesota Vikings. During his NFL career he was a nine-time All Pro selection, Pro Bowl MVP, and NFL Man of the Year in 1989. Warren Moon has been inducted into the Canadian Football Hall and the NFL Halls of Fame.
Norman J. Pattiz, Broadcasting (1943)

Norman J. Pattiz is the founder of Westwood One, nation's largest radio network in 1974. He is currently engaged in multiple enterprises dealing with communications including Courtside Enterprise Group, Podcast One, and Alhurra, a satellite communications program broadcasting to twenty-two Middle Eastern countries. He is also on the Board of Governors for the Lawrence Livermore Laboratories and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has been a University of California Regent since 2001.

William B. Quandt, Professor, National Advisor (1941 - )

William Quandt was a Professor of political science at the University of Oregon and was part of the Brookings Institute. He also served as a member of the National Security Agency under the Nixon and Carter administrations. He was a key advisor in the Camp David Accord and the Israeli-Egypt Peace Accords.


Benjamin Robert Rich is the former director of the Lockheed Skunk Works for twenty-five years, and became the father of "stealth technology." This included a new set of war planes such as the F111A Nighthawk which revolutionized aviation with Stealth technology. He has been awarded the Defense Department Medal for Distinguished Public Service and is a member of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

Robert Shapiro, Attorney (9/2/1942) 1960

Robert Leslie Shapiro is a Los Angeles celebrity attorney most recognized for his representation of O.J. Simpson in his 1994 murder trial. He later became the co-founder of LegalZoom.com, a national self-help legal service. He also currently represents a variety of major interests in Las Vegas such as Wynn Enterprises and Diamond Resorts as well as numerous Hollywood celebrities.
Joel Steven Siegel, Film Critic  (7/7/1943 - 6/29/2007)

Joel Siegel was the film critic for ABC’s *Good Morning America* for over 25 years beginning in 1981. After graduating UCLA, he worked as a journalist during the civil rights movement and with Robert Kennedy. He won five Emmy Awards and received a Tony nomination in 1982 for *The First*, a musical based on Jackie Robinson’s life.

Leigh Steinberg, Sports Agent  (3/27/1949)

Leigh Steinberg is the first and most famous American celebrity sports and entertainment agent. He was the inspiration for the movie *Jerry Maguire*, which mirrored his life as a sports agent. In his forty years of defining and revolutionizing the sports representation and management industry, Leigh Steinberg has signed over 300 athletes and celebrities to over $3.5 billion dollars in contracts. He has represented the number one pick in the NFL draft eight times, and sixty first round draft picks. At the same time, his philanthropies have donated in excess of $750 million to a range of charities that include Special Olympics, Juvenile Diabetes, Junior Achievement, Coro Foundation, and the Steinberg Leadership Foundation.

Gwen Verdon, Actress  (1/13/1925 – 10/18/2000)  1944

Gwyneth Lynn Verdon was a legendary actress of stage and screen. Her first major performance in 1953 was as Claudine in *Can, Can* for which she won a Tony Award. That was followed by the role of Lola in the 1955 production of *Damn Yankees*. She also starred in *New Girl in Town, Chicago, Redhead* and *Sweet Charity*. Gwen Verdon won four Tony’s for Best Actress and a Grammy during her career. The lights of Broadway were dimmed in her honor following her death in 2000.

Sidney Wicks, Basketball  (9/19/1949)

Sidney Wicks was an All-American basketball player for UCLA from 1968 to 1971 where he was a three-time NCAA Champion. He then played ten years in the NBA primarily for the Portland Trailblazers where he was Rookie of the Year and a four-time All Star. He has been inducted into the National Collegiate Hall of Fame.
Hollywood High School

Bill Ackerman, Coach and UCLA Athletic Director  (5/7/1902 – 1988)

Bill Ackerman graduated from Hollywood High School where he excelled in tennis and baseball. He then entered UCLA in 1919 becoming a player-coach on the tennis team and graduating in 1924. He continued to coach UCLA tennis for the next fifty years. In tennis, he won the first NCAA Championship title in any sport for UCLA inter-collegiate athletics. He later became the UCLA Athletic Director, which at the time included all student activities in addition to athletics. The UCLA Student Union is named after Bill Ackerman. He has been inducted into the UCLA Hall of Fame and the College Tennis Hall of Fame. He was also named Alumnus of the Year in 1947.

John Aiso, Judge  (12/14/1909 - 1926)

John Fujio Aiso was elected student body president in 1922 at Bancroft Middle School, only to have the student council disbanded because of parent protests over a Japanese American holding that position. Aiso also gained national attention by winning the Hollywood High School Oratorical Contest in 1925, but then had to withdraw prior to the State competition because Japanese were not permitted in the competition. Despite these set-backs he went on to Brown and Harvard University.

During World War II, he was the highest ranking Nisei officer as Lieutenant Colonel. Then he became the first Nisei judge in U.S. history at the municipal level and then on the California State Court of Appeals. After retiring from the bench, he was senior counsel at O’Melveny and Myers. He was extremely active in the Japanese community with a street in being named after him in downtown Los Angeles.

Arthur Alber, Los Angeles City Councilman  (9/16/1892 – 1964)  1912

Arthur Alber served one term as a Los Angeles City Councilman from 1927 to 1929.
Lee Barnes, Olympian  (July 16, 1906 – 12/28/1970)  1924

Lee Stratford Barnes was a pole vaulter at the University of Southern California. In the 1924 Paris Olympics, he won the Gold Medal in the pole vault. He later became the stunt double for Buster Keaton.

Meredith Baxter, Actress  (6/21/47)

Meredith Baxter attended Monroe High School and graduated from Hollywood. She is an actress best known for her role in the television series *Family*, which ran from 1976 to 1980 and *Family Ties*, which ran seven seasons, 1982 to 1989. She later appeared in films such as *All the President’s Men* in 1982 and television shows such as *Glee*. She is also a commercial spokesperson for several major corporations.


Jim Brownfield coached Muir High School in Pasadena to two Southern Section CIF Football titles and six Track and Field California State Titles and was named National High School Coach of the Year twice. He has been enshrined into the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame.

Vincent Bugliosi, Deputy District Attorney, Author  (8/18/1934 – 6/6/2015)

Vincent Bugliosi gained fame as the prosecutor of Charles Manson and his co-defendants for the Tate-La Bianca murders in 1969. Following the murders, he became an author, writing in 1973 the best-selling book, *Helter Skelter*, the story of the Tate-La Bianca murders. He has since written six novels and is a three-time winner of the Edgar Allen Poe Award for Literature. Subsequent best-selling books deal with George Bush, the Supreme Court decision regarding the Al Gore loss in 2004, and *Outrage* which addressed acquittal of O.J. Simpson.
Carol Burnett, Actress  (4/26/1933)  1952

Carol Creighton Burnett is a true American icon as an actress, singer and comedian. She first received recognition in 1959 with a Tony nomination for her performance in *Once upon a Mattress*. In 1995, she received another Tony nomination for her performance in *Moon over Buffalo*.

Her television career began with an Emmy in 1962 for the Garry Moore Show for Outstanding Performance in a Musical-Variety Show. This was followed by the legendary *Carol Burnett Show* which ran for eleven years from 1967 to 1978. The show won twenty-three Emmys and countless Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. Carol Burnett has also won five Golden Globe Awards for Best Actress, six People’s Choice Awards for Best Actress, a Peabody Award and the Kennedy Center Honors Award in 2003.

Keith Carradine, Actor and Songwriter  (8/8/1949)  1966

Keith Ian Carradine made his Broadway debut in *Hair* in 1969. He has acted on stage, television and in film. He broke into movies with the film *Gunfight* and then *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* in 1971. On T.V., he made the pilot for *Kung Fu*. He won his first Oscar and Golden Globe for writing the song “I’m Easy” in 1975 for the film *Nashville*. He continued filmmaking throughout the 1980’s with *The Long Riders, The Duelists, Pretty Baby* and *An Almost Perfect Affair*.

He returned to the Broadway stage in the 1980’s and 1990’s earning Tony and Drama Circle nominations for Best Actor in productions such as *Foxfire* in 1982, *Will Rogers Follies* in 1991 and *Stuff Happens* in 2005.

Robert Carradine, Actor  (3/24/54)  1971

Robert Reed Carradine is an actor and producer best known for *Django Unchained* in 2012, *Revenge of the Nerds* in 1984, and on the Disney T.V. series, *Lizzie McGuire*. During his career, he has appeared in over sixty feature films. He has also been a regular on television appearing in a wide range of series from *Bonanza* to *Kung Fu*, along with the mini-series, *The Trial of the Chicago Eight*.

Edward W. Carter in 1945, at the age of 34, became Chairman of Broadway Department Stores. Under his leadership the company expanded from three stores to over 150 stores each being an anchor for a new concept in marketing, “the shopping center.” Edward Carter was one of the first entrepreneurs to recognize the future of these centers being developed throughout the United States.

In 1946, he built one of the first shopping malls, the Crenshaw Shopping Center in Los Angeles. In 1950, he merged with Hale Brothers, expanding the company’s holdings to include The Emporium, Neiman Marcus, Waldenbooks and Bergdorf Goodman. He was a cofounder of the Los Angeles Music Center and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and was a renowned art collector himself. He was also a California University Regent and a Regent for Occidental College.


Henry Caufield graduated from Hollywood High School in 1931. He was a political science professor at Colorado State University and the first Director of the Water Resources Council for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Throughout the 1960’s he was a major influence on the development of U.S. policy regarding the maintenance and use of water resources.

Marge Champion, Dancer, Choreographer, Actress  (9/2/1919)  1936

Marge Champion born Marjorie Celeste Belcher graduated from Hollywood High School in 1936 and became a dancer and model with the Walt Disney Company. In the late 1940’s and early 1950’s she teamed with Gower Champion to become a renowned dance team with MGM in musical such as Show Boat, Mr. Music, Jupiter’s Darling, Three for the Show and Give a Girl a Break. She and Gower Champion had a brief television series in 1957.
Norman Chandler, Publisher (9/14/1899 – 10/20/1973) 1917

Norman Chandler was the son of Harry Chandler, owner of the Los Angeles Times, a small regional newspaper. Norman Chandler became President of the L.A. Times in 1941 and is credited with turning it into a major newspaper locally, nationally and internationally. He turned the leadership of the newspaper over to his son Otis in 1961.

In addition to expanding the influence and readership of the Los Angeles Times, Norman Chandler also increased the quality of the journalism, resulting in numerous Pulitzers during his tenure. Norman Chandler and his wife Buffy were also extremely influential in developing the culture of Los Angeles by providing funds to refurbish the Hollywood Bowl and the development of the Music Center complex.

Lon Chaney Jr., Actor (2/10/06 – 7/12/1973) 1927

Creighton Tull Chaney (Lon Chaney Jr.) was a character actor and son of Lon Chaney. He was cast in a string of horror movies throughout the 1930’s and 40’s including The Wolf Man, The Mummy and Dracula. He achieved critical acclaim for the film Of Mice and Men in 1939 and later in High Noon in 1952. Throughout the 1960’s Lon Chaney Jr. appeared in more horror movies and also made numerous television appearances.

Lon Chaney never graduated from Hollywood High because his father didn’t want him to become an actor so he transferred him to a business school. He left the business school anyway to become an actor.

Warren Christopher, Secretary of State (9/27/1925 – 3/18/2011) 1942

Warren Minor Christopher served as a Deputy Attorney General for Lyndon Johnson, Deputy Secretary of State for Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State for Bill Clinton. He is recognized for the role in played in the Oslo Accords, and the Israel-Jordanian treaty in 1994. He also played a key role in normalizing relations with Vietnam in 1995, the Dayton Agreement ending the Bosnian War and the expansion of NATO.

Domestically, he headed the investigation of the Los Angeles Police Department following the Rodney King beating, resulting in major reforms including the removal of then Chief Daryl Gates.
Austin Clapp, Olympian  (11/8/1910 – 12/22/1971)

Austin Clapp won a Gold Medal in the 1928 Olympic Games as part of the 4x200 meter swimming relay team. He also won two freestyle NCAA Championships for Stanford University in 1931 and 1932. He later attended UC Berkeley Law School.

John Clifford, Ballet

John Clifford began dancing at age eleven and was trained by some of the best ballet teachers in Los Angeles. He then graduated from Hollywood High School in 1965 and quickly became a dancer and then principal dancer for the New York City Ballet from 1966 to 1974. In 1974, he was the founder of the Los Angeles Ballet and then its artistic director for eleven years until 1985.

At the same time, he worked as a choreographer at sixteen working with Leonard Slatkin on *West Side Story* with the Los Angeles Youth Theater. At age twenty, he had choreographed eight ballets for the New York City Ballet. He has since staged ballets for the Bolshoi, the Paris Opera Ballet, Ballet of La Scala, the Rome Opera Ballet and numerous other companies internationally.

Lisa Coleman, Composer  (8/17/1960)

Lisa Coleman began as a pianist and keyboardist in the early 1970’s eventually becoming the keyboardist for Prince’s Revolution playing keyboards on the 1999 and *Controversy* albums. She was also a session musician for Vanity 6 and The Time. She shared an Emmy for composing the theme to *Nurse Jackie* and an Academy Award and Grammy for Best Original Score for Revolution’s *Purple Rain*. During her career she has helped score films such as *Dangerous Minds*, *Heroes* and *Crossing Jordan*.

Porscha Coleman, Actress, Singer  (7/12/1985)

Porscha Coleman attended Millikan Middle School where she played Dorothy in the *Wizard of Oz* school play in 1997. She graduated from Hollywood High School Performing Arts Magnet where she was named...
the Outstanding Performer of the Year. She is currently a BET television host for the series Notarized, Spring Bling and 106 and Park. She is also one of the hosts for Hollywood Today Live on Fox.

As an actress, she has regularly appeared in series such as 7th Heaven, Maury, My Wife and Kids and Boston Public. Her most famous roles include Erica Willis on the television series The Parkers. She also played Rachel in the Disney film Pixel Perfect. She has also made numerous television appearances as a singer and dancer.

Johnny Crawford, Actor  (3/26/46)

John Earnest Crawford was a child actor best known as one of the original Mouseketeers on the Disney Mickey Mouse Club series in 1955. He then played in the series The Rifleman for five years beginning in 1958. In the 1960’s he became a teen idol with five songs on Billboard Top 40 Hits.

Frank Darabont, Screenwriter  (1/28/1959)

Frank Darabont is a highly recognized screenwriter having won three Academy Awards for The Green Mile and The Shawshank Redemption. Beginning in 1980, his film credits include The Mist, Nightmare on Elm Street III, and Saving Private Ryan. He has also produced television series including the Walking Dead and Mob City.

Rod Dedeaux, Baseball  (2/17/1914 – 1/5/2006)  1931

Raoul Martial "Rod" Dedeaux was a legendary baseball coach for the University of Southern California Trojans winning an NCAA record eleven National Championships including five straight from 1970 to 1974. He coached sixty future major league players. During his forty-five year tenure at USC from 1942 to 1986, he also won twenty-eight conference championships. Rod Dedeaux was also a pioneer in the development of international baseball in Japan and was a pivotal force in making it an Olympic event beginning in 1964. He was National Coach of the Year six times and has been inducted into the Collegiate Baseball Hall of Fame. He was named Coach of the Century by the Collegiate Baseball magazine.
Edward Dymtryck, Director  (9/4/1908 – 7/1/1999)

Edward Dymtryck became a film director at the age of 31 with movies such as *Hitler's Children*, *Behind the Rising Sun*, *Murder, My Sweet*, and *Cornered*. He was nominated for an Academy Award for the film *Crossfire* in 1947.

In 1947, he became one of the Hollywood Ten, being accused of being a Communist sympathizer before the House Un-American Activities Committee. He refused to testify to name Hollywood personalities as being Communist sympathizers, but after four and a half months of prison and being blacklisted in Hollywood he did appear before the committee and to name names.

His career is marked by directing some of the greatest films of all time including the *Caine Mutiny*, *Raintree County* and *The Young Lions*. He continued filmmaking into the 1970’s and became a professor of film at the University of Texas and the University of Southern California.


Harley Earl was the design executive at General Motors from 1927 to his retirement in 1959. He dominated automobile design from thirty years. His designs included tailfins, wraparound windshields, aluminum alloys, the Y-job, and bucket seats. He designed a wide range of automobiles for GM as well as concept cars including the Chevrolet Impala, the Buick LeSabre, Cadillac Eldorado, and the Pontiac Bonneville to name a few. The most famous however was the Chevrolet Corvette, America’s first true sports car.


Norman L. Eisen was a Washington D.C. attorney specializing in major fraud cases. In 2003, he founded the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington D.C. He 2011, he became Ambassador to the Czech Republic.
Linda Evans, Actress  (11/18/42)

Linda Evanstad (Evans) is a television actress who starred in *The Big Valley* in 1965 which ran for four seasons and *Dynasty* from 1981 to 1989. She has won Emmys and Golden Globe Award for Best Actress for her performance in *Dynasty*.

Nanette Fabray, Actress  (10/27/1920)  1939

Ruby Bernadette Nanette Fabray spent her childhood working in Vaudeville as a singer and dancer. In the late 1930’s at nineteen, she began her film and acting career with Warner Brothers. She soon returned to the Broadway stage and musicals including *Let’s Face It*, *Bloomer Girl*, *Jackpot*, and *Make a Wish*. She won a Tony in 1949 for *Love Life*.

In the 1950’s on television she performed on the Sid Cesar *Show of Shows* winning three Emmys. She continued to make frequent appearances on major television shows including *The Ed Sullivan Hour*. In the 1960’s and 70’s, she appeared on *One Day at a Time*, *The Mary Tyler Moore*, *The Carol Burnett Show* and many more series.

Fabray was diagnosed with a hearing impairment in her twenties. She has since been a major advocate for the handicapped and hearing impaired, including fighting to have sign language and closed caption as part of television and film productions. For these efforts, she has won the President’s Distinguished Service Award and the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award.

Mike Farrell, Actor, Activist  (2/6/1939)  1957

Michael Joseph Farrell is a television and film actor and comedian who began with a regular role on daytime *Days of Our Lives* and then starred in the iconic series *M.A.S.H.* which ran from 1975 to 1983. He later appeared for three seasons in the T.V. series *Providence*. He has since made countless television and film appearances.

Michael Farrell is also known for his political activism. He is engaged in a variety causes that include Human Rights Watch, PETA and the Cult Awareness Network. He has also written an autobiography that chronicles his life as an actor and activist.
Laurence Fishburne, Actor  (June 30, 1961)  1979

Laurence Fishburne’s acting career began at ten on stage followed by a role in the daytime soap opera, One Life to Live. At fourteen, he played in the film Apocalypse Now. During his career, he starred in films such as The Matrix, Othello, Mystic River, Once in a Life, Boyz n the Hood, Tuskegee Airmen, and Miss Evers’ Boys. In 1992, Fishburne won a Tony and Drama Critics Award for Two Trains Running. During his career, he was won numerous NAACP Image Awards, an Emmy and Outer Critics Circle Award, Drama Desk and an Academy Award Nomination.

Anthony Frank, U.S. Postmaster General  (5/31/1931)  1949

Anthony Melchior Frank was the Postmaster General from 1988 to 1992.

William Frederickson, General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks

William Frederickson Jr. worked for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for 45 years beginning in 1930. He headed the Department from 1962 to 1975 when he retired. He was instrumental in the development of the Los Angeles Zoo designing natural habitats. He is also credited with the creation of Travel Town.


Frances Ethel Gumm attended Hollywood High and then graduated University High school. Judy Garland is an iconic actress and singer. She became a star in 1939 playing Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, one of the most famous films in screen history. She won a “Juvenile” Oscar for her performance. Her films in the 1940’s included Me and My Gal, Meet Me in St. Louis, The Good Old Summertime, Summer Stock, and Easter Parade. In 1953, she again made a classic film, A Star is Born, that received critical acclaim and for which she received a Golden Globe for Best Actress. She also made numerous special performances for television and concerts throughout her career.
During her career she won two Grammys along with four nominations and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammys. She has also received a special Tony award and other Oscar and Golden Globe nominations. She has six recordings in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

James Garner, Actor (4/7/1928 – 7/19/2014)

James Scott Bumgarner is one of the most famous television and movie actors in Hollywood. He first came to stardom in the T.V. series, Maverick. He also continued in films making The Thrill of It All, Move over Darling, The Great Escape, the Americanization of Emily and Gran Prix in the 1960’s.

He returned to television in the classic series The Rockford Files in 1974. Garner made numerous television and film appearances in the latter part of his career, including the critically acclaimed T.V. movie Barbarian’s at the Gate. James Garner never graduated Hollywood High School.


Gloria Grahame Hallward attended Hollywood High School, but dropped out to pursue a career as an actress. Her film career began in the mid-forties with the classic film, It’s A Wonderful Life. She became a superstar three years later in Crossfire in 1947 for which she received an Oscar nomination. She received another Oscar nomination for The Greatest Show on Earth in 1952. She then received the Oscar for her performance in the Bad and the Beautiful in 1952. She then starred in Oklahoma! in 1955. During the fifties, she continued to make exceptional films such as The Big Heat, Human Desire and Sudden Fear. She continued her career with a string of film noir classics.

Gigi Levangie Grazer, Author and Screenwriter (1/2/1963)

Gigi Grazer attended LeConte Junior High School and Hollywood High School where she was a cheerleader. She later attended UCLA. She began her writing career writing scripts for television series including In the Heat of the Night. As an author, she has written numerous New York Times Best Selling novels including The Starter wife, King Takes Queen, Maneater, The After Wife and the Seven Deadlies. She has also written screenplays for films such as Stepmom. Her novels, Starter Wife and Maneater have been made into mini-series.
Ara Guzelimian, Educator

Ara Guzelimian is the Provost and Dean of The Julliard School. Previously, he served as the Senior Director and Artistic Advisor of Carnegie Hall. He is also a writer, lecturer, music critic and radio programs producer.

Alan Hale Jr., Actor (3/8/1921 – 1/2/1990)

Alan Hale Mackahan Jr. is best remembered as the Skipper in the television series *Gilligan’s Island* which ran from 1964 to 1967. He had a long career beginning on stage in 1931, and after several movies in the forties, he began a long career in television making hundreds of guest starring roles in shows such as *Bonanza, The Texan, Gunsmoke, and Rawhide* to name only a few.


Les Haserot was a multi-sport star at Hollywood High School and at Occidental College, playing baseball, football and basketball. He then played professional baseball in the Pacific Coast League for 2 seasons. He then became the baseball coach at Fremont High School in 1929. At Fremont High School he won city championships in 1932, 1933, 1939, 1942, 1943, 1946, 1947 and 1948.

Barbara Hershey, Actress (2/5/1948)

Barbara Lynn Herzstein was discovered at Hollywood High School while a member of the drill team and pom pom squad. She began acting in the television series *Gidget* in the mid-1960’s. Her movie career began in 1968 and in 1969 she received her first Academy Award nomination for *Last Summer*. She continued to make films including *Box Car Bertha, The Last Temptation of Christ, Shy People, Right Stuff, Hannah and Her Sisters, Hoosiers* and *Beaches*.

She continued to move between film and television productions at the same time. She was critically acclaimed for her role in *A Killing in a Small Town* which earned her an Emmy and Golden Globe for Best Actress. She then played in *Return to Lonesome Dove*. The film, *The Portrait of a Lady*, earned her an Oscar nomination and National Film Critics Award for Best Actress. In 2010, she was recognized for her role in *Black Swan*. 
Ernie Hix, Volleyball

Ernie Hix was the “Father of USC Volleyball” winning National Championships in 1977 and 1980. He coached USC volleyball from 1974 until his retirement in 1981.


Karl Hubenthal is among the elite of sports and political cartoonists. Beginning in 1942 through 1988, he had a forty-eight year career with the Los Angeles Examiner and later with the Los Angeles Herald. He has been recognized by the National Cartoonist Society for Editorial Cartoon of the Year three times and four times for Sports Cartoon of the Year. He received five Pulitzer nominations and has received The Freedom Foundation Award twenty-five times.


Lawrence Harding "Larry" Johnson was a physicist who contributed to the Manhattan Project and the development of the atomic bomb. His main contributions were the invention of ground-controlled radar, the first exploding detonator for the atomic bomb, and the development of a proton linear accelerator.

Ninja Jorgensen, Volleyball (7/6/1940) 1957

Ninja Jorgensen graduated from Los Angeles High School 1957 and then attended Occidental College graduating in 1961. In 1963 she was the AAU Player of the Year. She was a Gold Medalist in the 1967 Pan American Games in Winnipeg. She then taught and coached at Glendale High School for 36 years.
Charles Martin Jones was one of the greatest animators in film history. Working for Looney Tunes, he created Wile Coyote and the Roadrunner, Pepe LePew and Marvin the Martian. He produced the new Tom and Jerry series, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, and Horton Hears a Who in 1996. In the latter part of his career Chuck Jones produced numerous Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and Alvin and the Chipmunks feature specials.

Richard “Dickie” Jones as a child had roles in the Frontiersman and Hopalong Cassidy. He had many roles in films throughout the 1930’s as a child actor including Henry Aldrich. His most famous role was as the voice of Pinocchio in the film Pinocchio in 1940.

In the early 1950’s, he starred in two westerns, The Range Rider and Buffalo Bill Jr. He continued to make television appearances into the early 1960’s. He has been named a “Walt Disney Legend.”

Sally Claire Kellerman began her acting career at Hollywood High School where she sang in musical productions including Meet Me in St. Louis. During the fifties, she began her film career and then appeared in several television roles in the 1960’s. In the late 1960’s, she was featured in several higher quality films, including The Boston Strangler. In 1970, she broke through in her role as “Hot Lips Houlihan” in the film M.A.S.H. for which she received a Golden Globe and Academy Award Nomination for Best Supporting Actress. She continued with a role in the highly acclaimed film Nashville in 1975. Other films included The Last of the Red Hot Lovers, Foxes, Serial, Slither, Meatballs III, and Ready to Wear.

William E. Kennard was named in 2009 the first Ambassador to the European Union. In this role, he has been highly recognized for his ability to develop strong economic relations with Europe and has been
recognized by transatlantic businesses. Previously, he was the FCC Chairman. As FCC Chairman, he was a champion for those not able to access technology because of socio-economic issues, putting into place policies to make the internet and technology accessible to everyone.

Swoosie Kurtz, Actress  (9/6/1944)  1962

Swoosie Kurtz is a highly recognized actress of stage, screen and television fame. Her career began on the Broadway stage. She has received five Tony nominations with two Tony Awards for Best Actress. The first is for the *Fifth of July* in 1981 and the second in 1986 for *The House of Blue Leaves*. Her nominations were for *Frozen, Tartuffe* and *Heartbreak House*.

She has also received eight Emmy nominations for her television work some of which were *Sisters, Citizen Ruth, Mike and Molly* and *Wildcats*. She received an Emmy for *Carol and Company*. In addition, she has appeared in several feature films to compliment her extensive television work.

Ruta Lee, Actress  (5/20/1936)  1954

Ruta Mary Kilmonis began her acting career at Hollywood High School appearing in school plays in the 1950’s. Throughout the 1950’s, she appeared in films such as *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers, Funny Face, Witness for the Prosecution, Sergeants Three* and *Marjorie Morningstar*. Ruta Lee also has made hundreds of television guest and featured appearances since the early 1950’s.

In the early 1960’s she contributed to, sponsored and been a spokesperson for the Thalians, an organization supporting disadvantaged youth.

Carole Lombard, Actress  (10/6/1908 – 1/16/1942)

Jane Alice Peters, Carole Lombard attended Virgil Junior High and Hollywood High School and graduated from Fairfax High School in 1927. She played in silent movies in the early 1920’s and starred opposite William Powell and Clark Gable in the early 1930’s. She was known as both an actress and a comedian. In 1936, she received an Oscar nomination for *My Man Godfrey* and became a major Hollywood film star. Carol Lombard made fifty-six feature films and another twenty short films in her short career. She died at the age of thirty-three in a plane crash in 1942.
Richard Long, Actor  (12/17/1927 – 12/21/1074)

Richard Long took a senior drama class at Hollywood High School because he needed an easy course. At Hollywood High School he was discovered by a talent scout. He began his film career in 1946. He was an actor who had starring roles in three television series, Nanny and the Professor, The Big Valley and Bourbon Street Beat.

Nora Margaret Manella, Federal Judge  (1951)

Nora Margaret Manella graduated Hollywood High School, Wellesley College and then the University of Southern California Law School. She then served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for eight years from 1982 to 1990. In 1998, President Bill Clinton appointed her to the 9th District Court of Appeals where she served until 2006 when she resigned and joined the California State Court of Appeal.

Joel McCrea, Actor  (11/5/1905 - 10/20/90)

Joel McCrea built a reputation as a Western movie star and later in comedies. He began his career while a student at Hollywood High School as a stunt double and had his first feature roles in 1929. In the 1930’s and 40’s, he starred in films such as Bird of Paradise, Gambling Lady, Union Pacific and The Most Dangerous Game. McCrea made over ninety films during his career.

Judith Miller, Journalist  (1/2/1948)  1963

Judith Miller is a Pulitzer winning investigative reporter for the New York Times. In 1977, she became a reporter for the Washington bureau of the New York Times covering Congress and Middle East politics. In 1983, she became the first woman bureau chief for the Times in Cairo, Egypt covering the Middle East. She then became the Paris bureau chief in 1987. She then returned to Washington to become the N.Y. Times news editor and deputy bureau chief. She was an embedded reporter during the Iraq war in 1992.
She won a Pulitzer in 2002 for her work on Osama Bin Laden and Al Qaeda. She won an Emmy for her work on a New York Times/Nova Documentary on Germs, which was based on an earlier book she wrote Germs, Biological Weapons and America’s Secret War. That book reached number one on the N.Y. Times Best Seller list. She is the author of three other best-selling books.

Aprille Millo, Opera  (4/14/1958)

Aprille Millo graduated Hollywood High School in 1976 and joined the San Diego Opera the same year. She made her debut at the New York Metropolitan Opera in 1984 as a soprano and performed for the first time at Carnegie Hall in 1986. She has performed in over 180 operas in fifteen different roles for the past twenty-eight years at the Met. She also performs extensively internationally. She is recognized as having a true “Verdi sound” being able to interpret an opera so well in her musical interpretations.

David (Oswald) Nelson, Actor  (10/24/1936 – 1/11/2011)

David Nelson gained famed as the eldest son in the iconic Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet television program of the 1950’s and 60’s. The show began on radio and went to television in 1952 portraying an idealized American family. The show ended in 1966 with 500 episodes after tracing the lives of the family for fourteen years, from childhood until their marriages.


Ricky Nelson was the youngest son on the Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet television program of the 1950’s and 1960’s. On the show Ricky was the comic and in late 1957 his musical career began. His first hit single at age sixteen was A Teenagers Romance in 1957 followed by Poor Little Fool in 1958 that became number one on the charts. He then recorded Mary Lou and Travelin Man in a string of number one hits. Many of his hit songs were promoted on the Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet Show. He went on to record over fifty top Billboard hits. At the same time, he began a movie career in 1959 with the film Rio Bravo in which he received critical acclaim. Ricky Nelson died in 1985 in a plane crash in Texas.

Ricky Nelson has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Rolling Stone Magazine ranks him in the top 100 recording artists of all time.
Susan Patron, Author  (1948)

Susan Patron is a children’s author and a Newbery Prize Winner for her book *The Higher Power of Lucky*, published in 2007. Her book, *Maybe Yes, Maybe No, Maybe, Maybe* won the Peoples’ Choice Award in 1993. Other best-selling children’s books have included *Dear America: Behind the Masks, Lucky for Good, Burgoo Stew, and Bobbin, Dustbobbin*. She is also a senior librarian with the Los Angeles Public Library.

Larry Pennell, Baseball and Actor  (2/21/1928 – 8/28/2013)

Larry Pennell played baseball for Hollywood High School and at the University of Southern California. He left USC to play seven seasons in the minor leagues for the Boston Red Sox. Following baseball, he began an acting career. He played in three dozen films including *Seven Angry Men* and *The FBI Story*. He then made numerous appearances on television in series such as *Wagon Train, The Virginian, Death Valley Days* and *Bonanza*. He had starring roles in the television series *Ripcord, The Beverly Hillbillies* and *Lassie*.


Bill Radovich played for the Detroit Lions from 1938 to 1941 and in 1945. He was named an All-Pro twice. He served in the armed forces and upon his return he wanted to play for the Los Angeles Rams, but was denied that opportunity by the NFL. Joseph Alioto took his case and won a Supreme Court decision saying that Anti-Trust laws did apply to the NFL. The decision had major repercussions for the development of the NFL and what they could and could not do in terms of expansion and player contracts. Bill Radovich retired from football and began an acting career as a “heavy” in film.


Vina Fay Ray is an actress who began her career in silent films and in 1933 was cast in the female lead of Anne Darrow in the classic film *King Kong*. It was a role that would make her an iconic figure in Hollywood being held by King Kong atop the Empire State Building. Fay Wray had over 100 feature and character roles through the 1950’s. She also made numerous television appearances and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Terry Richardson, Photographer  (8/14/1985)

Terry Richardson has photographed advertising campaigns for many major fashion houses and most fashion magazines. His first major photo spread was in 1994 with Vibe magazine which gained international attention. He is an in-demand photographer for advertising campaigns for Marc Jacobs, Yves St. Laurent, Tom Ford and Diesel.

He has since become a portrait photographer exhibited in major galleries and has also made music videos. Terry Richardson attended Hollywood High School and transferred to high school in Ojai.


Jonathan Southward Ritter became a household name as an actor when he starred in the 1977 sitcom, Three’s Company, which ran for eight seasons. Ritter was in The Waltons series from 1972 to 1974. In the 1990’s, he became a voice-over artist for animated features. During his stage, television and movie career, Ritter appeared in hundreds of productions.

John Ritter has won an Emmy for Best Actor in a Comedy Series for Three’s Company and been nominated five more times. He has also won a Best Actor Golden Globe with four other nominations. In addition he has won or been nominated for numerous other awards including Daytime Emmys, Peoples’ Choice and Screen Actor Guild Awards. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.


Jason Robards Jr. was a star track athlete at Hollywood High School running a 4:18 mile in 1940. He first found fame on the Broadway stage in 1956 in the The Ice Man Cometh followed by a masterful performance in A Long Day’s Journey into Night. He had eight Tony nominations for Best Actor, winning in 1959 for The Disenchanted. He continued to star in O’Neill plays throughout the 1950’s. His film career began in 1959 with The Journey. In 1976, he won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in All the President’s Men and another Oscar in 1977 for Julia. In television, he won a Best Actor Emmy for Inherit the Wind.

Jason Robards is also a Kennedy Center Honors recipient for Lifetime Achievement and the National Medal for the Arts. He is also a member of the American Theater Hall of Fame.
Ruth Roland, Silent Film Actress  (8/26/1892 – 9/22/1937)  1908

Ruth Roland was the superstar of the early silent motion picture serials (chapter a week movies) and the first Hollywood High School movie star. Her career started in 1909 with Westerns and comedies. She then began acting in eleven serials through 1923 when she retired having made over 200 films. Ruth Roland has a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Mickey Rooney, Actor  (9/23/20 – 4/6/2014)  1938

Joseph Yule Jr., Mickey Rooney is one of the most famous child movie stars of all time. He began his career in film at six and reached stardom in 1937 in the Andy Hardy series. The series included twenty films between 1937 and 1941. He continued his success with Boys Town in 1938 for which he received a juvenile Academy Award. He continued to make hits throughout the forties with National Velvet, Strike-Up the Band, Babes on Broadway and Babes in Arms. He continued in critically acclaimed roles such as Requiem for a Heavyweight and The Black Stallion for which he received an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

He 1979, he received a Tony nomination for Sugar Babies. He also received an Emmy for Bill and an Oscar for Sixty Years/Lifetime Achievement in show business.

Bill Schroeder, Founder and Managing Director of Helms Foundation 1924

Willrich R. Schroeder in 1939 was the founder and managing director of the Los Angeles Sports Museum and Library, formerly known as the Helms Athletic Foundation. The athletic collection became one of the most extensive for Olympic memorabilia in the world. The Foundation at the same time recognized thousands of prep, collegiate and professional athletes over five decades.
William Shockley, Physicist, Nobel Laureate  (2/13/1910 – 8/12/89)  1927

William Shockley was one of three individuals to win the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1956 for the development of the transistor/semi-conductor device that became the basis for the electronic age. The semi-conductors became the foundation for every electronic device. The commercialization of semi-conductors in the 1960’s led to the development of Silicon Valley next to Stanford University as the technology center of the world.


Gladys “Alexis” Smith won a statewide acting contest while a student at Hollywood High School. From there she became a leading lady in film during the 1950’s and 1960’s. She made her stage debut in 1934 at thirteen dancing in Carmen at the Hollywood Bowl. During the 1940’s, she appeared with some of the biggest Hollywood stars including Humphrey Bogart, Clark Gable and with Charles Boyer in the critically acclaimed film Night and Day.

She returned to the stage in the 1960’s to star in Mary, Mary, Critics Choice and Cactus Flower. In 1972, she won a Tony for her performance in Follies and a Tony nomination in 1979 for Platinum.

Andrew Solt, Producer and Director  (12/13/1947)

Andrew Solt is a film and documentary producer focusing on rock and roll history and performers. He graduated Hollywood High School and UCLA with a degree in Journalism.

His documentaries included Oasis in Space, Cousteau Odyssey, This is Elvis, Imagine: John Lennon and Heroes of Rock and Roll. He also produced Time Life’s ten-part series, The History of Rock and Roll.

His Company, SOFA, purchased in the early 1990’s the complete Ed Sullivan Show television video collection and have since produced several documentaries using that early television show video footage. He won an Emmy for The Mississippi – Reluctant Ally. He shared a Grammy with Yoko Ono in 2001 for Gimme Some Truth, The Making of John Lennon’s Imagine Album.
Adela Rogers St. John, Journalist  (5/20/1894 – 8/10/1988)  1910

Adela Rogers St. John was a journalist, screenwriter and author. She covered some of the most famous stories of the day for Hearst publications including the abdication of Edward the VII, the Leopold-Loeb murder trial and the Lindberg kidnapping and trial. She was also one of the first gossip columnists for Photoplay and one of the best celebrity interviewers. She also wrote Hollywood screenplays for films like the Tom Mix Westerns, and contributed to a wide range of national magazines throughout her career. She also wrote novels and short stories and a biography of her father, Final Verdict.

Adela Rogers St. John is recognized as one of the greatest female journalists. She was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Richard Nixon in 1970.

Jill St John, Actress  (8/19/1940)

Jill Arlen Oppenheim was a motion picture actress debuting at sixteen in Summer Love in 1956. Her career ran through the late 1960’s with films such as The Name of the Game, Diamonds are Forever, Come Blow Your Horn, and Tony Rome. She made few movies after 1970. She received her high school diploma from Hollywood Professional Schools.

Don Steele, Disc Jockey  (April 1, 1936)

Donald Steele Revert, “The Real Don Steele” was the iconic DJ of KHJ “Boss Radio” in the 1960’s and The Real Don Steele Television Show from 1968 to 1975. In the 1980’s, his syndicated radio show was heard on over 300 stations throughout the United States. Don Steele has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Jackie Tobian Steinmann, Golf Coach  1945

Jackie Tobian Steinmann is a legendary golf coach for UCLA beginning her career in 1977 and retiring in 1999. She had won six conference championships in the Pacific 10 and had been Pacific 10 Coach of the
Year several times as well as Regional Coach of the Year, National Coach of the Year and Taylor-Made Coach of the Year. She was the driving force in organizing the National Golf Coaches Association and served eight years on the Board of Directors. She is a member of the National Golf Hall of Fame.

Sharon Tate, Actress  (1/24/1943 – 8/9/1969)

Sharon Marie Tate began her acting career with several television appearances and then starred in the cult classic film, Valley of the Dolls, which earned her a Golden Globe nomination. In 1969 she was murdered by members of the Manson Clan in the infamous Tate – La Bianca murders.

Virginia Trimble, Astronomer

Virginia Trimble graduated Hollywood High with the Winter Class, 1961 and then UCLA and Cal Tech. She specializes in the historical development of the early universe including stars and galaxies. She has currently published over 500 papers and at one-time served on six governing Boards for astronomical studies. She is currently a professor at UC Irvine. In 1962, she was the subject of a Life Magazine cover story, Behind the Beautiful Face.


Julia Jean Turner began her movie career in 1937. She gained notoriety in Love Finds Andy Hardy in 1938 and then hit stardom through the 1940’s with films like Weekend at the Waldorf, Ziegfeld Girl, Honky Tonk, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and The Postman Always Rings Twice. In 1957, she was nominated for an Academic Award for Peyton Place.

One of the most famous Hollywood stories is true, Lana Turner, a fifteen-year old, cut typing class at Hollywood High School and was discovered at the Top Hat Malt Shop in 1936.

Adam Walsh played football for and was Captain of the legendary Notre Dame football team of 1924 coached by Knute Rockne. As a center, he earned All-American Honors. He was named to the All-Time Notre Dame Football Team. After college, he coached for thirty-three years, which included two seasons with the Los Angeles Rams, winning an NFL Championship in 1945.

After retiring from coaching, he served two terms in the Maine Legislature and was appointed a United States Marshall by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He has been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, the Maine Hall of Fame, the Southern California All-time High School Football Team and the All-time Rose Bowl Team.

Joseph Wapner, Television Judge (11-15-1919) 1937

Joseph Albert Wapner was the judge of television’s reality court show, The People’s Court from 1981 to 1993) for 12 seasons and almost 2500 episodes. The Peoples Court was the forerunner of all reality-based court shows. Joseph Wapner has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Foy Draper, Olympian  (11/26/1911 - 2/1/1943)

Foy Draper was a member of the U.S. track and field team in the 1936 Berlin Olympics winning a Gold Medal on the 4x100 meter relay team anchored by Jesse Owens. He then became a pilot during World War II. He died in combat in Tunisia.


Craig Fertig was a star quarterback for the University of Southern California Trojans setting at the time numerous passing records and helping lead them to a National Championship in 1962. Following his collegiate career, he became an assistant coach for U.S.C. and then the Head Coach of Oregon State for four years from 1976 to 1979.

Elton Gallegly, Congressman  (3/7/1944)  1962

Elton William Gallegly served twenty-five years in the United States Congress representing the Simi Valley. As a conservative Republican, he served previously on the Simi Valley City Council and was also its Mayor before being elected to Congress.

Tippi Hedren, Actress and Activist  (1/19/1930)  1950

Following the filming of the movie Roar in 1981, Tippi Hedren became involved in animal rights causes forming the Roar Foundation and other animal rescue groups. She is also involved in the Food for the Hungry international relief organization. In addition to her film awards, she has received countless awards for her work as an animal activist and humanitarian.


Bob Hunter was a sportswriter for fifty-eight years mostly with the Los Angeles Herald Examiner. Bob Hunter is in the sports writers section of the Baseball Hall of Fame and a recipient of the Spink Award for Outstanding Sports Writing.


Rosario Marin was the first woman and 41st Secretary of the Treasury under George W. Bush from 2001 to 2003. Her public service began as an advocate for the disabled students. She founded a support group, Fureza, for Latino parents with Down syndrome children. She continued that work in California as part of the Governor Wilson administration. Her advocacy for the disabled earned her recognition from the United Nations with the Rose Kennedy Award. In 1996, she was appointed Deputy Director of California Department of Social Services.

She then became a member of the Huntington Park City Council and the first Hispanic woman to hold the position of Mayor.

Jimmy Murphy, Race Car Driver  (9/12/1894 – 9/15/1924)

James Anthony (Jimmy) Murphy was one of the great automobile racing car drivers of all time dominating the 1920’s racing scene. He won the French Gran Prix at Le Mans in 1921 and the Indianapolis 500 in 1922. He also won two U.S. Racing Championships in the 1920’s. He died tragically in a racing accident in 1924. He has been inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame.
F. Thomas Trotter, Professor of Theology, Claremont College

F. Thomas Trotter graduated with a BA from Occidental College and earned his PHD from Brown University. He was Dean and Professor of theology at the Claremont School. He later served the United Methodist Church for over 50 years. During this time he was executive of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry, providing the vision to launch the United Methodist Africa University in Zimbabwe. He was also instrumental in updating the academic standards of the University Senate, the accrediting body of the church for higher education.

He also served as President of Alaska Pacific University from 1987 to 1995, increasing both support and the student body. He also served as the Chairman for the Methodist Foundation for Christian Higher Education, significantly increasing funding for scholarships nationwide. F. Thomas Trotter retired in 1995, but continued to serve as President of the New Foundation for Methodist Communications.

Tex Winter, Basketball Coach  (2/25/1922)   1940

Moric Fredrick "Tex" Winter was a collegiate and professional coach for thirty-four years from 1947 to 1971 and then from 1973 to 1983. He also spent twenty-five years as an assistant and head coach in the NBA with the Houston Rockets, Chicago Bulls and the Los Angeles Lakers. He is recognized for inventing the “triangle offense.” He is a member of the Collegiate and National Basketball Halls of Fame.
Alvin Ailey, Choreographer, Activist, Founder Alvin Ailey Dane Theater
(1/5/1931 – 12/1/1989) 1949

Alvin Ailey was a choreographer, activist and founder of the iconic Alvin Ailey Dance Company. Alvin Ailey is recognized as the founder of modern dance and bringing African Americans into American concert dance. He had a profound effect on American culture. At the same time, his dance company is credited with bringing these American experiences to the international community.

Attending Carver Junior High School and Jefferson High School, he participated in the Glee Club and was introduced to dance by Carmen De Lavallade, another Jefferson student. He then began a stage career in the early 1950’s performing with greats such as Pearl Bailey, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Ricardo Montalban and Diahann Carroll. He then founded the Alvin Ailey Dance Company in 1958. Combining the work of a wide range of artists and choreographers, Alvin Ailey and his Dance Company have been highly recognized. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom as well as the Kennedy Center Honors.

Ernie Andrews, Jazz Singer  (12/25/1927)  1945

Ernie Andrews is a jazz blues singer who began singing in his church choir in Los Angeles and began recording while still in high school with Billy Eckstine and Al Hibbler. He made his first hit while in high school, Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying. He was a mellow baritone but also had a rhythmic energy on stage.

In the 1940’s, he sang for six years with the Harry James Orchestra. At the same time, he was a fixture on the Central Avenue jazz and club scene. Ernie Andrews continued recording throughout the 1980’s and played a major role in the documentary Ernie Andrews: Blues for Central of Central Avenue. He is currently touring the Western U.S. and is recognized as the elder statesman of jazz vocalists.


Emmett Littleton Ashford was the first African American student body president at Jefferson High School. After graduation from high school he worked fifteen years with the post office. Emmett Ashford then began working as an umpire, first at the college level and then in the Pacific Coast Minor League. In 1966,
he became the first African-American umpire in major league baseball history. Ashford umpired an All Star game and the 1970 World Series. He retired in 1971.

Roy Ayers, Jazz Composer and Vibraphonist  (9/10/1940)

Roy Ayers is a jazz composer and vibraphonist and the man behind “Black Exploitation” films of the 1960’s, including Coffy and Jackie Brown. His inspiration for the vibraphones came from seeing Lionel Hampton when he was five years old. Hampton gave the child his mallets. Today, he is considered the greatest living vibraphonist in the world.

Ayers has recorded almost 100 albums, and regularly tours playing some of the top venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. He is the creator and godfather of the Neo-Soul and jazz-funk fusion. His top songs included Everybody Loves the Sunshine, Don't Stop the Feeling, Love Will Stop the Day with Whitney Houston, Searchin. He is also famous for having more hits sampled by rappers than any other artist. He is the winner of multiple awards including a Congress of Racial Equality Lifetime Achievement Award.


Matthew Beard, Jr., as a five-year old, played Stymie in the Our Gang Comedies from 1930 to 1935, a total of thirty-six films. He made few films after the Our Gang series and by the time he was in high school he was retired from films. In the latter part of his life he was an anti-drug abuse activist.


Richard Berry is best remembered as the composer and singer of Louie, Louie, one of the most recorded songs in rock history. Other songs included Have Love, Will Travel, Riot in Cell Block Number 9 and Dance with Me Henry with Etta James.

Jesse Lorenzo Belvin wrote one of the earliest and greatest rock hits of all time, *Earth Angel* in 1955. His other major hit was *Good Night My Love*, which became Alan Freed’s radio program and Dick Clark’s American Bandstand’s closing theme. Jesse Belvin continued to write hit songs into the late 1950’s including *Funny, Guess Who* and *You Cheated*. Belvin died tragically following a concert in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dr. Robert Booker, LAUSD CFO, Superintendent, Baltimore Public Schools

Robert Booker Jr. graduated Jefferson High School and earned an Associate of Arts degree from LACC. He later attended Cal State L.A. and received an M.S. and Doctorate from Pepperdine University. He served as Chief Financial Officer for the Los Angeles Unified School District and then Superintendent of Baltimore Public Schools.

Earle Broady, Superior Court Judge  (1904 – 6/9/1992)

Earle Broady was a pioneer African-American in the LAPD and the L.A. District Attorney’s Office. He started working as a janitor at thirteen and then as a mail carrier after graduating from Jefferson High School. In 1927, he became the 1st African-American elevated to lieutenant and watch commander in LAPD. While a police officer, he worked on a law degree at night at USC, and became a Deputy District Attorney in Los Angeles. He was the first African American to reach the level of number two in that office. He was then named a Superior Court Judge in 1965. He retired in 1978.
Samuel R. Browne was one of the first African-American teachers in LAUSD in 1936 and the first at Jefferson High School. He is also the iconic music teacher throughout the 1940’s and 1950’s who taught and mentored some of the greatest names in American jazz including Chico Hamilton, O.C. Smith, Dexter Gordon, Buddy Collette, Art Farmer and many more.

He shined shoes and played the organ to pay his way through the University of Southern California earning a B.A. and Masters in Music. In 1936, he integrated the all-white faculty at Jefferson High School. Then Browne convinced the Board of Education to allow jazz to be taught at Jefferson and from that the modern “Cool” jazz movement was born.

Ralph Bunche was the Valedictorian at Jefferson High School in 1922, selling newspapers, working as a house boy and laying carpet to help his grandmother make ends meet. He continued to UCLA on an athletic scholarship. In 1927, he graduated UCLA Summa Cum Laude in international relations and was the Valedictorian of the graduating class. He then alternated studying political science at Harvard and teaching at Howard, receiving his doctorate in 1934.

In addition to his post-doctoral work, Bunche was the Chair of the Political Science Department at Howard and one of the first, modern civil rights activists. He worked with Martin Luther King in the early 1960’s and was part of the 1963 “March on Washington” and the “Selma to Alabama March.” He contributed significantly to the civil rights discussion from 1945 to 1965 including the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Ralph Bunche also worked for the State Department in a number of capacities and then was charged by the United Nations to work with nations who had not yet attained self-government. His major challenge during this period of time was the negotiation of a peace treaty between the new state of Israel and Arab nations in 1948-1949. He received the Nobel Peace Prize for these efforts in 1950. He continued to work for the U.N. on issues in the Congo, Cyprus, Kashmir and Yemen.
Ray Brewster, Vocalist – The Cadillacs

Alton Ray Brewster began his singing career with several Los Angeles groups in the 1950’s including the Penguins, Colts and Fortunes with hit singles such as *Earth Angel, Trees* and *Adorable*, *The Shiek of Arabi* and *Guiding Angel*. He then sang with the Flames with hit singles such as: *If I thought You Needed Me* and *Ball and Chain, Money Honey* and *Devil or Angel*. Finally Ray Brewster sang with the Cadillacs and the Platters. With the Cadillacs in the early 60’s, he had several hit songs including *I Saw You* and *The Right Kind of Lovin, White Gardenia* and *Groovy, Groovy Love*. He sang and toured world-wide with the Platters into the 1990’s.

Merry Clayton, Soul and Gospel and Background Singer  (12/25/1948)

Merry Clayton in the early 1960’s first recording was, *I’ve Got My Eyes on You* which became a hit. She continued to record several classic songs including *Who Can I Count On* with Bobby Darin, and *It’s In His Kiss*. In 1969, she recorded as a backup singer, *Gimme Shelter* with Mick Jagger. She became one of the best backup singers in the industry for some of the greatest stars in recording including Carole King, Linda Ronstadt, Pearl Bailey and Burt Bacharach. In 1972, she played the Acid Queen in *Tommy*. She was the focus of the Academy Award winning documentary *20 Feet from Stardom*.


Janet Collins broke the color barrier in the world of classical dance, opera and ballet in New York and most major U.S. and international cities. In 1951, she was the first and only African-American prima ballerina for the Metropolitan Opera. Marian Anderson did not come to the Met until 1955.

She was also one of the few classically trained African-American ballet dancers, but at a time when most ballet trainers did not accept Black students. Regardless of the challenges, she became one of the greatest ballet dancers of her generation performing in most major operas including *Aida* and *Carmen*. Janet Collins also won the Donaldson Award in 1951 for her performance in Cole Porter’s *Out of This World*. The award recognized the best dancer on Broadway.

Sonny Criss was a jazz saxophonist who began his career after graduating from Jefferson High School, playing with Billy Eckstine, Johnny Otis and Gene Norman. In the late 1940’s, he was featured with major stars including Stan Getz. In the 1950’s he played with the Buddy Rich band, but he never received wide recognition for his talents.

He moved to Europe and gained wider acclaim which he never found in the United States. One of his last performances was in 1977 when he played the Monterey Jazz Festival with Dizzy Gillespie. In addition to his concerts, he produced twenty-five albums.

Dorothy Dandridge, Actress and Singer  (11/9/1922 – 9/8/1965)

Dorothy Jean Dandridge (Ruby Jean Butler) was a student at Jefferson High School, but left in the 10th grade to pursue a career in film. She began her career in both church choirs and major clubs. She began making films in the 1930’s and throughout the 40’s. These films, however, featured stereotypical African-American characters. It wasn’t until 1954 when she starred in Carmen Jones that her talent was recognized and she received an Academy Award nomination for Best Actress. She was also featured on the cover of Life Magazine, a first for any African-American woman.

Not only could Dorothy Dandridge act, she could also sing. In the late 1950’s she made Island in the Sun, and Porgy and Bess. Although she was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Actress in Porgy and Bess, finding roles for a black woman was difficult in the Hollywood. Dorothy Dandridge returned to recording and stage/club work in the early 1960’s. Dorothy Dandridge has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Hallie Berry portrayed Dandridge in the HBO film, Introducing Dorothy Dandridge. Hallie Berry would become the first African-American actress to win a Best Actress Academy Award almost sixty years after Dorothy Dandridge became the first African-American female nominated for an Oscar.


Jay Riggins, Jr. was a rhythm and blues jazz pianist and singer. At Jefferson High School, he was an All-Star football player, but at the same time was winning local talent contests. Johnny Otis encouraged him to use his musical talents. Dallas Blues was his first recording in 1947. During the 1950’s and 1960’s Floyd Dixon is often considered the founder of the “Jump Blues” genre with recordings such as Fine, Fine Thing, My Wish, Love’s the Key, Let’s Go Down in the Woods and Too Much Jelly Roll. In the fifties, he had two hit songs Hey Bartender and Hole in the Wall. He retired in 1970 only to write Olympic Blues for the U.S.
1984 Olympic committee. In 2006, he hosted a concert bringing together past and new blues performers, later released on DVD entitled *Time Brings about Change*. Floyd Dixon has been recognized by the Rhythm and Blues Foundation with their Pioneer Award.

Bill Douglass, Jazz Drummer and Union Activist  
(1923–December 19, 1994)  
1941

William "Bill" Douglass attended Ascot Avenue School and became friends with fellow jazz musician Dexter Gordon at McKinley Junior High School in Los Angeles. His interest in music continued to Jefferson High School and the music teacher Lloyd Reese. He also learned the drums from Cab Calloway's drummer and began playing Central Avenue clubs while still in high school. In 1949, he was the jazz drummer for Benny Goodman’s Band, a first for an African American musician.

In the early 1950’s, Bill Douglass became a leader by being elected Vice President of the American Federation of Musicians Local 767. At that time there was a black and white musicians union. Douglass was a powerful leader in unifying the black and white musicians unions in Los Angeles along with Buddy Collette, Chico Hamilton and Charlie Mingus.

Charles Dumas, Track and Field  
(2/12/1937 – 1/5/2004)

Charles ("Charlie") Everett Dumas began his track and field career at Jefferson High School and after two years he transferred to Centennial High School in Compton. Charles Dumas was the 1956 Olympic High Jump Champion and the first man to jump 7 feet.

Harry Edelson, Football and Coaching  
(7/11/1907- 6/24/2000)  
1926

Harry Edelson immigrated to the U.S. from Jaffa, Israel in 1920. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1926 where he played football and led Jefferson to their first L.A. City Championship. He then attended USC from 1927 to 1929, where as a halfback and was part of the first USC National Championship in 1928.

Harry Edelson then became the track and field and football coach at Jefferson High School. His track teams won the city championship in 1931, 1935 and 1937 to 1941. They won the state championship in 1937.
Harry Edelson was the football coach for 31 years at Jefferson, Fremont and Los Angeles high schools. As head football coach at Fremont High School, Edelson’s teams won five L.A. City Championships in 1945, 1946 and 1948-1950. During those five winning seasons, Fremont posted a 39-2-2 record.

Edelson also officiated high school and college level football, and served as supervisor of officials for the Pacific Coast and Pac-10 Conferences.

Addison Farmer, Jazz Bassist  (8/21/1928 – 2/20/1963)

Addison Farmer was a jazz bassist and twin brother of another jazz great, Art Farmer. Both brothers attended Jefferson High School and like many of their music classmates, played professionally while in school. Addison went on to study at Julliard and the Manhattan School of Music while also being taught privately on the bass. Addison Farmer has an extensive resume as a sideman and also played with a variety of bands in the 1940’s and 1950’s including Johnny Alston, Al Wichard, King Fleming and Teddy Edwards. He died tragically in a car accident in 1963, cutting short a promising career.


Arthur Stewart "Art" Farmer was a jazz giant as a trumpet and flugelhorn player. His style avoided the hard, penetrating trumpet sound, but rather had a mellow, lyrical, melodic and sensitive style that defined his work. In the sixties he continued playing with a flugelhorn.

With his twin brother he played professionally while still at Jefferson High School. During the 1940’s and 1950’s Farmer toured with bandleaders such as Johnny Otis, Roy Porter, Lionel Hampton and Gerald Wilson.

He began his recording career in the early 50’s quickly becoming one of the most requested trumpet players in jazz. Art Farmer recorded during his career fifty solo albums and twelve with The Jazztet, which he formed in 1959. He recorded countless albums with other artists. Art Farmer was recognized by the National Foundation for the Arts as a Jazz Master.

Dexter Gordon is considered one of the greatest jazz saxophonists ever to play. He attended McKinley Jr. High and Jefferson High School as part of a class of some of the greatest musicians in the world including Art and Addison Farmer and Sonny Criss. He left Jefferson high school in the last semester of his senior year to play with Lionel Hampton. After turning professional in 1945, he played with all of the great jazz musicians of the time such as Lionel Hampton, Louis Armstrong and Billy Eckstine. He then lived in Europe for fifteen years. During this period, he recorded solo albums include Our Man in Paris, One Flight Up, and A Swingin Affair cut in the 1960’s.

In 1986, he starred in the film Round Midnight, a biopic of his career, which earned him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor by the Academy. The film won for Best Musical Score. In addition, Dexter Gordon won a Grammy for Round Midnight, and was inducted into the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame.

Pancho Gonzalez, Tennis  (5/9/1928 - 7/3/1995)  1945

Ricardo Alonzo Gonzalez was the son of Mexican immigrants who braved the treacherous deserts of the Southwest to come to America. He is often considered one of the greatest tennis players of all time. He left Jefferson High School in his junior year to devote all of his time to tennis.

He was ranked number one in the world eight times from 1952 to 1960. He was a tenacious competitor with one of the greatest serves of all time. As a professional, he won eighty-five major singles titles and fifteen grand slams. This is at a time when tournaments such as Wimbledon were not open to professional tennis players. Overall, Pancho Gonzalez won 133 titles in twenty-five years. Sports Illustrated named him one of the top 20 Athletes of the 20th Century. He has also been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Cornell Gunter, The Platters and Coasters, Lead Tenor Singer  
(11/14/1936 - 2/26/1990)

Cornell Gunther attended Jefferson High School and transferred to Manual Arts in his senior year. He was an original member of the Platters and the lead tenor for the Coasters beginning in 1957 with classic hits such as Searchin, Yakety Yak, Poison Ivy, Love Potion Number 9, and Charlie Brown. Gunter left the Coasters in the early 1960’s and toured for using the Coasters name for appearances and concerts. Cornell Gunter has been inducted with the Platters into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Augustus Freeman "Gus" Hawkins was a ground-breaking legislator as one of the first African American Assemblymen in California, being elected in 1935. He served in the California Assembly for twenty-eight years until his election to the United States Congress in 1963. Hawkins served in the U.S. Congress for twenty-two years from 1963 to 1985.

Fair practices in housing, employment and education were Gus Hawkins’ major causes. In Congress, Hawkins authored the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Gus Hawkins was also a founding member of the Black Congressional Caucus. Throughout his career, Hawkins authored legislation to address the concerns of his community including the Full Employment Act, Pregnancy Disability Act, Comprehensive Training and Employment Act, Job Training Partnership Act, the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Act and the 1988 School Improvement Act.

Thelton Henderson, Federal Judge  (11/28/1933)

Thelton Eugene Henderson graduated Jefferson High School and then attended UC Berkeley and UC Berkeley Law School. He became the Justice Department’s first African American lawyer in the Civil Rights Division in 1962. He was assigned to investigate civil rights abuses in the south including the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. Following the Justice Department, he became the Assistant Dean of the Stanford Law School, developing a minority recruitment program. He was a consultant to agencies and major corporations on civil rights and equity issues.

In 1980, Jimmy Carter appointed Thelton Henderson a Federal Judge for the Northern District of California where he served from 1980 to 1998. In 2005, a documentary film, Soul of Justice, was made regarding his life. The Thelton Henderson Center for Social Justice has been dedicated at UC Berkeley School of Law. During his career he has received many awards from the NAACP, the Bar Association, the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League.

Young Jesse, Jazz Singer  (12/28/1936)

Obediah Donnell "Obie" Jessie is a singer and songwriter whose career began in 1953. His first group, The Debonaires recorded I Had a Love. The Debonaires became the Flairs and Young Jesse wrote and recorded in 1955 the classic song Mary Lou, which was later covered by numerous bands. Young Jesse continued to work with a variety of groups throughout the 50’s including the Coasters as the lead tenor. He later formed his own jazz band, the Obie Jessie Combo, and recorded and performed internationally.
Etta James, Blues Singer  (1/25/1938 – 1/20/2012)

Jamesetta Hawkins, a gospel prodigy at five, was singing for the Johnny Otis Band when she was thirteen in 1950. In 1955, she launched her solo career with her first song Go Rockin Daddy. Throughout the 1960’s, Etta James had a long run of top hits including several classics such as At Last, Trust in Me, Something’s Got a Hold on Me, In the Basement and I’d Rather Go Blind.

Etta James won six Grammys and seventy Blues Music Awards. She is a member of the Rock and Roll, Grammy and Blues Music Halls of Fame. Rolling Stone Magazine ranks as number 22 of the greatest singers of all time. Etta James has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Josephine Casanova Jimenez  (9/15/2012)

Josephine Jimenez was born in Cuba and immigrated to the United States as a child. She attended Hoover Elementary, McKinley Junior High and graduated from Jefferson High School. In 1935 she became one of the first Hispanic women to graduate from UCLA with a BA in Spanish and a minor in French. She also received her teaching credential from UCLA.

Following World War II she taught at Garfield High School in 1945. At Garfield she established the first Folkloric group in LAUSD. After nine years she transferred to Hamilton High School. She taught there for five years as a teacher and then served ten years at Hamilton as Assistant Principal from 1961 to 1971. She then became the first Latina principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District at Hamilton High school from 1971 to 1985.

While at Hamilton High School, she had many accomplishments including the establishment the Humanities Magnet and the Hamilton School of the Arts, recognized nationally as one of the premier performing arts schools in the nation. She later became the Director of Instruction for high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Josephine Jimenez has been honored extensively for her service and accomplishments by organizations such as LAUSD, UCLA, Los Angeles City and County and the State of California.
Estel Johnson graduated Jefferson High School in 1931 and then attended the University of Southern California where he was a track and field star. He placed 4th in the 1935 NCAA 880 and 2nd in the 1935 AAU National Intermediate Hurdles. Johnson also was a member of the world record setting USC 4x400 relay team.

He began coaching track and field at Jefferson High School and his teams won 10 straight Southern League Championships from 1946 to 1955. His teams won Los Angeles City Championships in 1947 and 1949-53. He won four straight California State Championships 1949-1952.

Jackie Kelso Jr., Jazz Saxophonist (February 27, 1922 – 4/28/2012)

John Joseph “Jackie” Kelso Jr. was encouraged at Jefferson High School by fellow classmate Chico Hamilton to take up the saxophone. By the time he graduated, he was playing Central Avenue with Buddy Collette, Charles Mingus and others. Jackie Kelso played with a wide range of artists for the next three decades.


Melba Doretta Liston was born to the trombone beginning when she was seven years old. In 1948, she became the first woman to play with Gerald Wilson’s band and then with Dizzy Gillespie. She then toured with Billie Holiday. Then she returned to Los Angeles and worked as a clerk for the Los Angeles Board of Education in the late 1940’s. Melba Liston began a second career as an arranger at a time when being an arranger was dominated by men. In the late fifties, she worked again with Dizzy Gillespie as part of a State Department tour.

In the sixties, she was an arranger for some of the biggest stars including Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye and Gloria Lynne. It was also a time when she worked with Randy Weston on several albums that merged African rhythms and American jazz including work on the ground breaking album *Uhuru Afrika*. One of her last efforts was the Melba Liston Jazz Band that featured all women in the 1970’s.

Melba Liston is recognized as a pioneering woman in jazz and as a great jazz musician.
Carmen de Lavallade, Prima Ballerina, Actress, Choreographer  (3/6/1931)
1949

Carmen De Lavallade has had a long and storied career in dance, theater, film and television beginning at the Horton Dance Theater in Los Angeles. She received a scholarship to train with the Lester Horton Dance Theater after graduating Jefferson High School in 1949. At seventeen, she appeared in Carmen Jones and Odds Against Tomorrow. She turned her talents to dance having ballets written for her by Alvin Ailey, Lester Horton and Jeffrey Holder. She then succeeded her cousin, Janet Collins, as the Prima Ballerina for the Metropolitan Opera.

She also excelled as a choreographer for the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, Dance Theater of Harlem and the New York Met. At the same time, her acting career has included off-Broadway productions such as Death of a Salesman. The 2005 film Geoffrey and Carmen, traces the sixty year relationship of Geoffrey Holder and Carmen de LaVallade.

Billy McGill, Basketball  (9/16/1939 - 7/11/2014)

Bill McGill was an All-American basketball player at the University of Utah and the number one pick in the 1962 American Basketball Association draft. Billy “The Hill McGill,” was an innovator in the game of basketball, inventing the “jump hook shot” and broke the color-line at the University of Utah becoming their first African American basketball player. He played five seasons in professional basketball. He later wrote his memoir, From the Hill to the Valley, a story of how professional athletes often do not consider what happens after their pro careers end. He regretted not getting his college degree at Utah and the impact that had on life after basketball. The book was published in 2014.

Big Jay McNeely, Saxophonist  (4/29/1927)

Cecil James McNeely attended Jordan, Polytechnic and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1935. While at Jefferson he formed his own band with jazz legends Hampton Hawes and Sonny Criss. His first big single came in 1949 with a “honked up” recording of Deacon’s Hop that went to number one on the R & B charts. Big Jay McNeely is the undisputed “King of the Honking Saxophone,” where he would play flat on his back, walking across the bar and often strutting through the club and out the door with the audience following him. He wore lime green and big yellow suits and was one of the first to use strobe lights for his performance. Later in the fifties, he added musical groups to his band including the Penguins, Jesse Belvin, the Four Dots and a Dash, and The Medallions. He later shared the stage with Bill Haley and the Comets, Little Richard and others. His biggest hit was in 1959, There is Something on Your Mind, which stayed on the R&B charts for six months.
Big Jay McNeely took a break from music, but came back twenty years later bigger than ever. He toured internationally and has again played with a new generation of R&B bands and singers. Seattle recently installed a Big Jay McNeely exhibit, and his saxophone is now part of the Smithsonian and appeared on the cover of the Smithsonian Magazine. He is still playing and touring.


John Vivian McVea was a rhythm and blues, swing and blues tenor saxophone player. At Jefferson, he was part of a group of talented musicians such as Ernie Royal, Melba Liston and Dexter Gordon and he became part of the Central Avenue jazz scene of the 1940’s. He played with Lionel Hamptons’ orchestra when the band recorded, *Flying Home*, the foundation of 1940’s African American music.

He also began his own band in the late 1940’s and early 50’s with an original recording of *Ko Ko Mo*. McVea’s *Open the Door Richard* in 1946 created one of the biggest crazes to come out of Black music before the R&B era. He also played the first sax solo as a sideman at Jazz at the Philharmonic in 1944 helping to define the tenor sax in rhythm and blues. McVea was hired by Walt Disney in 1966 for Disneyland park performances which he did for the next twenty-seven years.

**Johnny Martin, Gospel Singer** (2/2/1941 – 2/12/1987)

Johnny Martin was the founder of the Mighty Clouds of Joy in 1955. He met the other founding members in Junior High School and they continued singing throughout high school. The Mighty Clouds of Joy’s first record album had their first hit single, *Steal Away to Jesus*. The colorful and animated group, often called the gospel’s first showmen, was also the first gospel group to perform on Soul Train. During his career, Johnny Martin recorded over twenty-five albums and won two Grammys for Gospel Music. During the 1960’s, the Mighty Clouds of Joy would average 200 performances a year. During this period they had a number one hit on the charts, *Ride the Mighty High*. That was followed by a White House Concert with President Carter.


John Meehan won three Academy Awards for Art Direction for the films *The Heiress*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *20,000 Leagues under the Sea*. 
Juanita Moore, Actress  (10/19/1914 – 1/1/2014)

Juanita Moore was a ground-breaking actress being the fifth African American nominated for an Academy Award. Her nomination was for *Imitation of Life* in 1959. She also received a Golden Globe Nomination for the same role. Most of her film work was in the late 1940’s and 50’s. In addition to her movie career, she still gave back to the community with the formation of the Cambridge Players.

Frank Morgan, Jazz Saxophonist  (12/23/1933 - 12/14/2007)

Frank Morgan went to Jefferson High School during the day, played in the Jefferson Big Jazz Band and then played clubs on Central Avenue at night. His career as a jazz saxophonist spanned over fifty years during which time he played with some of the best bands and performers in jazz including Charlie Parker, Lionel Hampton and Sonny Rollins. In addition to being a sideman, he recorded twenty albums as a soloist and band leader. He was a major figure in the jazz and bebop revival of the 1980’s. A documentary regarding Frank Morgan’s life was released in 2014 entitled, *Sound of Redemption: The Frank Morgan Story*.


Ernest “Sammy Morrison” was one of the East Side Kids, the only black child actor in the *Our Gang* comedy film series.

Willard H. Murray Jr., California Assemblyman  (1/1/1931)

Willard Murray was elected to the California State Assembly in 1988 and served four terms to 1996. He was passionate about education and sponsored legislation designed to bring accountability to schools. His background was also one of being an advocate for civil rights and for the arts. He established the California Institute for the Preservation of Jazz as an Art Form at Cal State Long Beach. He also worked to establish the Center for African-American Educational Excellence and Achievement at California State University, Dominguez Hills.
The Penguins

Curtiss Williams, Vocalist
(12/11/1934)

Bruce Tate, Vocalist
(1/27/1937 – 6/20/1973)

Curtiss Williams and Bruce Tate were founding members of the Penguins. Their number one hit was *Earth Angel* in 1955. Recorded in a garage, *Earth Angel* was a classic song of rock and roll and the doo wop era. The song is listed on the top 500 songs of all-time by Rolling Stone Magazine. *Earth Angel* sold over ten million records. Williams and Tate have been inducted into the rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Platters

Gaynel Hodge, Vocalist
(1/4/1937)

Alex Hodge, Vocalist

Gaynel Hodge began his music career at age thirteen and by fifteen he was one of three co-writers of *Earth Angel*. He is the co-founder of the Platters in 1952 along with his brother Alex and Herb Reed. The Platters, hits included *Only You*, *The Great Pretender* and *You’ve Got That Magic Touch* in the 1950’s. They had a total of forty Billboard Hits between 1955 and 1967. They sold out concerts in over 100 countries and made over 400 recordings. They also appeared in two films in the 50’s, *Rock Around the Clock* and *The Girl Can’t Help It*.

Following the Platters, he went on to record with several bands including the Hollywood Argyles the hit *Alley Oop* and the Rivington’s *Papa-Oom-Mow-Mow*. For the past 40 years, he has been a fixture in the Phoenix music and jazz scene.

Herbert Reed, Bass Vocalist
(8/7/28 - 6/4/2012)

Herb Reed was the bass singer for the Platters and an original founding member. He sang bass on each of their hits beginning in 1955 with *Only You*. Herb Reed lasted with the Platters through many changes in performers and also continued touring, often 200 shows a year until 2011. In the late sixties they had their last big hit with the song *With This Ring*. Like other original members of the Platters, Herb Reed has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Brad Pye Jr., Radio Commentator, Journalist and Civic Leader  (6/11/1931)

Brad Pye Jr. is a Los Angeles icon as a radio sports commentator, sports journalist for the Sentinel and civic leader. He is known for his trailblazing journalism covering African-American athletes and high school sports. Another part of his career was as Deputy to Kenneth Hahn and Yvonne Braithwaite Burke providing assistance to constituents. A pioneering civic leader, he was the first African American President of the Coliseum Commission and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Elvira "Vi" Redd, Jazz Saxophonist  (9/20/1928)

Elvira Redd was “a first” as a woman jazz saxophone player in the 1940’s and 50’s who played with the major bands of jazz. She was also fortunate to have as her teacher, Elma Hightower, one of the foremost Los Angeles music teachers. In 1962, her first album was Bird Call and her second album in 1963 was Lady Soul. During her career, she toured with Count Basie, Dexter Gordon, Earl Hines, Dizzy Gillespie and Sara Vaughn to name a few. She supplemented her income by teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She was recognized by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in “Instrumental Women: Celebrating Women in Jazz. In 2001, she received the Mary Lou Williams Women in Jazz Award.

Ernest Andrew Royal, Jazz Trumpet  (6/2/1921 – 3/6/1983)

Ernie Royal played for major jazz bands and as a pit musician for Broadway musicals. By the time he was nineteen, he was with Lionel Hampton and then he played with greats such as Count Basie, Woody Herman, Duke Ellington and Stan Kenton. He was also a staff musician for ABC and played in the Tonight Show Band. He led on ten albums and appears with other musicians on numerous other recordings.

O.C. Smith, Jazz Singer and Minister  (6/21/1932 – 11/23/2001)

Ocie Lee Smith was taught by Samuel R. Browne at Jefferson High School while also playing football. His style and songs were based on a rich family history where his mother was a music teacher. He also had a
love for the great jazz musicians of the era. During the Korean War, he entertained troops. Following the military, he cut his first recording, a cover for Tutti Frutti, and the flip side You can’t Take My Heart, in 1955. In 1961, he joined Count Basie as a vocalist, touring throughout the U.S. and internationally. In 1964, he returned to Los Angeles and recorded That’s Life that was subsequently covered by Frank Sinatra. In 1967, he released his first album, The Dynamic O.C. Smith. Then in 1968, he released his version of Hickory Holler’s Tramp, which hit number 3 on the charts in the U.S. and Britain. In 1969, his recording of Little Green Apples reached number 2 on the charts and won the Grammy for Best Song of the Year.

As the sixties ended, he continued to record top Billboard songs such as Brenda, You’re My First, My Last My Everything and Spark of Love. Additional hits included The Best Out of Me and After All Is Said and Done. One of his last recordings was Save the Last Dance for Me, once again a Billboard hit. O.C. Smith was the Pastor of the City of Angels Church in Los Angeles for sixteen years.


Emma “Ginger” Smock (Shipp) was a jazz violinist and orchestra leader. Women in the 1930’s were not readily accepted in the all-male jazz and R&B bands of the 1930’s and 1940’s. Ginger Smock broke that barrier. Beginning at Jefferson High School, she played in the All City Students’ Symphony and won a music scholarship. Instead of becoming a classical violinist, she became influenced by the new jazz sounds of Jimmy Lunceford and The Duke. She began to improvise on the violin. In 1943, she collaborated with several other female musicians to form the Sepia Tones. They began playing at a popular L.A. club called the Last Word. Her popularity rose and she played with a variety of bands in San Francisco and Los Angeles. She founded Ginger and her Magic Notes, and another Sepia Tones in the late 1940’s and early 1950’s. Ginger Smock also had her own short-lived television show in Los Angeles, the Dixie Showboat in 1952


Woodrow Wilson Woolwine “Woody” Strode was a decathlete and an All-American football player at UCLA in 1939. As a young student, he was one of the models for the United States 1936 Berlin Olympics poster. The poster was not allowed in Nazi, Germany. Woody Strode was then one of the first African American football players in the National Football League. Woody Strode’s signing with the Rams in 1946 ended a gentleman’s agreement among NFL owners to ban African-American players. He and Kenny Washington, his teammate at UCLA, were the only two African Americans in professional football from 1933 to 1946 and only a handful during the 1950’s.

Following World War II, Woody Strode became an actor being most active in the 1950’s and 1960’s. He was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his role in Spartacus. He also made a series of Tarzan movies and films set in Africa. His career included films such as The Two Rode Together, The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance, Batman, The Last Voyage and The Ten Commandments.

Iwao Takamoto graduated Jefferson High School when he was fifteen years old. He was an animator and designer for Walt Disney and Hanna Barbera. His most famous designs at Disney were *Cinderella, Lady and the Tramp, One Hundred and One Dalmatians,* and *Sleeping Beauty.* In 1961, he went to Hanna-Barbera where he designed Scoopy Doo and the *Jetsons*’ dog Astro. He also directed several feature animated films such as *The Jetsons* and *Charlotte’s Webb.* He has received numerous trade recognitions throughout his career including a Golden Award from the Animation Guild.


Horace Elva Tapscott was a composer and jazz pianist and recognized as a leader in the Los Angeles Jazz Community. In the 1950’s, as a teenager, he played both the piano and trombone with several major bands including Don Cherry and Frank Morgan. In 1961, he established the Pan Afrikan Peoples’ Arkestra, which grew into the larger Underground Musicians Association, UGMA in 1963. The Arkestra brought together not just musicians, but poets, dancers and other artists. His groups recorded albums including *West Coast Hot, Lighthouse 79,* and *Songs of the Unsung.* As the Horace Tapscott Quintet, he recorded *The Giant is Awakened* in 1969.

Horace Tapscott was a moral leader for the jazz community in Los Angeles providing free concerts and music education for underserved children in South Central Los Angeles. He committed his life to the empowerment of the South Central Los Angeles community and to developing and preserving African-American music. His orchestras and music were designed to help preserve and celebrate black culture, engage the community and continue to develop black musicians. UCLA Special Collections now houses his jazz collections. His commitment to music is a reflection of his relationship with his teacher, Samuel R. Browne, who told him that he would teach him, but he wanted him pass that knowledge on to future generations.

Ed Thigpen, Jazz Drummer  (12/28/1930 – 1/13/2010)

Edmund Leonard "Ed" Thigpen was a recognized jazz drummer who played with some of the brightest stars and best bands in the world. He is known for his exemplary musicianship and artistry with the wire brushes. From 1959 to 1965, he played with the Oscar Peterson Trio which was considered to be the best drum, bass, and piano trio in the history of jazz. Also, he played with Ella Fitzgerald for five years. He then lived in Europe for the rest of his life working as a sideman for expatriate jazz musicians and visiting jazz musicians.
Melvin Walker Lightsey was the lead singer with the Johnny Otis Orchestra in the early 1950’s with number one songs like Mistrustin Blues and Cupid’s Boogie. He had two other top ten hits in 1952, Rockin Blues and Operator 210.

Johnny ‘Guitar’ Watson, Jr., Jazz Guitarist, Vocalist and Songwriter

John, ‘Johnny Guitar’ Watson mixed bass-heavy funk with traditional R&B becoming a successful guitarist and vocalist in the 1950’s with a career that spanned forty years. He had four major chart topping hits in the 1950’s including Gangster of Love, Those Lonely, Lonely Nights, Motorhead Baby and Three Hours Past Midnight. His success continued into the sixties touring with Little Richard and cutting another top ten hit, Cuttin In. His style of performance took the blues guitar to the edge, sometimes performing while doing handstands. He performed on stage with a 50’ amp cord and set the stage for a similar style by Jimi Hendrix.

In the sixties and seventies, he performed with Frank Zappa. At age forty-ne, he emerged as a blues-funk musician with hits in the early 1970’s such as That A Bitch and A Real Mother for Ya. His success continued into the 1990’s with the Grammy nominated Bow, Bow. Finally, he was honored in 1996 with a Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. Johnny Guitar Watson died on stage in 1996.

Mal Whitfield, Olympian (10/11/1935)

Malvin Greston Whitfield was a world class track athlete winning the Olympic Gold Medal in the 800 meters in both 1948 and 1952. He also won a Gold Medal in 1948 as a member of the 4x100 meter relay team. He was also a world record holder in the 1000 meter race in the early 1950’s. In 1954, he was the first African American to win the Sullivan Award recognizing the best amateur athlete in the U.S. Working for the U.S.I.A., he spent forty-seven years in emerging African nations developing track and field training programs. He was recognized by President Ronald Reagan for his contributions.

David W. Williams was a pioneering judge, becoming the first African American Federal judge for states west of the Mississippi in 1969. At UCLA and USC Law School, he supported himself working as a janitor and running errands at the Pantages Theater. He earned his B.A. from UCLA and his law degree from the University of Southern California. He then began practicing law in 1937. In the 1940’s, he fought restrictive covenants in housing laying the groundwork for later cases that ended restrictive housing in Los Angeles.

He also founded the John M. Langston Bar Association at a time when black attorneys could not join the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Lammar Wright, Jr., Jazz Trumpet  (9/26/1924 – 7/8/1983)

Lammar Wright was a jazz trumpet player who played with Lionel Hampton from 1943 to 1948. He then worked with Dizzy Gillespie and was the featured soloist for Charlie Barnett.

Lee Young, Jazz Drummer, Music Executive  (3/7/1914 – 8/31/2008)

Lee Young attended Lafayette Jr. High, Jefferson and Polytechnic High Schools. He played drums for Duke Ellington and Count Basie and then became one of the first African American music executives. He began his career with Fats Waller in the 1930’s and continued with the Los Angeles Jazz scene of the 1940’s. In 1943, he was the drummer for “Jazz at the Philharmonic.” He was the only black studio musician as a drummer for many years. His career continued in 1953 as he played drums and conducted for Nat King Cole. As a band leader, he had one of the few integrated bands in music.

Samuel R. Browne, Music Educator

Samuel R. Browne is an iconic teacher in America and a legend in Los Angeles. Graduating from Jefferson High School, he returned to integrate the school becoming one of the first African American teachers in Los Angeles. He was an organist, pianist and choir director. He played in local churches to pay his way through USC, earning a Bachelors and Master’s degree in Music. He lobbied the Los Angeles Board of Education to establish a jazz band class. For the next ten years the class saw some of the greatest jazz musicians of our time and resulted in modern, “cool” jazz.

His students became icons of jazz including Dexter Gordon, O.C. Smith, Chico Hamilton, Buddy Collette, Addison and Art Farmer, Ginger Smock, Melba Liston, Big Jay McNeely, Johnny “Guitar” Watson, Roy Ayers and many more.

Jaime Escalante, Mathematics Teacher

Jaime Escalante was born in Bolivia where he taught mathematics for twelve years. He came to the United States and started teaching at Jefferson High School in 1974. He began to challenge the status quo at Jefferson and perceptions of what Latino students could and couldn’t accomplish in mathematics. He offered advanced placement calculus, challenging students to excel at the highest levels. He continued to build the AP calculus class to the point in 1982 where eighteen of his students passed the AP calculus examination. The College Board challenged the student scores. His students retook the test with all receiving passing marks. His AP calculus classes continued to grow to where in 1987 eighty five students passed the AP test. In 1988, Jaime Escalante and his 1982 calculus class became the subject of the major motion picture, Stand and Deliver

His students went on to attend numerous prestigious colleges and universities. Jaime Escalante went on to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Excellence in Education and many other national awards and recognitions.
Gil Bernal, Jazz Saxophonist and Vocalist (2/4/1931 - 7/17/2011) 1948

Gil Bernal was a jazz saxophonist who began his career with Lionel Hampton in 1950. After working with Lionel Hampton, he began his own band and then went on to record some of the best of jazz, funk, jump and honking sax solos of the day with the Coasters such as Youngblood, Searchin, Riot in Cell Block #9, Down in Mexico and Smokey Joe’s Café. At the same time, he was doing instrumental sessions with Big Mama Thornton, Ray Charles and the Dominos to name a few. Bernal then played with Spike Jones for six years. During this time, he can be heard on soundtracks for In the Heat of the Night and other Quincy Jones work.

As a vocalist in 1967, his ballad, Eyes of Love, earned him an Academy Award nomination for the film Banning.

Buddy Collette, Saxophonist, Civil Rights Leader and Educator (August 6, 1921–9/19/2010) 1939

William Marcel “Buddy” Collette is a tenor saxophonist and was one of the most influential contributors to the development of West Coast jazz and blues. Aside from his musical talents, he was also a mentor to younger players and numerous jazz greats such as Charles Mingus, Dexter Gordon and Eric Dolphy. He joined several small bands in the early 40’s in Los Angeles, and in the Navy during World War II, he led the all black Navy jazz band. Following the War, he started the Stars of Swing band and expanded his talents by joining the integrated Humanist Symphony Orchestra conducted by Elmer Bernstein and Jerry Fielding. For the next forty years, he was a regular on television shows such as Joey Bishop, Danny Kaye and Flip Wilson. He also worked with Chico Hamilton’s quintet, while spending time as a recording session saxophonist.

1949 and 1950, Collette broke the color-line in television, becoming the first African American to broadcast nationally performing in the Jerry Fielding orchestra for Groucho Marx’s You Bet Your Life radio and television shows. He later became a leader in fighting for the integration and unification of the musicians union in Los Angeles. At the same time, Buddy Collette was a music educator, working with several music school faculties. The Grammy nominated saxophonist has been described as a “living Los Angeles cultural treasure.”

Florence Delorez Griffith Joyner was a star track athlete at Jordan High School and later became a three-time Gold Medalist in the 1988 Olympics in the 100 and 200 meter races and the 4x100 meter relay. Also in 1988, she held the world record for the 100 meters at 10.49 seconds. In 1998, she also won the Sullivan Award for the most Outstanding Amateur Athlete and was named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year. The Los Angeles Unified School District named an elementary in her honor following her death in 1998.

John L. Hanks, Law Professor  (1940 - 8/9/2014)

John L. Hanks (John Portley) began his law career working for the City of New York, overseeing public works projects and the development of the cable industry. He is a founding faculty member of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, and later became its Associate Dean.

Chico Hamilton, Jazz Drummer and Band Leader  (9/20/1921 – 11/25/2013)

Foreststorn “Chico” Hamilton at Jefferson High School had his own band consisting of Charles Mingus, Buddy Collette, Ernie Royal, Jack Kelso and Dexter Gordon. They would rehearse at his girlfriend’s house. His new drum style led to a whole school of music based on his stylistic interpretation, melodic, soft and graceful, not the brittle sound of bop. His initial models in the 40’s were swing drummer and he joined Lionel Hampton’s swing band and then he was the drummer for the original Gerry Mulligan Quartet.

Chico Hamilton became a highly requested drummer in the late forties and early fifties for stars such as Billie Holiday, Billy Eckstine, and Sammy Davis Jr. and groups such as Jerry Mulligan and Charlie Barnett. He led the Chico Hamilton Quartet through the fifties reaching immense success. He continued to research differing sounds with the rise of jazz-rock fusion in the 1970’s, abandoning some of his softer sounds. Hamilton recorded, did television and continued touring throughout the 70’s and 80’s.

In 2006 he played the Lincoln Center to a packed house with a program entitled My Funny Valentine: A Tribute to Chico Hamilton. He continued to record and produce throughout the decade.
Charles Mingus Jr., Bassist, Composer and Bandleader  
(4/22/1922 – 1/5/1979)  1940

Charles Mingus was a unique musician combining elements of classical, free jazz, black gospel music and bop to create a new and influential sound, a collective improvisation, in modern jazz. Charles Mingus had his own brand, unlikely to accept anything but musical integrity in his composition and playing. Today, he is recognized as one of the most important and influential figures in jazz.

In the 1940’s he toured and played as a double bassist with Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker and Lionel Hampton. At the same time, he established his own recording label because he didn’t want anyone telling him how or what to record. He also began his own ensembles including the Jazz Workshop. His production was phenomenal during the late 50’s and 60’s turning out thirty records and ten albums. In 1963, he released *Black Saint and the Sinner Lady*, often considered one of the greatest jazz albums. Among his compositions, the album *Epitaph* is recognized as a masterpiece of jazz.

Charlie Mingus received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996 as well as two Grammy Hall of Fame Awards. He has been inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame and his jazz collection was obtained by the Library of Congress.

Clarence Otis, Jr., Businessman  
(4/11/1956)

Clarence Otis, Jr.’s career began as an attorney representing financier Karl Icahn and later he was Vice-President of First Boston Bank. He is credited with turning the bank’s finances around. He did the same at Chemical Bank. He then joined Darden Restaurants in 1994, rising quickly to CEO in 2004. Darden owns 1500 restaurants including the Olive Garden, Long Horn Steakhouse, and Red Lobster. He stepped down in 2014.

Wally Parks, Drag Racing Executive and Magazine Editor  

Wally Parks is the founder of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) in 1951, and was the editor of Hot Rod Magazine, taking drag racing sports into the American mainstream. The formation of the organization was to take drag racing out of the back streets and provide a safe competitive environment. The organization has over 80,000 members and is the largest promoter of drag racing. The Hot Rod/Drag Racing Museum in Pomona is named after Wally Parks and he has been inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame. Wally Parks is the single most important person in the history of drag racing and hot rodding.

Fletcher Joseph “Joe” Perry played professional football for fifteen years from 1948 to 1963 mainly for the San Francisco 49’s. During his career, he was a three-time Pro Bowl Selection, two-time Associated Press 1st Team All-Pro, 1954 NFL MVP, and a two-time NFL Rushing Champion. When he retired, he had rushed for more yards than any other player. He was a member of the NFL All-Decade team, and the 50 Year All-Time NFL team. Joe Perry has also been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Hayes Sanders, Olympic Boxer  (3/24/1920 – 12/12/1954)

Hayes Edward “Big Ed” Sanders began boxing in the Golden Gloves in Los Angeles in the early 1950’s. He was 6’4” tall and weighed 220 pounds when he boxed as part of the Navy boxing team during the Korean War. He was selected for the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki and got to the Gold Medal round against Ingemar Johanssen (later to become the Heavyweight Champion of the World). Johanssen was disqualified for failure to fight and Big Ed Sanders was declared the Olympic Champion. He became the 1st African American Olympic Heavyweight Boxing Gold medalist.

Stanley Sanders, Attorney

J. Stanley Sanders grew up in Watts and after his graduation from Jordan High School he attend Whittier College where he was an Honor Student and football All-American. He then won a Rhodes Scholarship and earned a law degree from Yale University.

He established a successful law practice in Los Angeles and was appointed to several commissions by Mayor Thomas Bradley.
Glenn Seaborg, Chemist  
(4/19/1912 - 2/25/1999)  1930

Glenn Theodore Seaborg is one of the most remarkable Americans and chemists of the 20th century. His accomplishments and impact on both America and world are immeasurable.

Glenn Seaborg was a research scientist responsible for the discovery of 10 Transuranium elements including Plutonium for which he won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He was also the discoverer of countless atomic isotopes and radioisotopes which are used today in the treatment of cancer. He was a key contributor to the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago from 1942 to 1946, and the development of the atomic bomb that was eventually detonated on Nagasaki. He was an advisor to nine Presidents of the United States, as well as the Chancellor of the University of California and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

The Whispers

Walter Scott, Vocalist  
(9/23/1943)

Wallace Scott, Vocalist  
(9/23/1943)

The Whispers, one of premier modern, vocal soul groups, formed in 1964 in Watts, California by the twin brothers Walter and Wallace Scott. They would practice day and night, often till four in the morning. They have been together for fifty years producing over forty albums. Their first major hit song was Seems Like I Gotta Do No Wrong in 1970. Their album Headlights and songs Olivia, All the Way and Make it with You continued to build their reputation during the 70’s. Their biggest hit was And the Beat Goes On in 1980 and another top ten hit in 1987 with Rock Steady. Their biggest album was The Whispers. From 1969 to 1989, The Whispers consistently had songs on the U.S and British charts.

The Whispers are in the Vocalist Hall of Fame, have won the Rhythm and Blues Foundation’s Pioneer Award, and have been inducted into the Soul Music Hall of Fame. In 2007, the American Black Music Association Academy of America named The Whispers “Living Legends.”

Marcus Hutson, Vocalist  
(1/8/1943 – 2000)

Nicolas Caldwell, Vocalist  
(4/5/1944)

Gordy Harmon, Vocalist  
(4/5/1944)
Kevin Young, Olympian (9/16/1966) 1992

Kevin Young was a standout 400 meter hurdler and a member of the 4x100 UCLA relay team. He captured four NCAA titles. He won the Olympic Gold Medal in the 1992 Olympics in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 47.18, which still stands as the current World Record. In 1993, he won the ESPY for Best Male Athlete.

Garrett Anderson played sixteen years in professional baseball, fourteen of those years with the Anaheim Angels. He was a three-time All Star, two-time Silver Slugger and the 2002 World Series Champion.

Today he is the Angel’s leader in most batting categories. Currently, he works as a sportscaster handling pre and postgame shows for the Angels.

Cuba Gooding Jr., Actor (1/2/1968)

Cuba M. Gooding, Jr. attended North Hollywood High School before graduating from Kennedy High School. He began his acting career with appearances in television in the 1980’s. His first major role was in Boyz In the Hood in 1991, followed by A Few Good Men, Lightning Jack and Outbreak.

In 1996, he was cast in Jerry McGuire, which became a box office smash and earned Cuba Gooding Jr. an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor. He has continued to appear in numerous films such as Radio, Norbit, The Butler, American Gangster and Selma.


Wendy Jane Greuel’s career in politics began working in Mayor Tom Bradley’s administration. She later worked in the Bill Clinton administration in the Office of Housing and Urban Development addressing issues of homelessness, social services and economic development. She directed the Federal government response to the 1994 Northridge earthquake. She later became a Los Angeles City Councilwoman and then became only the second woman elected citywide in Los Angeles history when she became City Controller.
Denean Howard, Olympian  (10-5-64)

Denean Howard won the Olympic Gold Medal in the 1984 Olympics as part of the 4x400 meter relay team. Denean Howard first came on the track and field scene at Kennedy High School when she and her sisters won and set the National High School record in the 4x440 yard relay race.

Sherri Howard, Olympian  (6/1/62)

Sherri Howard first came on the track and field scene at Kennedy High School when she and her sisters won and set the National High School record in the 4x440 relay race. Sherri Howard then won the Gold Medal in the 1984 Olympic Games in the 4x400 meter relay race.

Sherri Howard began an acting career with several television appearances and then a role in The Scorpion King. She has also made numerous fitness commercials, and is a trainer and model.
Lincoln High School

Ruth Vivian Acosta, Sports Activist

Ruth Acosta graduated from Lincoln High School in 1957. She served as past-president of the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport. She is also a professor emeritus for the Brooklyn College of University.

She is a recipient of a Lifetime achievement award from the National Association of College Women in Athletics and has been recognized as one of the 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America by the Institute for International Sport. She is a co-author of Title IX.


Gregory Ain was a Los Angeles architect who beginning in 1935 was best known for his work in modern design and construction to address lower and middle income individuals. These designs included flexible floor plans and open kitchens. He has over thirty historic designs in the Los Angeles area. He taught architecture at the University of Southern California and was the Dean of Architecture at Penn State University.


Stephen Bosustow was the creator and producer of such classics as Mr. McGoo and Gerald McBoing Boing in the 1950’s. In the 1950’s, he also became the only producer to be nominated for all the films in a single category of animated features. He is the recipient of three Academy Awards for Best Animated Short Film. In 1963, he formed United Productions of America which produced over 600 cartoons and short features. United Productions of America has since won Emmys and Academy Awards for their short films, features and television productions.
Art Brambila, Manager and Record Producer

Art Brambila attended Lincoln High School, East Los Angeles College and Cal State L.A. and then landed a job as a printer with Capitol Records in their marketing department. For twenty-three years at Capitol Records, Motown and ABC Television and Universal Pictures, he handled advertising, publicity and promotions for special markets. He was instrumental in highlighting East Los Angeles talent to the major music industry. In 1972 he started Brown Bag Productions obtaining contracts for a wide range of young Latino Artists. Art Brambila also had a one year run with the first Chicano dance television show on KCOP called The Mean Salsa Machine.


Gene Herman Brito played eleven years in professional football mostly in the NFL with Washington and the Los Angeles Rams. He was an offensive end, but moved to defensive end for most of his career. He was a five-time Pro Bowl selection and a four-time All Pro selection and NFL Player of the Year in 1955.

Ruben Brooks, Federal Judge 1967

Ruben Brooks currently serves as a Federal Magistrate Judge in the Southern District for California located in San Diego.

Eddie Cano, Latin Jazz Musician, Pianist

Edward “Eddie” Cano attended Lincoln High School in the early 1940’s and became a renowned Latin jazz musician combining Latin styles with jazz. He was one of the first Latin jazz musicians working with Buddy Collette, Tony Martinez, Les Baxter and Tony Ramos in the 1950’s and 1960’s. With Don Tosti, he was part of the Pachuco Boogie Boys. Eddie Cano recorded for major labels such as Atco, Reprise and RCA. In the 1960’s he had a mainstream hit album, Eddie Cano at PJ’s, which included his instrumental version of A Taste of Honey.
Bobby “Rabbit” Jamarillo, one year out of high school, was one of the founding members of Cannibal and the Headhunters in 1964. The group began practicing in a chicken coop at Bobby Jamarillo’s house in the Ramona Gardens Projects. They quickly became one of the pioneers of the Eastside Sound. Their hit song in 1964 was *Land of a Thousand Dances*, and was originally written by Fats Domino. It stayed 14 weeks on the pop charts and earned them appearances on American Bandstand, Shebang, Hullabaloo and other shows. They also performed with Murray the K shows that included headliners such as Marvin Gaye, the Temptations, Tom Jones and Wilson Pickett. The song also earned them the opening act spot for the Beatles U.S. tour in 1965.

Richard “Scar” Lopez co-founded Cannibal and the Headhunters along with Robert Jamarillo in 1964. They had met in Mrs. Meade’s choir class at Lincoln High School in their senior year.

Frankie Garcia joined Robert Lopez and Richard Lopez when he heard them practicing in their Ramona Gardens home.

Richard Lopez, Vocalist
Cannibal and the Headhunters
(7/30/2010)

Frankie Garcia, Lead Vocalist
Cannibal and the Headhunters

Joe Jamarillo, Vocalist
Cannibal and the Headhunters

Gaylord Beach Carter, Silent Film Organist (8/3/1905 – 11/20/2000) 1918

Gaylord Beach Carter was a theater organist and composer famous for the music attached to classic silent films. While a student at Lincoln High School, he would play the organ at the silent film theater. He later became one of the best known theater organists for eight decades. He scored the original silent film *Ben*
Hur in 1926 and then played the organ at the Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles for six months. The Student Prince and the Phantom of the Opera were other films he scored during the silent era. With the end of the silent era, Gaylord Carter began scoring in a studio all of the all silent films. He started with Harold Lloyd and Mary Pickford silent movies, bringing his organ music to the films. As late as the 1980’s he was resoring silent films.


Robert Castillo graduated from Lincoln High School in 1973. He played baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers and was a member of their 1981 World Championship team. He is credited with teaching Dodger great Fernando Valenzuela how to throw a screwball.

Eldridge Cleaver, Activist (8/31/1935)

Eldridge attended Lincoln High School, dropping out in his junior year. He later became the author of the best-selling book Soul on Ice and a founding member of the Black Panther movement in the 1960’s and was the organization’s Minister of Information. He was a major leader for the far revolutionary left in the 1960’s and 70’s, exiling himself to avoid prison in the 1970’s. He later returned to the United States, becoming a preacher and speaking in prisons, schools and churches on how to resolve conflict without violence.

Josephine Serrano Collier, Law Enforcement (3/14/1922 – 2014) 1940

Josephine Collier graduated from Lincoln High School in 1940. She became the first Latina police officer for the Los Angeles Police Department. Following her retirement from the LAPD she became a counselor for the Job Corps.

John Conte was a television, radio, film and Broadway actor. On the radio, he was the announcer for the Silver Theater on CBS in 1941 and he had a regular role on Burns and Allen. He also appeared in television shows such as Perry Mason and The Untouchables. His major role in film was The Man with the Golden Arm. He was also a regular host of The Matinee Theater. On Broadway, he played in Allegro and Arms and the Girl. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Daniel De Luce, Journalist  (6/8/1911 – 1/31/2002)  1928

Daniel De Luce graduated from Lincoln High School in 1928. He began his career in journalism as an office boy in the San Francisco Office of Associated Press in 1929. He received his B.A. in Economics from UCLA in 1934. He was then a war correspondent during World War II for the Associated Press. His coverage of the war took him to North Africa, South Asia and throughout Europe. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1944 for international reporting regarding the strength of partisan resistance to the Nazis in Yugoslavia.

After the war, De Luce reported from Jordan on the Arab-Israeli war of 1947-48. He then returned to Europe to serve as AP bureau chief in Frankfurt, Germany. Charles De Luce returned to the United States in 1956 to work at AP headquarters in New York until; his retirement in 1976.

Moctesuma Esparza, Filmmaker, Activist  (3/12/1949)  1967

Moctesuma Esparza graduated in 1967 from Lincoln High School. He then attended the School of Theater, Film and Television at UCLA, receiving his B.A. in 1971 and M.F.A. in 1973. During the 1960’s he was also one of the leaders of the Chicano movement in Los Angeles and a leader of the 1969 East Los Angeles school walkouts memorialized in his 2006 film Walkout. During his sophomore year at UCLA, Moctesuma Esparza created an ethno-communications program at the film school. He also wrote a proposal, made the curriculum, and successfully created the first multicultural film program in the United States.

Moctesuma became a film producer and CEO of Maya Cinemas and Maya Entertainment, directed to a Latino audience. His work has focused on Chicano themes producing over twenty films for television. His major films included Introducing Dorothy Dandridge, The Milagro Beanfield War and Selena.

He has won an Emmy Award, a Clio Award, an ALMA Award, and Oscar and Golden Globe nominations. In 1994 he received a Professional Achievement Award from UCLA. He currently serves on numerous industry and civic boards.

John Huston attended Lincoln High School for two years, dropping out at fifteen to become a boxer. He is one of the most famous film directors of our time. He was nominated for fifteen Academy Awards, winning twice. His films encompass what are today some of the greatest films made including the *Maltese Falcon*, *African Queen*, *Asphalt Jungle* and *Key Largo*. He also wrote the screenplays for most of his films.

His two Oscars and a Golden Globe were for *Treasure of Sierra Madre* in 1958. He has also been awarded several Lifetime Achievement Awards and numerous other film critics and trade awards.

Fidel LaBarba, Boxer  (9/29/1905 - 10/3/1981)

Fidel LaBarba won the Olympic Gold Medal in flyweight boxing in 1924 in Paris. Coming back home, he graduated Lincoln High School but put off entering Stanford University to become a pro-fighter. Three years later in 1927, he became the World Professional Flyweight Champion. He later renounced the title so he could concentrate on his studies at Stanford University finishing a degree in journalism. He later became a sportswriter and Hollywood screenplay writer. He also worked as a technical advisor for fight films.

He is a member of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame and the Boxing Hall of Fame.

José Acardio Limón (1/12/1908 – 12/2/1972)

Jose Acardio Limon was a pioneer in the field of modern dance and choreography. He began his career as a dancer on Broadway in the 1930's working with Irving Berlin and George Balanchine in the productions of *Americana* and *Thousands Cheer*. His first major production was *Danzas Mexicanas* in 1937. He left Broadway in 1943. In 1946, he established the Limon Dance Company. Their best known work in 1949 was *The Moors Pavane*. The Company was also known for the Limon Technique that emphasized natural rhythms between fall and recovery and interplay between weight and weightlessness.

Limon also joined the faculty of Julliard in 1951, teaching a new dance program. He remained at the school for the rest of his life. In 1954 they became the first dance company in the U.S. to travel abroad for the U.S. State Department. Jose Limon was a prolific choreographer, producing at least one new production every year until his death in 1972.
Frank Lubin, Basketball (1/7/1910 – 7/8/1999)

Frank John Lubin was a basketball player at UCLA and later joined the AAU basketball team that represented the United States in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. They won the Gold Medal. In 1937, Lubin went to his home country of Lithuania to coach their national team. The team won two Euro Championships before Lubin and his family fled the Russian invasion in 1939. He is still recognized as the “Grandfather of Lithuanian Basketball.” Frank Lubin has been inducted into the UCLA Sports Hall of Fame.

Harold “Chad” McClellan, Negotiator

Harold “Chad” McClellan was the Assistant Secretary of Commerce under President Eisenhower from 1955 to 1957. In this role he organized the “Kitchen Debate between Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev and Vice-President Richard Nixon. He was also the President of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association in Los Angeles when he was appointed by Mayor Norris Poulson to negotiate the moving of the Brooklyn Dodgers from New York to Los Angeles.

Carlos Moreno, Supreme Court Judge, Ambassador to Belize (11/4/1948)

Carlos Roberto Moreno attended Solano Elementary School and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1966. At a ceremony celebrating Lincoln’s 50th anniversary he commented on the inspiring teachers who always expected the best from him. After graduation from Stanford University, he became an attorney and was then appointed a Municipal Court and Superior Court judge before becoming in 1998 a Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court for Central California. In 2001, he was appointed to the California Supreme Court. During his time on the bench, he made decisions that supported civil rights for the LGTB community and decisions that supported a strong foster care system. In 2013, President Barak Obama appointed Carlos Moreno as Ambassador to Belize.

He has been a highly recognized jurist and former President of the Mexican American Bar Association. He has a long list of other awards recognizing his service to the court and also his community involvement.
Sadeo Munemori, Congressional Medal of Honor  (8/17/1912 – 4/5/1945)

Sadeo Munemori attended Fletcher Drive Elementary School and graduated from Lincoln High School. He was able to enter the U.S. Army in 1942. In 1945 he was assigned to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy. On April 5th 1945 his squad leader was wounded and he was trapped in a shell crater with two other soldiers. Munemori crawled out of the crater and knocked out the enemy machine guns with grenades. He returned to the shell crater when an enemy grenade landed by him. He fell of the grenade dying instantly and saving the lives of the other two U.S. soldiers.

Sadeo Munemori was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was at the time the only Japanese American to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in World War II. Twenty other Japanese Americans received the Congressional Medal of Honor in the 1990’s for their World War II service.


Robert Preston Meservey had a film and stage career that lasted nearly fifty years. He left Lincoln High School at sixteen to pursue an acting career. In the early 1960’s, he starred in several critically acclaimed films such as Dark at the Top of the Stairs and All the Way Home. In the 1980’s, he starred in two well received satires, S.O.B. and Victor/Victoria. His stage credits included in the 1950’s Twentieth Century, The Male Animal, The Tender Trap, Janus, The Hidden River, The Lion in Winter, I Do! I Do!, and Henry IV to name a few. In 1957, he starred in The Music Man which ran for 1400 performances. He left The Music Man three years later only to recreate the role on film in 1962.

Robert Preston won two Tony Awards for Best Actor in a Musical for The Music Man and in 1967 for I Do!, I Do! He is in the Grammy Hall of Fame, is the winner of The Golden Laurel Award and numerous Film Critics’ awards.
Rudy Salas, Lead Guitarist

Steve Salas, Guitarist

1967

Rudy and Steve Salas were originally vocalists for the East L.A. band called the Jaguars. It was one of the bands that helped define the beginning of the Eastside Sound in the early and mid-sixties. The Salas brothers founded the Mexican American band Tierra in 1971. Other original members were David Torres, Andre Baeza, Bobby Navarette, Joey Guerra, Steve Falomir and Phillip Madayag. Their two biggest early hits were *City Nights* and *Together*. Both songs made the national charts. Two additional songs, *Memories* and *Gonna Find Her* also hit the charts. They produced fourteen albums through the 1990’s and are still performing and recording today.

They are one of the most versatile bands being able to play jazz, R&B, soul, funk and rock and move between genres with ease. Tierra combined their music with the political activism of the Chicano movement of the time to produce what became the Eastside Sound. In all, they have maintained a loyal following throughout the past four decades. Rudy Salas credits his teacher Sal Castro for making a very big difference in his life by teaching him to celebrate and read about his rich Mexican culture.

David Torres, Keyboards

David Torres was a keyboardist, songwriter, arranger, who was a member of the original Tierra in 1971, participating on their first two albums. He attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and was keyboardist and arranger for Poncho Sanchez for 22 years.

Bobby Navarette, Saxophone & Flute

Steve Falomir, Bassist

Joey Guerra, Keyboards

Philip Madayag, Drums
Max Uballez, Singer, Songwriter, Record Producer

Max Uballez produced several iconic records including *Land of a Thousand Dances* by Cannibal and the Headhunters. He has also worked with Frank Zappa, Sergio Mendes, Ahmet Ertegun and Billy Cardenas. He was also instrumental in launching the careers of Grammy Award winner Queztal Flores and Lisa Flores.

His first album with his own band The Romancers, is considered the blueprint for the “Chicano Eastside Sound.” Max’s 1963 Del-Fi instrumental album *Do the Slauson Shuffle* by The Romancers is still selling today and is considered a classic example of vintage early rock & roll dance music. He is currently the CEO of Xela-Co Media, a video, music and print publishing company.

Robert Young, Actor (2/22/1907 - 7/21/1998) 1925

Robert George Young as a senior at Lincoln High School was the head yell leader and was part of the Playcrafters, playing the leading role in *Taming of the Shrew*. His film career began in the 1930’s where he made as many as ten films in a single year. In the 1940’s, he made some of his best films including *Northwest Passage, Crossfire and Claudia*. In 1949, he starred in the radio show *Father Knows Best*. He is best known for his later role in *Father Knows Best* on television from 1954 – 1960. In the 1960’s and 70’s, he starred in *Marcus Welby M.D.*. The *Marcus Welby* series ran from 1969 to 1976.

Robert Young won two Emmys for *Father Knows Best* with two other nominations. He also won an Emmy for *Marcus Welby* with three other nominations. He also won a Golden Globe for Best Actor in *Marcus Welby* with four other nominations. Robert Young also has three stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.


Kenneth S. Washington was a star running back at Lincoln High School and in college was UCLA’s first an All-American in football. He tried to play professional football in 1940 but was blackballed by the NFL owners. When the Cleveland Rams moved to Los Angeles in 1946, one of the stipulations was that the team had to be integrated. As a result, Kenny Washington became the first African American to play professional football in the NFL. He later had a distinguished career as a Los Angeles Police Officer. Kenny Washington has been inducted into the Collegiate Football Hall of Fame.
Sal Castro, Teacher and Activist

Sal Castro was a legend in East Los Angeles, a major leader of the Chicano Movement of late 1960 which led to major changes in the education and opportunities for Latino Youth. Born in Boyle Heights in 1933 he grew up in East Los Angeles and attended East L.A. schools where he experienced firsthand the racism prevalent in that day. He became a social studies teacher at Belmont High School and later at Lincoln High School where he led the East L.A. Walkouts that eventually changed the educational landscape for young people. Rudy and Steve Salas, Lincoln students and the founders of the band Tierra recall the tremendous impact Sal Castro had on students, helping them to become aware of their culture and their ability to change their lives.
**Gerald Albright, Jazz Saxophonist and Multi-Instruments  (9/30/1957)  1972**

Gerald Albright is one of the premier saxophonists in R&B, contemporary and straight ahead jazz today. He has sold over one million albums with fifteen CDs in the U.S. alone and performs regularly nationwide with jazz stars such as Dave Koz, Quincy Jones, Whitney Houston Teena Marie, Phil Collins, Anita Baker and many more. He is also a very highly requested session musician appearing on numerous albums. Two of these hit the number one slot on Jazz Billboard and were nominated for Grammys. His last album in 2014, *Slam Dunk* also received a Grammy nomination.

**Ndugu Chancler, Drummer  (7/1/1952)**

Ndugu “Leon” Chancler is a jazz drummer, composer and producer. He is a highly requested studio percussionist working with musicians such as Freddie Hubbard, Frank Sinatra, Miles Davis, Carlos Santana, Patrice Rushen, Thelonious Monk, Donna Summer, Kenny Rodgers, Lionel Ritchie and Bobby Hutcherson. He can also be heard in Michael Jackson’s *Billie Jean*. He has also toured with Gerald Wilson and Herbie Hancock.

As a composer, Ndugu co-wrote hits for Santana including *Dance Sister Dance, Reach for It* for George Duke, and *Let It Whip* for the Dazz Band.

As an educator, Ndugu works with the Jazz Mentorship Program, the Thelonious Monk Institute, and is faculty advisor to the U.S.C. Jazz Reach, in Los Angeles. Ndugu is also on the faculty of the Young Musicians Program at Cal Berkeley, Stanford Jazz Workshop, Diaz Music Institute, and Music For All. Ndugu does clinics all over the world for Yamaha, Paiste, Remo, Toca, Vic Firth, and Shure Bros. Ndugu Chancler is an Adjunct Professor of Jazz and Popular Music Studies at The University of Southern California and the Flora L. Thornton School of Music.

**Cynthia Cooper, Basketball  (4/14/1963)  1981**

Cynthia Lynne Cooper-Dyke led the Locke High School Saints to the California State Championship in basketball in 1981. She then enrolled at the University of Southern California and led the Trojans to two NCAA Basketball Championships in 1983 and 1984. In 1982, Cynthia Cooper led the U.S. to an Olympic Gold Medal in basketball. She continued to represent the U.S. in world competition winning two World Championships in 1986 and 1990.
She continued to play internationally until 1997 when she joined the Houston Comets of the WNBA. She
led the Comets to four consecutive WNBA Championship titles. In the process she was named the Most
she was named Sportswoman of the Year by the Women’s Sports Foundation. She has been inducted
into the WNBA Hall of Fame, the Basketball Hall of Fame and voted by the fans as one of the fifteen
greatest women basketball players of all time. Many consider her the greatest of all time.

When Cynthia Cooper retired she had led the WNBA in all career scoring categories. She later coached
the Phoenix Mercury and currently is the Head Coach of the University of Southern California Trojans.

Valerie Brisco Hooks, Track and Field  (7/6/1960)  1978

Valerie Ann Brisco-Hooks electrified the sports world when she won three Gold Medals in the 1984
Olympics in Los Angeles. The medals were in the 200 and 400 meter races and the 4x400 meter relay.
Her time in the 400 meters broke the Olympic record and still leaves her as the eighth fastest woman of
all time.

She has been inducted into the Track and Field Hall of Fame. She also has a Sports Foundation dedicated
to providing an anti-drug message to her community. She is currently the Track and Field Coach at West
Los Angeles College.

Eddie Murray, Baseball  (2/24/1956)  1973

Eddie Clarence Murray batted 500 at Locke High School in his senior year and was a teammate of Ozzie
Smith. He played professional baseball for twenty years from 1977 to 1997, twelve of which were with
the Baltimore Orioles. During that time he was named an All-Star eight times, he was the World Series
Champion in 1983, the American League Rookie of the Year in 1977, a three-Time Silver Slugger, three-
Time Golden Glove winner and the American League Homerun Champion in 1981.

In his career Eddie Murray had hit 504 home runs, batted an average of .287 with 3255 hits when he
retired in 1997. In 2003, he was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Sporting News lists Eddie Murray
as number 77 on the list of the Hundred Greatest Players of All Time.

Eddie Murray has also been extremely generous in contributing to youth and community projects in
Baltimore. He has a bronze statue erected in his honor outside the Orioles Camden Yards Baseball Field.
Patrice Rushen, Vocalist, Multi-instrumentalist, Composer, Director and Producer  (9/30/1954)

Patrice Louise Rushen was the first woman to serve as Musical Director for the 46th, 47th & 48th Annual Grammy Awards. She was the first woman in forty-three years to serve as Head Composer/Musical Director for the Emmy Awards. She was also the first woman Musical Director of the NAACP Image Awards, an honor she held for twelve consecutive years. Patrice Rushen has also been the only woman Musical Director/Composer for the People’s Choice Awards and HBO’s Comic Relief. She was also the only woman Musical Director/Conductor/Arranger for a late-night television talk show, The Midnight Hour, which aired on CBS.

Patrice Rushen was named the Musical Director/Composer for Newsweek’s first American Achievement Awards, broadcast, and she served as the Musical Director for Janet Jackson’s World Tour, Janet. As the Musical Director for the award shows, she composed and performed special musical tributes to Michael Landon, Ted Turner, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, The Temptations, James Garner and Leonard Bernstein to name a few. Rushen was named Composer in Residence during the August 2004 sessions at the Henry Mancini Institute.

Patrice Rushen is also a recording artist with multi-Grammy nominations for songs such as Forget Me Nots in 1982, Men in Black in 1997, and Signature in 1998. She has fourteen solo albums to her credit.

In addition to being a recording artist, she is a composer providing scores to hit films, television shows and series such as Men in Black, Waiting to Exhale, The Killing Yard, America’s Dream and Ruby Bridges to name only a few. She has also written an award winning symphony and served as the composer in residence for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In 2008, she accepted a professorship with the Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Charles Sampson, Professional Bull Rider  (7/2/1957)  1976

Charles “Charlie” Sampson graduated from Locke High School in 1976. By then he was already working in a stable in Gardena and competing in rodeo events. Charles Sampson became the first African American to win the Professional Rodeo and Cowboys Association World Championship as a bull rider. He competed for an additional sixteen years winning numerous bull riding championships until his retirement in 1994. He was inducted into the Professional Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1996.
Osborne Earl "Ozzie" Smith played nineteen years in professional baseball, seventeen of those years with the St. Louis Cardinals. His nickname was “The Wizard” because of his defensive skills at shortstop. He was a fifteen-time All Star and thirteen-time Gold Glove Award winner. He was also a World Series Champion in 1982.

Ozzie Smith inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame and was number 87 on the Sporting News List of the 100 Greatest Baseball Players of All-Time. He has a bronze statue outside Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

Acquanetta Harrison Warren was sworn in as Fontana’s first female and first African-American Mayor in December, 2010 and was re-elected in 2014. She was appointed to the Fontana City Council on December 17, 2002 and was re-elected in 2004 and 2008. Mayor Warren’s term will expire in 2018. Her focus is “Fontana is open for business,” a campaign that has the City of Fontana ranked number four in the California for retail sales growth. Mayor Warren is the founder of the Healthy Fontana Program, which is now an example of teaching resident healthy lifestyles throughout the state.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Warren served as Co-Chairperson of the City of Fontana General Plan Advisory Committee and Chairperson of the Citizen Village of Heritage Development Landscape Committee.
Pauline Betz Addie, Tennis  (8/6/1919 – 5/31/2011)

Pauline May Betz was a dominant tennis player in the 1940’s winning five grand slam championships, including Wimbledon, and being undefeated in thirty-nine consecutive matches. She was suspended from amateur tennis competition for talking about becoming a professional. She did turn professional and competed through 1960. She appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1946, considered one of the best tennis players of her era and one of the fiercest competitors.

Baldomero Almada, Baseball  (2/7/1913 – 8/13/1988)

Baldomero "Mel" Almada was the first native Mexican to play professional baseball when he was signed by the Boston Red Sox in 1933. He played for six years with four different teams. He later coached in the Mexican Leagues. He has been inducted into the Mexican Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mabel Alvarez, California Artist  (11/28/1891 – 3/13/1895)

Mabel Alvarez was a California Modernist painter and a major contributor to the California Impressionist movement of the 1920’s. Her career began at Los Angeles High School where her art teacher, James Edwin McBurney, was responsible for her early mural work. He had received a commission to create murals for the Panama-California Exposition to be held in San Diego in 1915, and he engaged Mabel Alvarez to work for him. Her sensitive, introspective mural work at the Exposition started an eight-decade career as an artist.

Her first exhibition as a professional artist occurred at the San Francisco Art Institute’s annual show in 1918. She then became one of the first women to join the California Art Club, whose members were the foundation of California impressionism. In the 1920’s and 30’s, her works were heavily influenced by the Synchrony Movement’s Stanton MacDonald-Wright and Morgan Russell, who would be her teacher for over 20 years. Alvarez’s work was a constant evolution. All of her portraits and still lifes were sensitive and reflective, calming not harsh. Her works continued to become more introspective in the 1950’s and 60’s, focusing on religious and symbolic themes.
Her work continues to be exhibited internationally and her pieces command top dollar today in galleries and at auction.

**Frederick R. Archer, Photographer  (1889 - 4/27/1963)  1910**

Frederick Archer was an influential West Coast photographer contributing to photographic techniques as well as being an accomplished portrait photographer. He was a pictorial photographer where his photographs were rarely straight forward black and white, but rather were altered, accented with shades of blue or brown and often unfocused to create an emotional feeling. In 1959, he won a Peabody Award for his contributions to photography utilizing pictorial methods.

He also collaborated with Ansel Adams on developing the Zone System where techniques of exposure and development were optimized. He later taught photography and published a text, *Fred Archer, Portraiture*, that remained in use for many years.

**Leonore Annenberg, Philanthropist  (2/20/1918 – 3/12/2009)**

Leonore Cohn was a major philanthropist serving as Chairwoman of the Annenberg Foundation that donated billions of dollars to cultural and social causes that included schools, libraries, museums and theaters. She was also Ronald Reagan’s first Chief of Protocol.


Earle C. Anthony built a fully operational electric car in 1897 while a student at Los Angeles High School where he graduated in 1898. He then opened his first auto dealership in 1904 at 2nd and Main Streets. His first year as a Packard dealer was in 1906. He then continued to build Packard dealerships through California.

At the same time he pioneered the first gas station design that also had a chevron symbol. He was tired of going to the hardware store to purchase gasoline so he put pumps in front of his dealerships and then throughout California. His 250 gas stations were later sold to Standard Oil later to become Chevron. Chevron kept the chevron symbol as their logo. He also constructed the first neon sign in Los Angeles on top of his Packard dealership, sparking another advertising craze.
In 1922, he created KFI radio station when he placed a transmitter on top of his dealership to communicate with other dealers and advertise Packard automobiles. He then broadcast opera and classical music over the station. He turned KFI into one of the largest radio stations in the United States.

Earle Anthony was also a major philanthropist, helping save the Hollywood Bowl. He was also influential in bringing the Dodgers to Los Angeles, which also resulted in them being broadcast on exclusively KFI.

Harold Babcock graduated the University of California and became a staff member at the Mt. Wilson observatory and remained there until his retirement in 1948. He was an astronomer who mapped the surface of the sun’s magnetic fields utilizing his invention, the solar magnetograph. He was the winner of the Bruce Medal, the highest honor in the field of astronomy. He has a crater on the moon named for him.

Mike Ballou obtained a B.A. degree in Sociology from UCLA in 1972 and proceeded to work with at-risk youth as an L.A. County Deputy Probation Officer. He retired after 40 years of exemplary service and received many awards including “Employee of the Year” in 1996. He has continued his interest in developing the character of young men as he serves as a member and consultant to “The Motivated Men of Dorsey High School.”

Anne Baxter began her Hollywood film acting career in 1940 and made movies with Orson Wells and Billy Wilder and acted opposite stars such as Tyrone Power, Gregory Peck, Richard Widmark, and Gene Tierney. In 1946, she made Razor’s Edge, which earned her an Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress. In 1950, she starred in All about Eve and received an Academy Award Best Actress nomination. She made three more major films in the 1950’s, Blue Gardenia, The Ten Commandments, and Hitchcock’s I Confess. During the 1950’s, she also returned to act on the Broadway stage and later in
the 1970’s she starred on Broadway in *Applause* and a musical version of *All about Eve*. At the same time, she continued to make guest appearances and star in featured television movies. Anne Baxter has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

**Dr. Elmer Belt, Urologist and Philanthropist**  (1983 – 1980)

Elmer Belt was a urologist and one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the UCLA School of Medicine. The idea of a School of Medicine was opposed by then UC President Robert Sproul, but Belt convinced Governor Earl Warren, one of his patients to support the school. On February 20, 1946 Governor Warren signed the bill appropriating $7 million for the medical school at UCLA. The medical school opened in 1951.

Elmer Belt was also a pioneer in sexual reassignment surgery. He was also a major collector of the works of Leonardo Da Vinci and the Italian Renaissance, donating his collection to UCLA in what is now the Elmer Belt Library of Vinciana.

**Henry Stanley Benedict, California State Assemblyman and Senator, United States Congressman**  (2/20/1878 – 7/10/1930)

Henry Stanley Benedict served in the California Senate and State Assembly. He then served in the United States Congress from 1916 to 1917.


John Biby graduated Los Angeles High School and then got his B.A. from UCLA. He was part of the first UCLA graduating class in 1924. He was a yachtsman who won a Gold Medal in the 1932 Olympics in eight-meter yachting.
Eugene Biscailuz, Sheriff  (3/12/1883 - 5/16/1969)

Eugene Biscailuz joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department in 1907. At that time, there were 27 deputies. By 1929 he had become Assistant Deputy Chief. In 1929, he was appointed Superintendent of the newly organized California Highway Patrol. He spent two years organizing the Highway Patrol in California and then returned to Los Angeles to become the Undersheriff for Los Angeles County. He held this position as head of the Sheriff’s Department for twenty-six years until 1958. He handled some of the highest profile cases of the era. He also organized the first uniformed sheriff’s patrol, and set up the first modern law enforcement communications system. When Eugene Biscailuz retired, the L.A. County Sheriff’s Office was the largest in the nation.

Dallas Denver Bixler, Gymnastics  (2/17/1910- 8/13/1990)  1928

Dallas Bixler graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1928 and then attended UCLA. He won the Gold Medal in gymnastics on the horizontal bar in the 1932 Olympic Games. He also served as a judge and assistant to the Olympic Organizing Committee for the 1984 Games.

Marjorie Gestring Bowman, Olympian  (11/18/1922 – 4/20/1992)  1940

Marjorie Gestring graduated Los Angeles High School and then went to Stanford where she became Stanford’s first great diver and one of their first Olympic medalists. She became the youngest person to win a Gold Medal when she won the springboard diving event at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. She had won numerous U.S. Diving Championships during her career and has been inducted into both the International Diving Hall of Fame and the Stanford University Sports Hall of Fame.

Fletcher Bowron, Mayor  (8/13/1887 – 9/11/1968)  1904

Fletcher Bowron served as Mayor of Los Angeles from 1938 to 1953. He is credited for his leadership in guiding the growth and development of the city during the boom years of 1938 to 1953. Previously, he was a Superior Court Judge.
Ray Bradbury, Author  
(8/22/1920 – 6/5/2012)  
1938

Ray Douglas Bradbury was a member of the Poetry and Drama Clubs at Los Angeles High School. At Los Angeles High School, he took poetry classes from teachers Snow Longley Housh and short story classes from Janett Johnson.

Today, he is recognized as one of the greatest science fiction writers of a generation. He gained fame in the early 1950’s with classic novels such as Fahrenheit 451, The Martian Chronicles and the Illustrated Man. He wrote Fahrenheit 451 at the UCLA Powell library on a rented typewriter. All of these were adapted for theaters and television.

Bradbury continued to write novels and short stories as well as motion picture screenplays. In 1953, he wrote the screenplay for Moby Dick. He adapted I Sing the Body Electric for the Twilight Zone. Something This Way Wicked Comes and The Screaming Woman were also adapted for film. In 1965, three of his short stories were adapted for stage including Device Out of Time, The Day it Rained Forever and The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit. From 1985 to 1992, he adapted sixty-five stories for his television program, The Ray Bradbury Theater.

In recognition for his contributions to literature he received the National Medal of Arts presented by President George W. Bush. In 2007, he also received a Pulitzer jury citation. In addition, he has received hundreds of other prestigious awards for science fiction and literature.

Harry Brand, Publicist  
(2/23/1889 – 1989)  
Winter 1915

Harry Brand is remembered as the first true Hollywood publicist. He became the publicity director for 20th Century Fox in 1935 at the studio’s beginning, and from there built a career on representing both the studio and its stars with discretion, fanfare and a positive attitude.

No one knew more about the workings of old Hollywood than Harry Brand. It was an era when stars did not have personal agents so the studio handled all of their needs and publicity. He handled all of Fox’s major stars including Shirley Temple, Betty Grable, Barbara Stanwyck, Cesar Romero, Tyrone Power and Rex Harrison. He became the model for modern day talent agents.

Charles Bukowski, Author  

Charles Bukowski graduated Los Angeles High School and then attended Los Angeles City College for two years. He then began his career as a writer. During his career he published over sixty books including six
novels and collections of thousands of poems and short stories. Most of his work dealt with poverty, alcohol and drug abuse and the plight of the American underclass. The film *Barfly* and the television series *Californication* were heavily influenced by Bukowski’s characters. Some his most famous novels are *Ham on Rye* and *Pulp.*

David Butler, Actor, Film Director  (12/17/1894 – 6/14/1979)

David Butler is famous as the director of the Bob Hope “Road Show” movie *The Road to Morocco* in 1942 and *The Princess and the Pirate* in 1944. He also directed Doris Day in the musicals *Tea for Two* in 1951, *Lullaby of Broadway* in 1952, and *Calamity Jane* in 1953. During his thirty year career, he directed over fifty feature films as well as television films and series episodes including *Leave It to Beaver* and *Wagon Train.*

John Cage, Composer and Music Theorist  (9/5/1912 - 8/12/1992)  1928

John Milton Cage Jr. was the Valedictorian at Los Angeles High School. He had a profound influence on American music of the 20th century through radical innovations in both compositions and instruments. He was a music theorist who pioneered the electric-acoustic guitar. He was a leader in the post-World War II avant-garde movement in music and percussion music with the development of modern dance. He created new approaches to harmony, breaking away from traditional styles.

He is known for his composition 4.33 in which the artists do not deliberately perform. He also created the prepared piano where piano strings are altered by weighted objects. In 1951, he developed aleatoric or “chance controlled music,” based on Indian and Asian forms of music and philosophy such as Tai Chi. His work became more critically acclaimed in the 1960’s as he produced more compositions such as *Variations III, Cheap Imitation* and *A Year from Monday.* At the same time, he was teaching at Wesleyan University and publishing notable works on music theory.

In the 1980’s and the latter part of his career he wrote five operas all entitled *Euphoria.*

Leo Carrillo, Actor  (8/6/1881 – 9/10/1961)

Leopoldo Antonio Carrillo was best known for films such as *Villa, Villa* in 1934, *Phantom of the Opera* in 1943 and *The Cisco Kid* in 1950. His career on stage, silent film, talking movies and television began in 1900. He is best remembered as Pancho, the sidekick to the *Cisco Kid* television series that ran from 1949 to 1955 with 156 episodes.
Leo Carrillo’s family had a long history in California. His great-great grandfather accompanied Father Junipero Serra on his exploration of California. His great grandfather was the Mexican Provisional Governor of California in 1837. His father was Mayor of Santa Monica.

Aside from being an extremely popular screen star, he was a regular speaker and constantly appeared at major social and political events including the Rose Parade. He was also an important conservationist serving on the California Beach and Parks Commission for eighteen years. He was a key factor in the State obtaining the Hearst Castle, the Los Angeles Arboretum and the Anza Borrego Park. He has a California Park and beach named after him and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Richard Chew, Film Editor (6/28/1940)

Richard Chew began collecting films while still a student at Los Angeles High School. He is a recognized film editor in Hollywood, winning an Academy Award for his work on Star Wars, Episode IV. For forty years he worked on films such as One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Risky Business, and Waiting to Exhale. He has also won industry awards for The Redwoods, The Conversation, and Shanghai Noon.

Thurmond Clarke, Federal Judge (June 29, 1902 – 2/28/1971)

Thurmond Clarke served as a federal judge for the Federal Southern and Central District Court for California. He was nominated by President Eisenhower. He served from 1955 until his death in 1971. He attended the University of Southern California Law School and served as an L.A. Deputy District Attorney from 1927 to 1932. He was appointed a Municipal Court Judge and then became a Superior Court Judge from 1935 to 1955.


Johnnie L Cochran, Jr. graduated first in his class at Los Angeles High School in 1955. He became one of the most important civil rights attorneys of his era. He began concentrating on police abuse of authority cases and became an important figure in the African-American community in the 1970’s. He was known also for his flamboyance and theatrics in the courtroom. He represented O.J. Simpson in the now famous Nicole Simpson-Goldman murder case which resulted in an acquittal. He continued to represent high profile individuals such as Geronimo Pratt, Sean Combs, Marion Jones, Snoop Dog and Tupac Shakur. At
the same time, he represented many clients who had few resources but had been victims of police brutality.

Gary Conway, Actor  (2/4/1936)

Gary Conway was an accomplished artist, violinist and architect. He then began his acting career on television with a starring role on *Burke’s Law* in 1963 to 1965 followed by a lead role in *Land of the Giants* in 1968 to 1970. He also had leading roles in films such as *Gunn, Once is Not Enough*, and *The Farmer*. He also wrote the screenplay for *American Ninja*. He owns a winery on Central California coast.

Craig T. Cooper, Guitarist

Craig Cooper’s jazz has been described as a smooth, sensual style. It’s funk-sexy and not all blues, and not all jazz. His studio work with DeBarge in 1964 led to multiple opportunities to work with stars such as Barry Manilow, Bob Dylan, Patrice Rushen, The Ojays and The Jacksons. In the late 1980’s, he produced a series of albums including *Got That Thang, Craig T. Cooper Project* and *Darkman*. He is a Gold-Multi Platinum Award winning musician and received a Grammy nomination for his tenth album, *Purpose*. The album celebrates his 25th year as a musician.

Lillian Copeland, Olympian  (11/25/1905 – 7/7/1964)

Lillian Copeland was the first female Olympian from Los Angeles High School and the University of Southern California competing in the 1928 Olympics and winning a Silver Medal in the discus. In the 1932 Olympics, she won the Gold Medal in the discus. Between 1925 and 1932, she set six world records in the discus, shot put and javelin. Being Jewish, she boycotted the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. She had also won eight U.S. titles in the shot put, javelin and discus, and in 1925 she won all three championships.

She has been inducted into the U.S. Track and field Hall of Fame and the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. She later worked at the Sheriff’s Department until her retirement in 1960.
Lynn Davis "Buck" Compton, Deputy District Attorney Judge, Soldier
(12/31/1921 – 2/26/2012)

Lynn “Buck” Compton was the Deputy District Attorney who prosecuted Sirhan Sirhan for the assassination of Robert Kennedy in 1968. Later, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the 2nd District California Appeals Court. His most famous opinion came in the Elizabeth Bouvia euthanasia case where he sided with her right to refuse treatment.

Compton was also a Lieutenant in Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment in the Army’s 101st Airborne Division. Dropped behind enemy lines on D-Day, he earned a Silver Star taking out a German artillery location. He continued to fight through the Battle of the Bulge. Today, the real life characters of Easy Company, including “Buck” Compton, became the basis of Stephen Ambrose’s novel, Band of Brothers, which was also made into a mini-series.

George Edward Cryer, Mayor

George Cryer was the Mayor of Los Angeles from 1921 to 1928. Prior to becoming Mayor, he served as a U.S. Attorney, City Attorney and County Attorney gaining fame by prosecuting public corruption cases. During his administration, the Los Angeles population grew past 1 million, and the Coliseum and Los Angeles City Hall were built. He was influential in the building of the Hoover Dam, and bringing water to the Los Angeles basin. He was also influential in bringing the 1932 Olympics to Los Angeles.

Melvin Durslag, Sportswriter
(4/29/1921) 1939

Mel Durslag began his sports writing career in 1939 at the Herald Examiner and remained with the paper for fifty years. He spent the last two years of his career with the L.A. Times. During that time, he covered every Super Bowl, the Olympics and college and professional sports. He also wrote for the Sporting News and T.V. Guide. He has been named California Sportswriter of the Year seven times in addition to many other honors. He has been inducted into the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame.
Robert Farrell, Councilman  (10/1/1936)

Robert Farrell was a Los Angeles City Councilman for 17 years from 1974 to 1991. He was a strong proponent of civil rights and a critic of the Los Angeles Police Department and alleged racism in the force. Robert Farrell graduated from UCLA.

Louise Fazenda, Actress  (6/1/1895 - 4/17/1962)

Louise Fazenda was a silent screen comedienne and star who appeared in over 300 films. Her best character was a country girl. Her film career began in 1913 and continued into the 1920’s. She married a producer for Warner Brothers named Hall Wallis who produced six of her feature films in the 1930’s. She retired in 1939, and devoted the remainder of her life to philanthropy and art collecting. She has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Jack Fernandez, Wrestling Coach, Official

Jack Fernandez’s record in dual meet wrestling competition at Mira Costa High School was 223-34-1. He also won sixty-five tournaments, seventeen league championships and five CIF Southern titles. He coached a record twenty-two individual CIF-SS champions.

Jack Fernandez also officiated for forty-two years including both the NCAA and the National AAU Championship tournaments. His honors included South Bay and Southern California Coach of the year, National Coaches Association District 8 Wrestling Coach of the Year, and he is the first Wrestling coach inducted into the CIF Southern Section Athletic Hall Of Fame.

Howard Finn, Los Angeles Councilman  (1917-1986)

Howard Finn was elected L.A. City Councilman in 1981. His largest influence was on the Planning and Development Committee of the Council where he conflicted with environmentalists. He was succeeded by Gloria Molina.
Mary Emily Foy (7/13/1862 – 2/21/1962) 1880

Mary Emily Foy was the first woman to be the Head Librarian of Los Angeles Library. She was appointed in 1880 at the age of eighteen. She later taught at Sixth Street School and Los Angeles High School. She was also a suffragist, preservationist and advocate for women.


William Taylor Garnett began his career with the Sennett and Roach studios as a screenwriter. In the 1930’s, he directed his first film, One Way Passage. He gained greater acclaim in the late 1930’s with films such as Slave Ship and China Seas. His best known and critically acclaimed film was The Postman Always Rings Twice. In the late 1950’s and 1960’s, he worked in television directing numerous episodes for series such as Bonanza, The Untouchables, Naked City, Rawhide and Wagon Train. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Siedah Garrett, Singer, Songwriter

Siedah Garrett has written songs and performed as a backup singer for some of the biggest recording stars in the industry. She has been nominated for two Academy Awards for Love You I Do in 2007 and Real in Rio in 2012. She received a Grammy for her song in Dreamgirls, Love You I Do in 2007.

As a recording artist, she was the lead vocalist on the Grammy winning album Back on the Block singing One Man Woman and The Places You Find Love. She sang the duet with Michael Jackson’s Bad album, I Can’t Stop Loving You. She also co-wrote Man in the Mirror.

Carl Greenberg, Political Editor (8/19/1908 – 11/4/1984) 1926

Carl Greenberg was the political editor for the Los Angeles Herald Examiner for nineteen years from 1943 to 1962. He then became a political writer and later editor for the Los Angeles Times until 1973. Greenberg was recognized and known for his journalistic integrity. He was a co-recipient of a Pulitzer Prize in 1966 for local reporting and the covering of the Watts Riots.
Arthur Harper, Mayor  (3/13/1866 - 12/25/1948)
Arthur Cyprian Harper served as the Mayor of Los Angeles from 1906 to 1909.

James Hastings earned his undergraduate and law degree at the University of Southern California. He joined his father’s firm in 1948, Hastings, Blanchard and Hastings. He was appointed to the Superior Court in 1972 and then to the California Court of Appeals. He retired in 1987. He had two notable opinions while on the Court of Appeals. The first in Kathryn K vs. Robert B. where he wrote that public health and safety was more important than the Constitutional right to privacy. In Bartling vs. the Superior Court, he ruled that a terminally ill adult has the right to refuse treatment.

Jimmy Hatlo, Cartoonist  (9/1/1897 – 12/1/1963)
Jimmy Hatlo is an iconic American cartoonist famous for his character Little Iodine and the comic strip They’ll Do It Every Time. As a ninth grader at Los Angeles High School, he managed to enroll in five art classes because of his passion for drawing. The principal offered him to repeat the ninth grade or leave. He opted to leave school. They’ll Do It Every Time ran from 1929 until his death in 1963. Beginning with the San Francisco Call Bulletin, the strip was syndicated by Hearst’s King Features and ran nationally and internationally. Jimmy Hatlo was recognized by the National Cartoonists Society Cartoon Strip of the Year twice and received numerous other awards and honors throughout his career.

Edith Head, Costume Designer  10/28/1897 – 10/24/1981)  1916
Edith Claire Posener was one of the greatest American costume designers winning a record eight Academy Awards for Costume Design. Her career lasted fifty years. Her designs were in Vertigo, Rear Window, The Sting, The Heiress, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Her most famous designs included Dorothy Lamour’s Sarong dress in the 1949 film Hurricane, and a mink lined gown for Ginger Rogers in Lady in the Dark in 1944. She was a dress and costume designer for every major female star in Hollywood. In addition to her Academy Awards, she has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Bill Henry, Columnist (1890 - 1970) 1909

William Mellors “Bill” Henry wrote the column “By the Way” for the Los Angeles Times from 1939 to 1971. His journalism career began in 1912 when at Occidental College he wrote sports reports for the Los Angeles Times. He was influential in helping to bring the 1932 Olympics to Los Angeles and then served as a technical advisor to the Olympics. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom shortly before his death.

Leslie R. Hewitt, City Attorney, State Senator, Judge and Journalist
(9/12/1867 – 1936)

Leslie Hewitt graduated Los Angeles High School in 1885 and received his B.A. from the University of California in 1890. He began working as a reporter at the Los Angeles Express. Studying privately, he passed the California bar and became the Los Angeles City Attorney. He was elected a California State Senator for four terms from 1910 to 1918, and later served as a Superior Court judge.

Dustin Hoffman, Actor (8/8/1937) 1955

Dustin Lee Hoffman in the mid-1960’s first gained critical acclaim, and Theater World and Drama Desk Awards, for the stage product of Eh? That was followed by the 1960’s classic film, The Graduate. Following The Graduate, Hoffman made a series of blockbuster and highly acclaimed films during the next two decades including Midnight Cowboy, Little Big Man, Papillion, Rain Man, Tootsie, Kramer vs. Kramer, Lenny, Marathon Man and All the President’s Men.

He is one of the most honored actors in Hollywood winning two Academy Awards and six Golden Globes for Best Actor. He has seven Academy Award and thirteen Golden Globe nominations. He also has three Drama Desk awards for his stage work. He has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Film Institute and the Kennedy Center Honors. He is recognized as one of the greatest actors of his generation.
Craig Hundley, Pianist, Vocalist

The Craig Hundley Trio was a pop group in the 1960’s with three hit records and an appearance on the Tonight Show. Craig Hundley played the piano. He graduated from Los Angeles High School.

Briggs Hunt, Wrestling 1928

Briggs Hunt graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1928 and then attended the University of Iowa where he was a Greco-Roman wrestler. He is recognized as a leader and coach in the development of wrestling in Southern California since 1934. He coached Freestyle, Greco-Roman and collegiate wrestling at UCLA. He also served 25 years as chairman of the Southern California AAU Wrestling committee, a member of the NCAA Rules Committee, a member of the United States Olympic Committee, a referee at the 1956 Olympic Games, the 1959 Pan Am Games and the 1962 World Championships.

Briggs Hunt was the UCLA wrestling coach from 1935 to 1969, and was selected as the Head Greco-Roman Coach for the USA in the 1960 Olympics and authored one of the first Greco-Roman books in America. He is a member of the California Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Ben Hunter, Writer, Television Personality

Ben Hunter was the author of The Baja Feelings and the host of the popular KTTV television show, the Ben Hunter Movie Matinee. He had a radio program on KFI radio, The Night Owl Club from 1949 to 1960.

Arthur Janov, Psychologist (8/21/1924)

Arthur Janov studied at UCLA and Claremont before becoming a psychologist and psychotherapist. Today, he stands as one of the leading psychologists in the world. He is responsible for the concept of “primal therapy” in psychiatric treatment, allowing patients to relive and express out loud repressed feelings. He published The Primal Scream in 1967 outlining both the theory and treatment of primal therapy. He founded the Primal Institute in 1968 to further this work.
Cornelius Johnson, Olympian (8/28/1913 – 2/15/1946)  1936

Cornelius Johnson, a student at Los Angeles High School, placed fourth in the high jump in the Los Angeles 1932 Olympics. Johnson went on to win two AAU Championships in 1933 and 1935 and then won the Olympic Gold Medal in the High Jump at the 1936 Berlin, Olympics. He is also the first athlete at the Berlin Olympics to infuriate Adolf Hitler by winning a Gold Medal. Hitler refused to congratulate him at the Olympic winners stand and left the stadium.

Ninja Jorgensen, Volleyball (7/6/1940)  1957

Ninja Jorgensen graduated from Los Angeles High School 1957 and then attended Occidental College graduating in 1961. In 1963 she was the AAU Player of the Year. She was a Gold Medalist in the 1967 Pan American Games in Winnipeg. She then taught and coached at Glendale High School for 36 years.


Agnes Newton Keith was an author whose works centered on her experiences in North Borneo before, during and after World War II. She published seven books in all including Three Came Home which was made into a motion picture.

Julie Korenstein, LAUSD Board Member

Julie Korenstein graduated Los Angeles High School and received her B.A. from Cal State Northridge in 1971. She also earned her elementary and secondary teaching credentials from CSUN. She has since worked over forty years as an educational advocate. She began as a parent volunteer, a paid teacher’s assistant and then served for twenty-two years on the Los Angeles Board of Education. She became the longest serving Board Member in LAUSD history.

Julie Korenstein has been a proponent of early childhood education and pre-school. She also supported class size reduction in K-3 and full day Kindergarten. She has also championed school safety issues and
human relations programs. She was also a pioneer in the approval and implementation of nutrition programs and the LAUSD Healthy Foods policy.

She took a leadership role in establishing the Exploratory Community Service program at Chatsworth High School. The program has been replicated in many school districts in Southern California. Since 1998 she has provided funding for the Kindergarten Intervention Program – KIP. These represent only a few of the initiatives and programs that Julie Korenstein initiated during her career in education.

**Henry Kuttner, Author** (4/7/1915 – 2/4/1958)

Henry Kuttner was a novelist and short story writer of horror and fantasy stories. He was a prolific writer with an extensive bibliography. His first work was *Graveyard Rats* in 1936 followed by *Weird Tales*. His collections of stories included *Baldy, Tony Quade Stories, Elak of Atlantis Stories, and the Thunder Jim Wade Stories*. He published seventeen novels in the 1940’s and 1950’s including *Earth’s Last Citadel, Valley of the Flame, The Fairy Chessmen, The Dark World, and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*.

He is recognized as having a significant influence on future fantasy and science fiction writers including mentoring Ray Bradbury.

**Bert LaBrucherie, Football** (1/19/1905 – 12/10/1986)

Bert LaBrucherie was a halfback for UCLA from 1926 to 1928 and then coached the Los Angeles High School football team from 1935 to 1944. He then coached UCLA football from 1945 to 1948. Following UCLA, he coached the California Institute of Technology football team for 18 years from 1949 to 1967. Bert LaBrucherie has been inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Willis Lamb, Physicist** (7/12/1913 – 5/15/2008) 1930

Willis Lamb in 1955 won the Nobel Prize for Physics with the discovery of a minute difference between two energy levels of the hydrogen atom that led to a basic reconsideration of the concepts underlying the application of quantum theory to electromagnetism. It became known as the “Lamb Shift.” His theories and discoveries changed how we see time and space.
Milt Larsen, Founder of the Magic Castle  (4/9/1931)  Summer 1949

Milt Larsen was a producer, writer, actor and founder of the Magic Castle in Los Angeles in 1963. The Magic Castle was a venue devoted to providing new and veteran magicians an opportunity to showcase their skills and share trade secrets. It became a fraternal organization for magicians. It was also a tribute to Milt Larsen who was also a magician. Along with his brother, he has produced an annual “It’s Magic” showcase of magicians since 1956.

Milt Larsen has received numerous awards recognizing his efforts at promoting and supporting magicians internationally. He has also received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a Heroes of Hollywood Award. He was also the President of the Magical Academy of Arts.


Bill Larsen began his career in television becoming the Associate Producer of Playhouse 90 and the Danny Kaye and Jonathan Winters variety shows. He then became editor and publisher of Genii Magazine, a journal founded by his father and devoted to magicians. In 1966, he founded the Magic Castle with his brother Milt.

Bill Larsen died suddenly at the age of 48. He has been recognized with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Homer Lea, Advisor to Sun Yat Sen, Geopolitician  (11/17/1876 – 11/1/1912)

Homer Lea attended Los Angeles High School from 1894 to 1896 and then attended Occidental College and Stanford University. He went to China in 1899 to become part of early 20th century reform movements. He became a close advisor to Sun Yat Sen while he was in exile in Japan. He returned to China with Sun Yat Sen from 1911 to 1912 when the Ching Dynasty was overthrown. He returned to the U.S. due to illness in 1912.

He had written several important books on geopolitics. They included The Vermillion Pencil, a novel on the Manchu Regime, in 1908. In 1909, he wrote The Valor of Ignorance. His later works addressed the rise of Japan and the strategic importance of the Philippines and Hawaii.
Linda Levi, Artist  (1935)

Linda Levi attended 3rd Street Elementary, John Burroughs and graduated from Los Angeles High School. She then attended the University of California.

She is an abstract artist who began her career in the late 1950’s and was immediately recognized throughout the L.A. arts community. She used multiple mediums and became part of the plastic and light artists’ movement of the 1960’s. She also became part of the women’s art movement in Los Angeles in the 1970’s and a founder of Womanspace in 1972. She later became one of the first artists to use the computer in creating art. She is exhibited internationally.

She is also part of one of the original founding families of Los Angeles. She has written a book entitled Western State Jewish History and another Growing Up Newmark in Los Angeles chronicling her family and Jewish history in Los Angeles dating back to 1851.


Juanita Horton (Bessie Love) left Los Angeles High School to become a silent screen star. She later earned her diploma. Her first films were Birth of a Nation in 1915 and Intolerance in 1916 for D.W. Griffith. She continued to make films into the 1920’s with actors such as Adolphe Menjou and Douglas Fairbanks. Her most critically acclaimed performances were Dress Parade in 1927 and The Matinee Idol in 1928.

In the talking era of films, she received an Academy Award nomination in 1929 for The Broadway Melody. She continued to make films into the early 1980’s. In all, her film career spanned seven decades. Bessie Love has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Michael Marienthal, Football, Education  (6/19/1923 – 2/27/2013)  1942

Mike Marienthal was an outstanding football player for UCLA. He left UCLA prior to graduation to fight in World War II. He was injured, losing a leg at the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. He completed his undergraduate degree at UCLA and in 1946 became the official scorer for men’s basketball, a position he held for 50 years.
At the same time, Mike Marienthal earned his teaching credential and Masters in Education and taught and coached football at Jefferson High winning multiple City Championships. He then served as a principal for eighteen years. Mike Marienthal has been inducted into the UCLA Sports Hall of Fame.

Leo McCarey, Director, Producer and Screenwriter  
1916

Leo McCarey had been involved in over 200 motion pictures winning three Academy Awards. Prior to World War II, he was basically involved in directing comedies, bringing together Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, and directing such stars as W.C. Fields, the Marx Brothers, Mae West and Eddie Cantor.

He was nominated for Academy Awards eight times. He won two Oscars for Going My Way in 1944 for Best Writing and Directing, and an Oscar for Best Directing for The Awful Truth in 1937. Leo McCarey continued to make movies into the sixties with hits such as Rally around the Flag Boys and An Affair to Remember.

John McConé, Director of Atomic Energy Commission and CIA  
(1/4/1902 – 2/14/1991)

John Alexander McCone headed the Atomic Energy Commission from 1958 to 1960 with a main focus on nuclear disarmament with the Soviet Union. He became Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1961 to 1965 and had the direct responsibility for evaluating the Soviet threat in Cuba and advising President Kennedy on appropriate responses.

John McConé had a very successful business career before entering public service at the request of President Truman. In the 1930’s, he became Vice-President of Consolidated Steel and then founded an engineering company, Bechtel and McConé. Bechtel-McConé built refineries and power plants throughout the Middle East, South America and in the United States. In 1987, he was presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Reagan.
The 5th Dimension

Marilyn McCoo, Vocalist  (9/30/43)

Camuriel C. McCoo, graduated Los Angeles High School and then went to UCLA earning her degree in business. She began her singing career with the HiFis in the early 1960’s. She met Billy Davis in 1966 and with him formed a new group, the 5th Dimension. McCoo and Davis were later married. They had a hit with a number one song on the charts, *Up, Up, and Away* in 1967. That was followed by more number one hits that included *Stoned Soul Picnic* in 1968, *Age of Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In* and *Wedding Bell Blues* in 1969. In 1970, *One Less Bell to Answer* topped the charts.

Marilyn McCoo left the 5th Dimension in 1975 to perform as a duo with her husband. In 1977, they again hit number one on the charts with *You Don’t Have to be a Star*, which was a Gold Single album and Grammy Award winner for Best R&B Vocal by a Duo. Their final big hit was in 1978 with *Saving All My Love for You*. Marilynn McCoo had also hosted the television program *Solid Gold* from 1981 to 1984. In all, Marilyn McCoo won eight Grammys during her career.

Christianne Meneses Jacobs, Publisher  (3/28/1971)

Christianne Meneses Jacobs fled Nicaragua and the Sandinista Revolution in 1988 and came to the United States when she was sixteen. Although she was a senior, she was placed back in the tenth grade because she couldn’t speak English fluently. She credits her teachers though for continually encouraging her to do her very best and in four months she was back as a senior. She served as the editor in chief of both the English and Spanish school newspapers and she graduated Los Angeles High School when she was 20.

After graduating Wesleyan University, she began her career as a 2nd grade teacher in LAUSD. Christianne began *Iguana* Magazine, publishing Spanish language stories for children ages 7 to 12. *Iguana* received numerous multi-cultural awards for children’s publishing. She began her second Spanish language magazine, *Yo Se* in 2008, which is distributed in Spanish language newspapers.


Bob Meusel graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1914 and then played eleven seasons in professional baseball from 1920 to 1930 with the New York Yankees. He was a three-time World Series Champion in 1923, 1927 and 1928. In 1925 he was the American League RBI and homerun leader.

Marvin Michelson graduated Los Angeles High School and then attended UCLA and Southwestern School of Law. He won a major Supreme Court decision in 1963 ensuring indigent clients a right to legal counsel. His most famous case established the legal concept of palimony and involved actor Lee Marvin. He later represented numerous high profile clients. Despite his success as an attorney, he succumbed to a high profile lifestyle and a variety of legal charges, which led to his incarceration at Lompoc Federal Prison.

H. Randolph Moore, Jr. Superior Court Judge

H. Randolph Moore Jr. graduated Los Angeles High School and earned his B.A., LLB and PHD from the University of Iowa. He was a Superior Court Judge who is acknowledged as the driving in modernizing the Los Angeles County Juvenile Justice system. He put into place the Juvenile Alternative Work program and the Arraignment, Report, Adjudication, and Disposition process in 1984.

His programs included partnerships between the juvenile justice system and the National Guard, Los Angeles Conservation Corps and the Century Freeway Project. He also instituted programs to specifically address gang violence, restitution and psychological assessment. He has been honored as Judge of the Year three times and in 1993 the H.R. Moore Learning and Community Education Center being named in his honor. In 1998 he received the University of Iowa’s Distinguished Service Award.

Stanley Mosk, California Supreme Court Judge  (9/4/1912 - 6/19/2001)

Stanley Mosk in the early 1950’s and 1960’s was elected the California Attorney General after serving sixteen years as a Superior Court Judge. In 1964, Governor Edmund Brown appointed him to the California State Supreme Court where he served for thirty-seven years becoming the longest serving Justice in California history. In all, he wrote over 1500 decisions.

As Attorney General, he forced the PGA to amend its rules prohibiting minority golfers. He established the Office of Civil Rights and an Office of Consumer Rights as part of the State Attorney General’s Office. He was often ahead of the Supreme Court issuing the opinion that struck down racial covenants in housing and banning racial discrimination in jury selection. Although a liberal justice, he ruled in the Baake vs. the Regents of the University of California that racial preferences violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution.
Harvey Mudd, Engineer, Educator  (1888 – 4/12/1955)

Harvey Seeley Mudd graduated from Stanford University and became a mining engineer founding the Cyprus Copper Mines in 1916. The mines became the largest industry in Cyprus. Mudd also had holdings in Peru and oil refineries in the U.S. Harvey Mudd served as the President of the Mining and Metallurgical Engineers from 1945 to 1949. Harvey Mudd College, concentrating on science and engineering, was named after him.

Willard Harlan Mullin, Sports Cartoonist  (9/14/1902 - 1978)  1920

Willard Mullin began his cartooning career in 1923 at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner. In 1934, he worked for the New York World Telegram. While in New York, he created the “Brooklyn Bum” character that became synonymous with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He continued in New York until 1966 becoming the Dean of Sports Cartoonists. After the World Telegram folded in 1966, he continued to freelance for numerous publications.

Willard Mullin defined sports cartooning for six decades. He also was the mentor for many new cartoonists. He has won numerous awards including the National Cartoonists Society Reuben Award. He also received the Cartoonist of the Year Award from the National Cartoonists Society numerous times.


Carmel Myers was one of the first glamorous movie stars of the silent film era. Her first big film was opposite Rudolph Valentino in The Society Sensation and All Night in 1918. She then hit major stardom as the seductress Irais in Ben Hur. In the mid-twenties she made the Devils Circus and Tell It to the Marines. She played supporting roles in the talkies era of the 1930’s and 1940’s, and did a little television in the early 1950’s.
Dorothy Wright Nelson, Judge (9-20-1928)

Dorothy Wright Nelson graduated UCLA Law School in 1953 and became a research assistant at the University of Southern California Law School in 1953 becoming a permanent faculty member of the law school in 1956. She spent the next twenty-four years at USC Law School as a Professor and Dean and is currently an Adjunct Professor at USC.

In 1979, President Carter nominated Dorothy Wright Nelson and the Senate confirmed her assignment as a Federal Judge to the 9th District Court of Appeals. In 1985, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Western Justice Center, designed to teach peaceful conflict resolution and reduce violence. She has also been a leader in developing alternative dispute resolution strategies.

She has been recognized as the UCLA Alumnus of the Year and received the UCLA Medal, The Thurgood Marshall Award, the United Nations Citizen of the Year Award, and numerous other recognitions.

Henry William O’Melveny, Attorney (8/10/1859 - 4/14/1941) 1875

Henry O’Melveny graduated with the first full class of the new Los Angeles High School in 1875. He received his degree from Berkeley at age twenty and then graduated UC Berkeley Law School. He became one of the most important figures in the development of Los Angeles into a major metropolitan city. In 1885, Henry O’Melveny cofounded the law firm of O’Melveny and Graves, which today has grown into one of the largest law firms in the world.

Henry O’Melveny was also dedicated to public service and the building of Los Angeles. He directed the L.A. public library and was instrumental in the founding of Cal Tech and the University of California, Los Angeles. He was also a key figure in the development of hydro-electric power and bringing water to the Los Angeles basin. He founded the Los Angeles Civil Service Board, was involved in establishing the state park system, and helped to organize some of the first banks in Los Angeles.

Anita Ortega, Basketball, Law Enforcement

Anita I. Ortega graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1975 and attended UCLA where she played basketball and received All-American recognition. She was also a member of the UCLA National Championship team in 1978. She has been inducted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.
She joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1984 eventually reaching the rank of Captain and serving as the Area Commanding Officer of Hollenbeck Area. She had also been the Commanding Officer of Communications Division, Juvenile Division, Devonshire and Hollenbeck Patrol Divisions and Hollenbeck Operations Support Division.

She has been highly recognized for her community service in the Hollenbeck community. In August 2014, Anita was recognized as a 'Roman of Excellence' by her high school alma mater, Los Angeles High School. In May 2015, Anita was one of seven ULCA alumni to be honored in 2015 for her Public Service.

Marion Otis, Publisher  (7/1/1866 – 8/9/1952)  1885

Emma Marion Otis married Harry Chandler in 1894. Harry Chandler became publisher of the Los Angeles Times. Following the death of her husband she became Chairwoman of the Board of the Times Mirror Corporation from 1944 until 1952. In addition to her leadership at the Times, she is known for her extensive record of philanthropy.

John Budge Patty, Tennis  (2/11/1924)

John Budge Patty in 1950 won both the French and Wimbledon Singles Championships. In 1950 he was ranked number one in the World. He has been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.


Don Paul played football for UCLA from 1943 to 1947, lettering each year. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams and played professional football for eight years from 1948 to 1955. The Rams with Don Paul at linebacker played in three championship games, winning in 1951. He played in three Pro-Bowls and was voted All-Pro in 1953. He later coached the Rams from 1959 to 1961.
Mary Jones Yates Pavlesky was a major Los Angeles philanthropist contributing to a wide range of causes. She helped build the Los Angeles County Museum art collection and in particular its Islamic collection. She was also involved in engaging women in politics and electing women candidates to public office. Her philanthropic causes were many including the Los Angeles Rape Treatment Center, Children’s Hospital and the Democratic Party. She had also contributed millions of dollars to UCLA from which she graduated, and over $250 million to the California Community Foundation (CCF). The CCF established the Joan Pavlesky Center and Foundation for the Future of Los Angeles to foster civic participation and to assist families in under-served communities. She was also an avid lover of books and often wrote book reviews for the Los Angeles Times.

Clair Leverett Peck Jr. and the company, Peck Construction, founded in 1918 by his father, is the most famous builder in Los Angeles. In all, Peck construction built over 1000 buildings in Los Angeles, many of them city landmarks. These included the Great Western Forum, high rises in Century City, the Los Angeles World Trade Center, the Bonaventure Hotel, the Library Tower, and the Capitol Records building. He also constructed the Crystal Cathedral and the Orange County Center for the Performing Arts. The company also built shopping centers such as the Sherman Oaks Galleria, South Coast Plaza and the Newport Fashion Island. Their projects also included numerous department stores such as Neiman Marcus, Robinsons, May and Bullocks.

Leonard Pennario was a classical pianist with more than sixty albums with works from artists such as Rachmaninoff, Bartok and Gershwin. In addition to being a prolific recording artist, he was a major concert pianist who had played as a soloist with the Los Angeles, Dallas and New York Philharmonics. He won a Grammy Award for Best Historical Album in 1995. Leonard Pennario was also a Life Master Bridge player.
Hugo Perez, Soccer  (11/8/1963)

Hugo Ernesto Pérez Granados immigrated to the United States from El Salvador and played fourteen years of professional soccer for the United States for six different professional teams from 1982 to 1996. He also played in the 1984 Olympics for the U.S. In 1991, he was the Soccer Athlete of the Year. He is often considered the best soccer player to play for a U.S. team. He has been inducted into the Soccer Hall of Fame.

Irving Perluss, California Attorney General  (1916 -11/25/2012)  1930

Irving Perluss was the Judge of the Sacramento County Superior Court for 20 years. He was then the Justice Pro Tem for the California Court of Appeals, 3rd District from 1972 and 1982. He then became a Special Master for the California Supreme Court in 1975 and Presiding Judge for the Sacramento County Superior Court for 1 year. Judge Perluss spent 15 years as a settlement judge.

Clarence and James Pierce, Morticians, Educator  
1925 and 1932

The Pierce Brothers, descendants of President Franklin Pierce, founded their mortuary business in 1902. The initial brothers were William, Fred, Robert and Edward Pierce. By 1959, they had over 21 funeral homes, and three cemeteries. They also were the dominant funeral home and mortuary business in Los Angeles. They were also avid marketers of their business, offering mortuary tours to churches and the largest casket display in the world. They also were the morticians to Hollywood celebrities.

In 1933, Clarence Pierce, the family physician, joined his brothers in the mortuary business. Clarence, a Los Angeles City school board member, would later convince the school board into opening an agricultural college on 392 acres in Woodland Hills. Established in 1947, Pierce College is one of the nine campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District.

Paul Pink in 1939 established Pink’s Hot Dogs at the intersection of La Brea Blvd. and Melrose Avenue with a small push cart and a $50.00 investment. His hot dogs sold for 10 cents. Pinks quickly became the most famous hot dog stand in America, frequented often by Hollywood celebrities such as Diana Ross, Jay Leno Ted Knight, and Orson Welles. Paul Pink built a structure at the same corner in 1946 and continued to sell hot dogs, but now they came with all types of condiments. At the same time, the walls of the hot dog stand became covered with autographed pictures of celebrities. Pink’s Hot Dogs is a Los Angeles if not an international landmark.

Jose Benjamin Quintero, Director, Producer  (10/15/1924 – 2/26/1974)

Jose Quintero was a Panamanian immigrant who in the 1950’s was a major influence in “Off Broadway” stage productions in New York City. Jose Quintero was a co-founder of Circle in the Square, one of the major post-war theatres of what was to be known as the Off-Broadway movement. By 1961, Circle in the Square had twenty-one productions of which seventeen were directed by Mr. Quintero.

Jose Quintero also revived Eugene O’Neill’s work for many of his productions. His first major play was The Iceman Cometh in 1956, which also introduced Jason Robards Jr. His other O’Neill projects included the original Broadway production of Long Day’s Journey into Night, Strange Interlude, Hughie, More Stately Mansions, Anna Christie, and A Touch of the Poet. He also produced Tennessee Williams’ work, including a 1952 revival of Summer and Smoke. He was a highly recognized Director winning three Tony Awards, one Obie and two Drama Desk Critics’ Awards. The Jose Quintero Theater is located on West 42nd Street and he has been inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame.

Richard Ralphs, Business  1943

Richard Ralphs is the third generation of George Ralphs who founded the Ralphs grocery store chain in 1873 at 6th and Spring Streets. It was one of the first self-service markets with checkout stands. It is also the first “supermarket,” which expanded with the growth of Los Angeles. It also became the first grocery store to open its own bakery. Richard Ralphs became one of three family members who assumed management of the grocery store chain in 1940.
George Retzler, Wrestling  (3/14/1883 – 10/7/1979)

George Retzler graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1901. He was a Greco-Roman wrestler who competed in the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm. He was a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Charles Richter, Seismologist, Physicist  (4/26/1900 – 9/30/1985)

Charles Richter was a physicist and seismologist who invented the Richter Scale designed to measure the magnitude of earthquakes. After graduating Los Angeles High School, he attended Stanford University. Working with the Carnegie Institute and Cal Tech, he developed the first seismology scale in 1935. He remained at the California Institute for Technology for the remainder of his career.

Frederick Madison Roberts, California Assemblyman, Businessman
(9/14/1879 - 7/19/1952)

Frederick Roberts was the first African-American to graduate from Los Angeles High School and then went to the University of Southern California. He worked as an educator in all black schools in Mississippi and returned to Los Angeles in 1912, and edited the New Age newspaper until 1948.

In 1918, he became the first African American member of the California Assembly and the first African American elected on the West coast. While in the legislature, he introduced legislation to establish the University of California, Los Angeles. He also introduced anti-lynching and civil rights legislation. He was defeated in 1934 by Augustus Hawkins. In the 1940’s, he lost a Senate race to Richard Nixon. He was the great grandson of Sally Hemmings and believed to be the great grandson of Thomas Jefferson.
Guy Rose, Artist  (3/3/1867 – 11/17/1925)  1884

Guy Rose was an important California impressionist painter of the late 19th and early 20th century. He graduated Los Angeles High School in 1884. He studied in Paris in the 1890's with French impressionists including Benjamin-Constant, Lefebvre and Doucet. Monet became his mentor.

While living in Giverny, France and painting in the late 1890's, he also illustrated for Harpers, Scribners and Century magazines. He received numerous awards and recognitions for his work. Today, when available, his paintings often command seven figures at auction.

Harlow Phelps Rothert  (April 1, 1908 – August 13, 1997)  1926

Harlow Rothert graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1926 and then attended Stanford University, where he competed in basketball, football, and track and field. He was named first-team All-Pacific Coast Conference in basketball in 1929 and became Stanford’s first All-American in basketball. He won the NCAA shot put title three times, and set a world record for the event in 1930.

Harlow Rothert competed in the shot put at the 1928 and 1932 Summer Olympics. He won a silver medal in the 1932 games, held in Los Angeles, and placed seventh in 1928. In 1978 Stanford named him one of the 5 greatest athletes.

He earned his bachelor’s degree in 1930 and law degree in 1937 from Stanford. He was a trial lawyer who specialized in civil law. He founded a law firm in San Francisco, and taught at Stanford Law School and Hastings College of Law.

Makato Sakamoto, Olympian  (4/8/1947)

Makato Sakamoto was a world class gymnast who won ten Amateur Athletic Union and four NCAA titles in the All-Around Competition. In 1965, he won all seven events in the AAU championships.

Nasseb Saliba graduated Los Angeles High School in 1932. He was the son of Lebanese immigrants and later became one of the largest general contractors in the United States specializing in heavy construction projects. He founded his own company, Saliba Construction in 1942 which became one of the largest heavy construction companies on the West coast. In 1970, along with Ronald Tutor, they co-founded Tutor Saliba Construction. At the time of his death, his company Tutor-Saliba was the 40th largest construction firm in the U.S. and the 6th largest among transportation contractors.

A few of the major projects he has developed include the San Diego Convention Center, Tom Bradley International Airport Terminal, the Los Angeles Metro Rail System, the San Francisco BART railway system, San Francisco International Airport Terminal and the Alameda Corridor project in Los Angeles.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers awarded Tutor-Saliba the National Contractor of the Year for Civil Works Projects in 1994.


Seymour Budd Schulberg attended Los Angeles High School and then transferred to the Deerfield Academy in his senior year. Budd Shulberg wrote novels, short stories and screenplays all with an emphasis on social and economic justice. He is best known for his screenplay On the Waterfront and his classic novel, What Makes Sammy Run. He won an Academy Award for Best Story and Screenplay in 1954 for On the Waterfront. His writings reflected the disparity between the haves and have not’s in America. A Communist, he was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee and he named names of others in Hollywood who were Communist sympathizers. His testimony was seen as a betrayal by many in Hollywood. The film On the Waterfront followed his testimony before HUAC and was directed by Elia Kazan, another individual who “named names.”

He later wrote a short story, A Face in the Crowd that was turned into a film in 1957 and directed by Elia Kazan. He also wrote the script for The Disenchanted which won Jason Robards Jr. a Tony Award in 1958. Driven by his concern for social justice, he founded in 1965 the Douglass House Watts Writers Workshop in Los Angeles with the goal of encouraging black teenagers to write. He also founded the Frederick Douglass Creative Arts Center in New York in 1971.

During his career, Schulberg won numerous awards including the Laurel Award, Screenwriters Guild Awards, and an Academy Award.
Leonard Slatkin, Conductor (9/1/1944) 1962

Leonard Slatkin was born into a famous musical family whose father was the founding member of the Hollywood String Quartet. He graduated Los Angeles High School in 1962. In 1968, he joined the St. Louis Symphony and later became the music director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington D.C. He also conducts the New York Philharmonic. During the course of his career, he has been guest conductor for major philharmonic orchestras throughout the U.S. and internationally including the BBC Philharmonic, and the Pittsburgh and Cleveland orchestras. He is currently the director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He was also the founder of the National Conducting Institute.

Leonard Slatkin has over 100 recordings that have earned him sixty-four Grammy nominations and seven Grammy Awards. He has also been awarded the National Medal of Arts.


William French Smith served as Attorney General from 1981-1985 during the Reagan Administration. As a conservative, he had a negative impact on prosecution of civil rights, antitrust and criminal cases. At the same time, he began a major effort to disrupt and prosecute organized crime. He also played a key role in the nomination of Sandra Day O’Connor to the Supreme Court.

Robert Stack, Actor (1/13/1919 – 5/14/2003) 1936

Charles Langford Modini Stack had his film debut in 1939 in First Love. For the next ten years, he made a wide range of films such as Bwana Devil and Bull Fighter. He received an Academy Award nomination as Best Actor for Written on the Wind in 1956. Robert Stack continued to make over forty films in his career including the 1954 classic film, The High and the Mighty.

In 1959 he began a classic television series, The Untouchables, which ran for four seasons. The role of Eliot Ness in the Untouchables won him an Emmy Award for Best Actor.
Maxwell Stiles, Sportswriter 1920

Maxwell Stiles was one of the finest track and field reporters of all time. His columns ran in the Oakland Tribune, The Long Beach Press-Telegram and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner. His newspaper career dated back to 1918 and he wrote sports columns for over 35 years. In the late 1940’s, he was the public relations director for the L.A. Rams.

Haila Stoddard, Actress, Producer (11/2/26 – 2/21/2011)

Haila Stoddard began her career in 1934 and starred in film and on Broadway throughout the 1940’s. She played on a variety of later 1940’s television soap operas and shows including the *Philco-Goodyear Television Playhouse, Studio One, and The Secret Storm*. After her 1963 role in *Virginia Wolff* on Broadway, she decided to direct her talents to producing. She brought James Thurber and Noel Coward to Broadway. She produced plays into the 1980’s including *Private Lives, Lemon Sky, Come Play with Me, The Survival, St. Joan and Lady Audley’s Secret*.

George Takei, Actor, Activist (4/20/1937) 1956

George Hosato Takei was the Student Body President at Mt. Vernon Jr. High School and then graduated from Los Angeles High School. He is best remembered as the character Sulu in the iconic television series, *Star Trek*. He also portrayed the role in all six of the *Star Trek* films. He has also been a strong advocate for the LGBT community.


Reese Hale Taylor began his career as director with the Llewellyn Iron Works which was owned by his father. In 1928, he left the family business to become the President of Union Oil. Reese Taylor also served on a wide variety of Boards and Commissions during his career such as Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Y.M.C.A of Los Angeles, Hollywood Bowl and the American Red Cross.
George Toley, Tennis 1935

George Toley graduated from Los Angeles High School and then attended the University of Southern California where he was a nationally ranked player in 1940 and 1941. He was the University of Southern California tennis coach winning 10 National Championships during his 27-year reign (1954-80) as the men's coach.

Nine of his players won the NCAA singles crowns and 12 of his Trojan duos captured the NCAA doubles title. His teams won 82% of their dual matches (430-92-4).

His pupils went on to win more than 400 national and international titles, Grand Slam events, and several were ranked No. 1 in the world. Among the players he coached were Stan Smith, Dennis Ralston, Bob Lutz, Alex Olmedo, Rafael Osuna, Raul Ramirez, Joaquin Loyo-Mayo, Robert Van’t Hof, Lupita Novelo and his successor as Trojan coach, Dick Leach.

George Toley is a member of the Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame, Southern California Tennis Hall of Fame and USC Athletic Hall of Fame. He is also known as the "Father of Tennis" in Mexico because of his efforts to develop the sport in that country.

Norman Topping, Educator 1926

Norman Topping was the Chancellor of the University of Southern California from 1958 to 1980. In 1961, he produced a master plan for the university that became a blueprint for its growth over the next 20 years. He also led USC to become part of the Association of American Universities. He has been credited with making USC a major, respected academic institution in the United States during his tenure.

Mel Torme, Vocalist, Actor, Author, Songwriter 1944

Melvin Howard Torme began singing and acting in film in 1943. In 1944, he formed his own group called the Mel Tones and then went solo in 1947 with a fusion of pop and jazz. He then went on to write over 250 songs including *The Christmas Song (Chestnuts roasting on an Open Fire)*, a holiday classic made famous by Nat King Cole. He recorded over fifty albums during his career. He was also appeared in as many as 200 concerts a year into the 1960’s.
He appeared in over twenty motion pictures and made numerous guest and featured television appearances. He was also the author of five top selling books, one about his experiences with Judy Garland and another about Buddy Rich. Mel Torme won two Grammy awards for Best Jazz Vocal Performance. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Grammys in 1998.

Ken Volk, Business

Ken Volk graduated from Los Angeles High School and attended Stanford University. With a partner, he opened his first Public Storage facility in El Cajon in 1972. Over forty years later, Public Storage is an S&P 500 company with over two thousand facilities in the United States and hundreds of facilities worldwide. Public Storage employs over 5000 workers.

William H. Waste, Chief Justice, California Supreme Court
(10/31/1868 – 6/6/1940) 1887

William Harrison Waste graduated Los Angeles High School and obtained his law degree from the University of California. His public service began in 1902 when he was elected to the California Assembly and then in 1905 he was appointed a Superior Court Judge in Alameda County. He was then appointed to the California Court of Appeals and then to Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court in 1921. He was the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court from 1926 to 1940. He has the distinction of being the 1st lawyer registered with the California Bar.

Pat Weaver, President NBC  (12/21/1908 – 3/15/2002) 1926

Sylvester Barnabee "Pat" Weaver was one of the most important influences in the development of television programming. At NBC in the early years, he promoted such shows as Meet the Press and Your Show of Shows. He also developed the concept of "specials" in the early 1950's centering on theatrical productions to draw wider television audiences. He created the Today Show in 1952 and the Tonight Show in 1954. As President of NBC, he reshaped commercial advertising and television programming. Pat Weaver has been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame.
Francis Weber Jr., Monsignor and Historian  (1/22/1933)

Monsignor Francis Weber Jr. is a priest, author and archivist for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. His main works include *The Life and Times of Fray Junipero Serra* in 1987 and *A Select Bibliography to California Catholic Literature, 1856-1974*.


Wong Liu Tsong was the first global Chinese-American film star. She attended Hollywood and Los Angeles High School but dropped out in 1921 to pursue her acting career. Her career began in silent films in 1922 with *The Toll of the Sea*. Her second film in 1924 at the age of nineteen was the *Thief of Bagdad* which made her a film star.

Because she could not get leading roles in films in Hollywood for racial reasons, she left the U.S. for Europe where she became a film sensation in two films, *Song* and *Show Life*. She returned to Hollywood in 1930 with the promise of lead roles, which did not materialize. This was particularly the case when she was denied the role Olan in *The Good Earth* because of early miscegenation laws. In the early 1930’s, she played in early talkies including *Shanghai Express*, *Daughter of the Dragon* and *Daughter of Shanghai*. At this time, she also turned to the Broadway stage in the production of *On the Spot*. Also in the 1930’s, she became an activist for Chinese-American causes and in particular how Hollywood treated Asian-Americans.

Anna May Wong was also the first Asian American to have the lead in a television show, *The Gallery of Madame Liu Tsong* in 1951.

Rosalind Wiener Wyman, L.A. City Councilwoman  (10/4/1930)  1948

Rosalind Wiener Wyman was the first girl to be student body president at Los Angeles High School in 1948. She also played the French horn in the school orchestra. She graduated from the University of Southern California and then became involved in California politics. She worked for Helen Douglass, the first woman to run for a California Statewide office. Douglass lost to Richard Nixon for the U.S. Senate. Wyman worked for a wide range of Democratic candidates and ran herself for the Los Angeles City Council and became the first female Los Angeles City Councilwoman and the youngest at age twenty-two. She served in the City Council for twelve years from 1953 to 1965.
She also continued to be a powerful force in Democratic causes, chairing Diane Feinstein’s Senate Campaign and victory. This fulfilled her dream of having a woman to be elected to a statewide office in California. She also played a key role in the John F. Kennedy campaign and the convention in Los Angeles. She was also instrumental in helping to bring the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles.

Jane Wyman, Actress  (1/5/1917 – 9/10/2007)

Jane Wyman was born Sarah Jane Mayfield. She dropped out of Los Angeles High School the same year she had a role as an extra in The Kid from Spain. She signed a film contract with Warner Brothers in 1936 and played opposite Ronald Reagan in 1939 in the film Brother Rat. Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman were married in 1940 and divorced in 1949.

Jane Wyman made 100 film and television appearances over a period of seven decades. During that period, she received an Academy Award for Best Actress in Johnny Belinda in 1946. She also received Oscar nominations for The Yearling in 1948, Blue Veil in 1951 and Magnificent Obsession in 1954. She turned to television with General Electric Theater and other television playhouse productions and was nominated for an Emmy in 1957. In her later years in the 1980’s she starred in Falcon Crest.


Patricia Henry Yeomans graduated Los Angeles High School in 1935. She was the daughter of Bill Henry who was a Los Angeles Times reporter, editor and columnist. Her mother Corinne Stanton Henry was a Southern California tennis champion. She competed in tennis her entire life and won several national age-group titles, from U.S. Junior Girls champion in 1935 to U.S. 90-and-over in 2009. She won the National College Girls title twice at Occidental College, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

In addition to her extensive volunteerism in Los Angeles, she wrote histories of Southern California Tennis, the Los Angeles Tennis Club, and the First Baptist Church. She also co-authored the History of the Olympic Games distributed at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles. She personally initiated the local campaign to bring tennis to the 1984 Olympics as a demonstration sport, from which it became a full Olympic sport at the Seoul Games of 1988.

Her many honors include being inducted into the Occidental College Athletic Hall of Fame, Los Angeles USD Athletic Hall of Fame, and Southern California Tennis Hall of Fame, as well as a lifetime achievement award as a founder of the California Grand Jurors Association.
Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies

Patricia Arquette, Actress (4/8/1968)
Patricia Arquette graduated the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies. Her first major film was *Nightmare on Elm Street III*. She has made numerous films since 1987. Her first major success was in 2014 with her role in *Boyhood* that earned her an Academy, Golden Globe and many other awards as Best Supporting Actress.

She also starred in the television drama series *Medium* for seven seasons from 2005 to 2011. She received three Golden Globe nominations and two Emmy nominations, winning the Emmy Award for Outstanding Actress in 2005. She currently has a new prime time series, *Cyber CSI*.

Patricia Arquette has been very involved in a wide range of charitable and philanthropic efforts. She has made a commercial for PETA, established GiveLove, a non-profit organization to help Haiti earthquake recovery and was a spokesperson for Blue Denim Day. She has also supported The Heart Truth organization, The Art of Elysium and the Libby Ross foundation.

Quinn Cummings, Child Actress and Author (8/13/1967)
Quinn Cummings was a child actress who was nominated in 1977 for an Academy Award for her role in the film, *The Goodbye Girl*. She also played a recurring role in the television series *Family*. She has published three books, *Notes from the Underwire*, *The Year of Living Dangerously* and *Pet Sounds*.

Shane West, Actor, Musician, Songwriter (6/10/1978)
Shannon Bruce Snaith “West” is an actor appearing on the television dramas *Once and Again* and *Nikita*. He won Teen Choice Awards for both television series.

His film credits include *Buffy and the Vampire Slayer*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Liberty Heights* and *A Walk to Remember*. Currently he appears in the fantasy drama *Salem*. He has also performed as a punk-rock singer.
Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor West Sacramento  (11/12/1965)

Christopher Cabaldon is the Mayor of West Sacramento California and the City’s longest serving Mayor having been in office since 1998. He is a Democrat and a Filipino American. Governor Brown appointed him to the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education, and he serves as the Vice-Chair of the Democratic Conference of Mayors. He is openly gay.

Dr. Chanda Prescod, Astrophysicist, Cosmologist

Dr. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein was born in El Sereno, and was educated in the LAUSD Magnet system from elementary through graduation from the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies. She then attended Harvard University where she earned a B.S. degree in Physics and Astronomy and Astrophysics in 2003. She then went on to begin a Master’s and PhD program in Astronomy and Astrophysics at the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2005. She left UC Santa Cruz to complete her PhD at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and the University of Waterloo.

She is currently a theoretical astrophysicist with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is only one of eighty-three African American women to earn a PHD in physics in U.S. history. More than a third of those women earned those degrees in the last ten years.
Ralph Ahn, Actor, Civic Leader  (9/28/1926)   Winter 1944

Ralph Ahn was the football center for the Manual Arts football team in 1942 and won 2nd Team All Southern League Honors. He was an actor best known for his role in Lawnmower Man II, Beyond Cyberspace and Amityville: A New Generation, and the Mel Brooks film Life Stinks. He has also appeared on television in shows such as The Golden Girls in the late 1980's, The Shield, Hunter, Walker-Texas Ranger, The Good Life and many more.

Jon Arnett, Football  (4/20/1935)   1952

Jon Dwane Arnett was a running back for Manual Arts High School and then for the University of Southern California. In 1957, he was an All-American and a leading candidate for the Heisman trophy. In the same year, he was the second pick in the first round of the NFL Draft. He played nine years in the NFL for the Los Angeles Rams and the Chicago Bears. During that time he was a five-time Pro-Bowl pick and a 1st team all pro. Jon Arnett is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

Gus Arriola, Cartoonist  (July 17, 1917 – 2/2/2008)   1935

Gustavo "Gus" Arriola beginning in 1941 drew the classic comic strip, Gordo, introducing the readers to life in Mexico. Gordo ran as a nationally syndicated comic strip from 1941 to 1985. Arriola had a genius for portraying Hispanic culture in a positive light while at the same time injecting humor.

The California Legislature and the Mexican Government both recognized and honored Gus Arriola for promoting international understanding. At the same time, he had been honored by the National Cartoonists Society's Best Comic Strip of the Year three times.
Roy Ash, Business and Director of the OMB (10/20, 1918 – 12/14/2011)  1935

Roy Lawrence Ash was the cofounder of Litton Industries in 1953, which eventually grew into a conglomerate of over 100 companies. In 1968, President Richard Nixon asked him to help reorganize the government offices. Ash created the Office of Management and Budget and went on to strategically reorganize government functions which included the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and others.

Paul Blair, Baseball  (2/1/1944 – 12/26/2013)

Paul L. D. Blair played outfield for the Baltimore Orioles for twelve years from 1964 to 1976. He won two World Series titles with the Orioles and two more titles with the New York Yankees in 1977 and 1978. Paul Blair played in six World Series, three All Star games and won three Golden Glove Awards. He was inducted into the Orioles Hall of Fame.

James Blewett, Coach  Summer 1917

James Blewett was the first great Manual Arts High School athlete excelling in football and track and field. He became the Manual Arts football coach in 1926 and coached for twenty-nine years, winning nine L.A. City Championships. One of the interruptions while at Manual Arts was when he went to UCLA to coach running backs, mentoring Jackie Robinson and Kenny Washington.

Nacio Herb Brown, Composer, Songwriter  (2/22/1896 – 9/26/1964)

Nacio Brown was a prolific songwriter and composer. His first big hit songs in 1920 and 1921 were Coral Seas and When Buddha Smiles. In 1928, he signed with MGM and had a long string of hits the 1930’s and 1940’s. They included All I do is Dream of You, You Are My Lucky Star, Broadway Rhythm, Doll Dance, Good Morning, Make them Dance, Paradise, You Were Meant for Me, Temptation and countless others. He wrote scores for Broadway Melody of 1929, 1936 and 1937. In 1952, he wrote Singing in the Rain. At the same time, he composed and wrote for many Broadway productions. He has been inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame.
Perle Yvonne Watson graduated Manual Arts High School, UCLA and the University of Southern, California School of Law. She was elected to the California State Legislature in 1967 and in 1972 to the United States Congress. She was the first African American from the West Coast elected to Congress where she served three terms. She then became a Los Angeles County Supervisor in 1979, being the first woman and African American Supervisor. She retired from the Board of Supervisors in 2008.

Frank Russell Capra came to the United States as an Italian immigrant. His family left Sicily by boat, and then they traveled to Los Angeles by train. He enrolled in Castellar Elementary School and then Manual Arts High School. It was at Manual Arts High School that he became interested in the theater, and graduated in 1915. He enrolled in the Troup School of Technology later to become Cal Tech. While studying engineering, he became interested in the theater.

He began his film career as an actor and writing small scripts. Frank Capra finally began directing films in the late 1920’s with Harry Cohn and made several successful films such as Submarine and The Younger Generation. In the early 1930’s, he made two movies with Barabra Stanwyck that would launch both of their careers: The Noose, and Ladies of Leisure. Throughout the 1930's, Frank Capra became one of the most requested directors in Hollywood. He won three Oscars for Best Director including It Happened One Night, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington and You Can’t Take It with You. In 1946, he made It’s a Wonderful Life that has now become an American classic. Frank Capra received an American Film Institute Lifetime Achievement Award in addition to five Academy Awards. He was nominated six times for Best Director and seven-times for Best Picture.

Leland Curtis attended Manual Arts High School where he studied under Rob Wagner, a teacher who was both an artist and screenwriter. Curtis was an environmentalist and a 20th century artist who is famous for his artwork of Antarctica having accompanied Admiral Byrd on his expeditions in 1939 – 1940, 1954-1955 and 1957. His artwork also covered the Sierras, Grand Tetons and the Southwestern deserts. He was also an illustrator for the Sierra Club magazine. His artwork has received a variety of awards and is much sought after.
Peter Dalis, Athletic Director  (12/8/1937 – 11/15/2014)

Peter Dalis served as the UCLA Athletic Director for nineteen years and spent forty-seven years of his life dedicated to UCLA as a student and administrator. During his tenure, UCLA won thirty-nine national championships and moved to number one in championships won by universities. Also during his tenure, the Wooden Center was built along with the Sunset Canyon Recreation Center and the J.D. Morgan Center. While Director of Athletics, the UCLA football team played in twelve bowl games winning eight, and they won ten or more games four times and had a twenty game winning streak at one point. He has been inducted into the UCLA and the National Athletic Directors Halls of Fame.

James Doolittle, Military  (12/14/1896 - 9/27/1993)  1914

Jimmy Doolittle is etched permanently into American history following his dramatic raid on Tokyo during World War II. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his air combat mission.

His passion for aircraft was ignited during a Manual Arts High School field trip to a 1910 Los Angeles Air Show. After graduating, Manual Arts High School he enrolled at UC Berkeley. In 1918, he enlisted in the Army Signal Corps. Between World War I and World War II he became a groundbreaking pilot while also getting his MS degree from MIT. In the late 1920’s, he developed the concept “instrument flying” allowing pilots to fly through fog and adverse flying conditions.

In January 1942, Doolittle led a squadron of sixteen B-25 bombers on a raid on Tokyo and other Japanese targets during World War II. The raid was the first to directly hit Japan. Following the raid on Tokyo, he was promoted to Brigadier General. In addition to his Medal of Honor, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom along with numerous other recognitions, medals and awards both from the U.S. and internationally.

Lee Elder, Golf  (7/14/1934)

Lee Elder was the first African American to play in the Masters Tournament, breaking the color-line at Augusta Georgia’s all-white country club in 1975. He was into golf at a very early age and at the same time needed money, so he cut classes to caddy at local golf clubs. He dropped out of Manual Arts High School in his junior year. His big break came having the opportunity to play with Joe Louis, who helped him become a tournament player. In 1968, he earned his PGA card. He won his first tournament in 1974, qualifying him to play in the Masters. He was also the first African American to play on the United States Ryder Cup team. In every way, Lee Elder was a pioneer in the game of professional golf for African Americans.

Thomas Jesse Fears was born in Guadalajara, Mexico. The family came to the United States when Fears was six years old. He later graduated Manual Arts High School and then UCLA. He played tight end for the Los Angeles Rams from 1948 to 1956. Tom Fears was instrumental in leading the Rams to the NFL Championship three times and winning in 1951. He was named to the NFL All 1950’s team, and has been inducted into the NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame.


Buron Fitts served as the Lieutenant Governor of California from 1927 to 1928 and then was the Los Angeles County District Attorney until 1940.


Earl Gay was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1933 and served twelve years to 1945.


Paul Goldenberg graduated from Dorsey High School in 1946. After serving in the army he enrolled in a T.V. repair course and then opened a T.V. repair shop called Paul’s T.V. The business grew into one of the largest single store television retailers in the United States. His catchphrase was “I am the King.”

He became a major philanthropist after retiring, contributing to the City of Hope and the Los Angeles Jewish Home. He also funded scholarships and trips to Washington D.C. for high school students.
Kathryn Grayson, Actress  (2/9/22 – 2/17/2010)  1940

Kathryn Grayson began her film career in 1941 in Andy Hardy’s Private Secretary. She continued to make films throughout the 1940’s with a major role opposite Frank Sinatra in Anchors Aweigh. She became a major star in the 1950’s with films such as Showboat, Kiss Me Kate and The Vagabond King.

At the same time, she had an operatic voice and appeared in operas throughout her career including Madame Butterfly, La Bohème and Camelot. She also appeared in numerous Broadway productions including Kiss Me Kate, Showboat and The Merry Widow.


Philip Guston attended Manual Arts High School with Jackson Pollock and both studied under the art teacher Frederick John St. Vrain Schwankosky, who introduced both to early European modern art. Both Pollock and Guston were expelled for publishing a flyer that argued for more funding for the arts and not sports. He later attended the Otis Art Institute.

Philip Guston became an abstract artist and a leader of the neo-impressionist movement. He eventually went from abstract art to representational art in the 1970’s. He was also a social activist with one of his first murals in Los Angeles addressing the Scottsboro Boys. Guston’s works are exhibited internationally and in major museums. His 1958 work, To Fellini, brought $25.8 million at auction.

Ray Harryhausen, Special Effects  (6/29/1920 - 5/7/2013)  1939

Raymond Frederick "Ray" Harryhausen was fascinated with dinosaurs, monsters and imaginary creatures from the time he was in elementary school. The effects he created for films are classics including The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms, Jason and the Argonauts, Clash of the Titans, One Million B.C. and all of the Sinbad films. His techniques in slow motion animation changed the special effects industry.

Ray Harryhausen has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He also received the George Sawyer Award from the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences for contributions to special effects that had a profound effect on the industry.

Bernard Jefferson was the Class Valedictorian at Manual Arts High School in 1927. He became one of the first African Americans appointed to the California Appellate Court in 1975. He retired in 1980. Previously, he had spent fifteen years as a Superior Court Judge. His landmark decision in 1973 ended property taxes being used to finance public schools in California. He was also the founder of the California Judges College. An expert on evidence and the law, he wrote a text, *The California Evidence Benchbook*, used extensively by California judges and in law schools.


Michael “Butch” McColly Johnson graduated from Dorsey High School and then attended the University of California, Riverside. He was drafted number 87 in the 1976 NFL Draft. He played wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys from 1976 to 1983 and from 1984 to 1985 with the Denver Broncos.

Edgar Johnson, Business  1922

Edgar Johnson was President, Golden State Life Insurance Company.

Goodwin Knight, Governor  (12/9/1896 – 5/22/1970)  1914

Goodwin Jess Knight served as California Governor from 1953 to 1959. Prior to being Governor, he was the Lieutenant Governor from 1947 to 1953 and previously was a Superior Court Judge from 1935 to 1946.
Stanley Knowles, Member, Canadian Parliament  
1936

Stanley Knowles was a member of the Canadian Parliament for sixteen years from 1942 to 1958. He then returned to Parliament and served nineteen years from 1962 to 1981 when he retired. He was known as a parliamentary expert.

Ralph Lewis, Home Builder

Ralph Lewis became one of the largest home builders in California following World War II. He built over 60,000 homes in California with over half of them being built in the Inland Empire. He had a reputation of building affordable homes for all individuals without regard to race. It was a concept that was not popular in California in the 1940’s and 1950’s. He also felt it important for a builder to be involved in the community. He built parks, little league baseball parks and other community amenities with his housing developments. Before the company was sold to Eli Broad in 1998, it was the largest privately held building company.

Ralph Lewis has won numerous awards including Builder of the Year in 1987 from Builder Magazine, and he was inducted into the National Home Builders Hall of Fame. He also contributed generously to his alma mater UCLA and to the University of Southern California.

Marshall McComb, Judge, California Supreme Court  
1912

Marshall McComb got his law degree from Yale University and then worked as a professor at U.C. Berkeley from 1920 to 1927. He then served as a Superior Court Judge from 1927 to 1937 and then as an Appellate Court Judge from 1937 to 1955. He then became an Associate Justice for the California Supreme Court from 1955 to 1977. During his tenure as an Associate Justice, he was the conservative voice of the court.

Sterling McMurrin was a liberal Mormon theologian and educator. Following graduation from Manual Arts High School, he attended UCLA and the University of Utah. In 1948, he became a professor of philosophy at the University of Utah and the Dean of the Graduate School. In 1961, he became the United States Commissioner of Education. He was known as a champion of school desegregation and hiring minorities and women to be educators.


Kenneth Norris Sr. began Norris Industries in 1930. His only education was at Manual Arts High School. His major product was his invention of the seamless bullet cartridge that resulted in major sales during World War II. He also became the largest producer of bodies for missiles and rockets. He then anticipated peacetime industries and diversified into household appliances and fixtures such as sinks, toilets and locks. His companies became Thermador, Wiser, and Price Fister.

The Norris Cancer Center at the University of Southern California is named in his honor and for his contributions in making it possible. The Kenneth and Eileen Norris Foundation also supports a wide range of social and education programs throughout Southern California.

C. Erwin Piper, Los Angeles City Administrator

C. Erwin Piper graduated Manual Arts High School and then UCLA. He was appointed by Mayor Sam Yorty as Los Angeles City Administrator in 1962. The former FBI agent and Public Works Administrator, served seventeen years as City Administrator until his retirement in 1979. C. Erwin Piper had bipartisan recognition for his integrity and management and budgetary skills.

Jackson Pollock, Artist (1/28/1912 – 8/11/1956) 1929

Jackson Pollock is widely recognized as one of the most influential American painters of the 20th Century and the father of abstract art. He was expelled from Manual Arts High School for circulating a flyer arguing that too many dollars were being spent on athletics and not on the arts.
One of his first major commissions was a mural for Peggy Guggenheim in 1943. By 1946, his artistic technique avoided a brush and used a drip method, employing his whole body and soul into each work. He placed his canvases on the floor instead of an easel. He then dripped and splashed the paint from a can to the canvas. He used knives to sculpt the image. During the “drip period,” Life Magazine considered him to be the greatest living painter. His paintings, *Lavender Mist, No. 5, Bird, Easter, The Totem, No. 11, Convergence*, and *The Deep* represent some of the great American paintings in museums today.

Ron Prescott, Educator, Deputy Superintendent LAUSD

Ron Prescott graduated Dorsey High School and then earned his B.A. and Master’s degree from Cal State Los Angeles. He began his thirty-one year career in LAUSD teaching at Murchison Ave School in East Los Angeles.

He was a African American educator who was a leader in both the Los Angeles Unified School District, but also throughout the State of California. He founded the Office for Multicultural Education and began working on cross-cultural programs before the era of forced bussing. He was able to merge being an educator as well as the District’s lobbyist in Sacramento. He led the fight in California for LAUSD to obtain funding for integration and integration programs. That funding became the foundation for the LAUSD Magnet programs.

Marie Provost, Actress (11/8/1898 – 1/21/1937)

Mary Dunn (Marie Prevost) made her first film in 1916 at the age of eighteen, but it wasn’t until 1921 and 1922 that she was cast in ten films which included *Moonlight Follies* and *The Married Flapper*. She made dozens of comedies throughout the 1920’s including *The Marriage Circle* and *Three Women* in 1924 and *Paid and Ladies of Leisure* in 1930.


Eugene Bleecher Selznick was the Captain of the United States Volleyball team from 1953 to 1967, and one of the most important forces in the development of U.S. volleyball internationally. He led U.S. teams to World Championships in 1960 and 1966. He was also a key figure in the development of competitive beach volleyball. His leadership also forced the U.S. Olympic Committee to align U.S. indoor volleyball with international rules in the early 1960’s.
He was named All-American ten times beginning in the early 1950’s. He has also been named to the All Century Volleyball team and has been inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame. He has also been inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

Irving Stone, Author  (7/14/1903 – 8/26/1989)

Irving Tannenbaum, Stone was one of the most prolific and recognizable authors of the 20th century. His extensively researched historical-biographical novels included *Lust for Life* centering on Van Gogh in 1931 which was his first best seller. He followed with a bio-novel about John Fremont’s wife which was also very successful. He wrote other biographical novels through the 1940’s and 50’s about Pissaro, Eugene Debs, Andrew Jackson’s wife and Mary Todd Lincoln. Others included *Clarence Darrow for the Defense, Earl Warren, Sigmund, Passions of the Mind* — Sigmund Freud, Abigail Adams and They Also Ran. *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, a novel about Michelangelo, was published in 1961 and took four years to write and reflected his extensive research. Many of his works have been made into films.

Dr. James Taylor, Educator  Summer 1944

James Taylor became the first African American high school principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District at Locke High School in 1967. He began his teaching career at Adams Junior High School and continued at Jefferson and Hamilton High Schools. He became Vice-Principal at Polytechnic High School before becoming principal. He then rose to become the LAUSD Deputy Superintendent. A Charter School in LAUSD has been named in his honor.

Mark Ridley Thomas, L.A. County Supervisor, Councilman, Assemblyman  (11/6/1954)  1972

Mark Ridley Thomas was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2008 and reelected in 2012. From 1981 to 1991, he was the Los Angeles Executive Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was first elected to public office in 1991 as a Los Angeles City Councilman. He was then elected to the California State Assembly and then Senate before becoming a Supervisor. He is a strong proponent of community engagement. To support that goal, he founded the Empowerment Congress, a twenty-three year old project for citizen engagement.
Lawrence Tibbett, Opera (11/16/1896 – 7/15/1960) 1915

Lawrence Mervil Tibbett was a baritone for the Metropolitan Opera singing more than 600 times between 1923 and 1950. He was also a recording artist, actor and radio personality. His voice has been recognized as one of the greatest of his era.

His roles at the Met included all of the classics such as Faust, Pagliacci, Lohengrin, and Falstaff. At the same time, he was an early recording artist beginning in 1926. He was also nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award in his first movie in 1930, The Rogue Song. He continued to make films throughout the 1930’s and 1940’s. He also continued in stage productions after he retired from the Met and had a classical music radio show. In 1936, he founded the American Guild of Artists, a union to represent solo artists. Lawrence Tibbett is honored on a U.S. stamps series entitled Legends of Music. He also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and a Grammy Hall of Fame Award.


Manuel Tolegian moved to Los Angeles at age nine and was a student of Frederick Schwankovsky in art at Manual Arts High School. He then continued his art studies at the ASL of NYC and with John Sloan, Thomas H. Benton, John S. Curry, and George Grosz. He was a high recognized painter and illustrator, as well as an inventor, author, and teacher. At Manual Arts High School he was a boyhood friend of Jackson Pollock and Phillip Guston who he then traveled to New York with to study art.

He was also a boyhood friend of writer William Soroyan for whom he wrote the folk music to his Pulitzer prize-winning play "Time of Your Life." Tolegian's book illustrations include Dinner at Omar Khayyam's, and The Dove Brings Peace. His watercolors and oils have been described as "social-realism," addressing social and political issues of the 1930’s, 40’s and 50’s. They interpret American life during this period of time. He also did land and city, village scapes. His work is exhibited both throughout museums in the U.S. and internationally.


Paul Winfield was bussed as a student to then an all-white Manual Arts High School. There, drama teachers were very supportive and encouraged him to pursue his interest in acting. After graduation from Manual Arts, he attended the University of Oregon and UCLA.
His first acting role was on the television sitcom *Julia* in 1967 and 1968. His first starring role was in *Sounder* in 1972, which earned him an Academy Award nomination. In the 1970’s he had two Emmy nominated performances in the television miniseries *King and Roots: The Next Generation*. Paul Winfield did critically acclaimed work on Broadway in the 1980’s and continued both in movies and television throughout the 1990’s. He won an Emmy for *Pickett Fences* in 1994.

**Phil Woolpert, Basketball Coach** (12/19/1915 - 5/5/1987)

Phil Woolpert was one of only six college basketball coaches at the time to win back to back National Championships in college basketball in 1955 and 1956 at the University of San Francisco. He was also the youngest coach to win a National Championship. He was also named NCAA Basketball Coach of the Year in 1955 and 1956. He had the longest winning streak in history at sixty games, only to be broken later by John Wooden at UCLA. Phil Woolpert was inducted into the College Basketball Hall of Fame and the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Frederick John Vrain Schwankovsky, Art Educator, California Watercolor Artist**

Frederick John Vrain Schwankovsky was born in Detroit in 1885 and moved to Southern California in 1917 and began painting stage scenery. From 1919 to 1947, he was the head of the art department at Manual Arts High School. In the 1920’s Manual Arts had seven art teachers. He was an accomplished California watercolorist, recognized and in demand today. But his greatest influence was on two of the greatest artists of our time, Jackson Pollock and Phillip Guston. He was a liberal and Socialist. He encouraged students to free themselves from academic ideas, concepts and pre-concepts. He was also an advocate of Indian philosophy.
Dr. Harlan Amstutz, Orthopedic Surgeon

Dr. Harlan Amstutz graduated Marshall High School and did his undergraduate work at UCLA in 1953 and graduated from the UCLA School of Medicine in 1956. He is an orthopedic surgeon in Los Angeles and the founding Director of the Joint Replacement Institute at UCLA. He is a pioneer in joint replacement procedures. He is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the area, including St. Vincent Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center. He received his medical degree from School of Medicine at UCLA and has been in practice for 59 years. He is one of fourteen doctors at St. Vincent Medical Center and one of sixty six at UCLA Medical Center who specialize in Orthopedic Surgery.

Mike Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor  (8/12/1939)  1957

Michael Dennis Antonovich attended Edison Junior High school with Henry Waxman and then graduated from Marshall High School. He was elected to the California State Assembly in 1972 and served as the Chair of the State Republican Committee. He was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1980 where he currently serves.


Bob Arbogast played on the Marshall High School championship tennis team and graduated in 1944. He attended LACC and graduated from the University of Arizona. He began his broadcasting career in the early 1950’s working in New York, Chicago and then Los Angeles. At the same time, he wrote commercials and did voice-overs. He also wrote numerous programs earning him an Emmy and Clio.
Donald Jess "Don" Bachardy, Portrait Artist  (5/18/1934)

Don Bachardy attended Marshall High School graduating in 1952. He then attended the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles and the Slade School of Art in London. His first exhibition was October 1961 at the Redfern Gallery in London.

He has had numerous one man exhibitions in Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Houston and New York. His works are also part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the de Young Museum, the Smithsonian and other major galleries.

Don Bachardy and his life time partner, Christopher Underwood met in 1953 and remained together until Underwood’s death in 1986. A film about their relationship, Chris and Don: A Love Story was released in 2008. One of his most recent works is a portrait of Governor Jerry Brown that hangs in the California Capitol. He has also published six books of his work.

Jean Shinoda Bolen, M.D., Psychiatrist

Jean Shinoda Bolen is a medical doctor, psychiatrist and Jungian analyst. She is also a former clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California at San Francisco.

She is the author of thirteen books such as The Tao of Psychology, Goddesses in Everywoman, Crones Don’t Whine, Urgent Message from Mother and The Indomitable Spirit in Everywoman. During her career she has appeared in three documentaries that included Women-For America, For the World; Goddess Remembered and Femme: Women Healing the World. In 2012 she was the initiator and leading advocate for the United Nations 5th World Conference on Women in 2012. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and a recipient of the Institute of Health and Healing’s Pioneer Award.


John Browning came to prominence as a pianist at the same time as Van Cliburn in the 1950’s. He was a soloist with the Denver Symphony when he was ten years old. He won the Leventritt Competition in New York in 1955 and a year later made his soloist debut with the New York Philharmonic. He had a reserved, elegant style. At his peak in the 1960’s he was performing in over 100 concerts a year while maintaining a busy recording schedule. He is a two-time Grammy winner for Best Instrumental Soloist with an orchestra in 1991 and 1993.
Richard P. Byrne, Judge, Superior Court

For over twenty years as a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Judge Byrne handled all types of cases, including civil, family law, adoptions, probate, law & motion, discovery, writs & receivers, juvenile, criminal and mental health. His service included two years and nine months as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, one year and three months as Assistant Presiding Judge, one year as Supervising Judge of the Probate Department, and three years as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. He supervised the planning, development and initial implementation of the Trial Court Delay Reduction Program (Fast Track) in 1987 and 1988. Judge Byrne was assigned by the Chief Justice to serve on the California Court of Appeals in 1982.

Judge Byrne was in general civil practice from 1960 until appointment to the Superior Court in 1972, with emphasis on litigation and probate. He was admitted to practice in California state and federal courts and the United States Supreme Court in 1971.

Powell Frederick Carter, Jr., Military (6/3/1931) 1950

Powell Frederick Carter served as a four-star Admiral in the U.S. Navy and was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1985 to 1987. He was also the U.S. Representative to NATO from 1987 to 1988 and the Commander of the U.S. Navy’s Atlantic Fleet from 1988 to 1991.

Barnet M. Cooperman, Judge of the L.A. Superior Court (10/29/1922 – 9/17/2011) 1940

Barnet Cooperman graduated from Marshall High School in 1940. He then graduated with honors from UCLA in 1943 and was awarded Phi Beta Kappa. He then entered Boalt Hall in Berkeley, but served in World War II earning him two Silver Stars for heroism in combat. Following the war, he returned to law school and graduated Boalt in 1948. He was appointed Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court in 1980 by Governor Jerry Brown. He retired in 1995. He then entered private dispute resolution practice as a judge, arbitrator and mediator.

Barnet Cooperman was active in Democratic politics and community affairs. He was a founder of the West Side Democratic Club, organized local Democratic Nominating Committees, served as Chair of the West Side Democratic Club and was a member of the state Democratic Central Committee. Barnet also served on the boards of public radio station KPFF, a teacher-training nursery school and Temple Israel of Hollywood. In 1994, he was Alumnus of the Year of John Marshall High School.
J. Michael Criley, Doctor  (1931)  1949

Dr. John Michael Criley is currently a Professor Emeritus at the UCLA School of Medicine. In 1969 in Los Angeles, he founded the Los Angeles County paramedic program. He began the paramedic program at Harbor General Hospital with eighteen firefighters from Los Angeles County and six from Los Angeles City. He is a highly respected cardiologist who also was the head of the Cardiology Division at the UCLA Harbor General Hospital for twenty-two years. As a cardiologist, he made several significant contributions to his field including the mitro-valve prolapse.

John Paul DeJoria, Business and Philanthropist  (April 13, 1944)  1962

John Paul Jones DeJoria is the co-founder and CEO of John Paul Mitchell Systems and Patrón. He attended Atwater Elementary and graduated from Marshall High School in 1962.

To support his mother, he worked a variety of jobs from janitor to becoming the top salesman for Colliers Encyclopedias in 1966. In 1980, Paul Mitchell and John DeJoria launched their new company, John Paul Mitchell Systems, with $700 and three hair products. Paul Mitchell Systems has salons throughout the United States and is one of the major manufacturers of hair care products world-wide. In 1989, they launched Patron Tequila which today annually sells over 2.5 million cases a year. DeJoria is also the founder of Food4Africa, which annually feeds over 400,000 children.


Leonardo DiCaprio attended the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies and Marshall High School before leaving school in his junior year to pursue an acting career. He later earned his GED.


He was one of the youngest actors nominated for an Academy Award at age nineteen in 1993 for his performance in What’s Eating Gilbert Grape. He has received five Academy Award nominations and ten Golden Globe nominations, winning twice. He also has a long list of MTV, People’s Choice and Critics Choice Awards.
Leonardo DiCaprio is also a dedicated environmentalist and humanitarian contributing to a wide variety of causes through the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation.

Nancy Owen Fortner, Volleyball (5/2/1943)

Nancy Owen graduated from Narbonne High School in 1961 and then attended Pepperdine University where she played volleyball. She was a member of the U.S. National team in 1963 in volleyball. In 1963 and 1971 she won a silver medal, and a gold medal in 1967 in the Pan American games. 1964 and 1968 US Olympic teams. She was the head volleyball coach at Marymount and has been inducted into Marymount and Pepperdine Halls of Fame.

David H. Fox, Director of California Real Estate Department

David H. Fox served as head of the California Real Estate Department from 1976 to 1981 under Governor Jerry Brown. In that role, he pressed for a mandatory code of ethics for realtors. He also strengthened the code of conduct for real estate and mortgage brokers.

Edward Fredkin, Computer Scientist, Professor (1934)

Edward Fredkin graduated Marshall High School in 1952. He enrolled at Cal Tech, but left to enlist in the Air Force and become a fighter pilot. In 1956 the Air Force sent him to MIT Lincoln Lab and involved him in the development of computers. He worked with the PDP-1 early computer, making significant changes to it including the design of the first “interrupt system.” His main contributions include work on reversible computing and cellular automata.

In 1968 he returned to MIT as a full professor where he was Director of Project MAC. He then spent a year at Cal Tech as a Fairchild Distinguished Scholar. He is currently a Distinguished Career Professor of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University.

In 1984, he was awarded the 'Dickson Prize in Science', which is awarded annually to the person who has been judged by Carnegie Mellon University to have made the most progress in the scientific field in the United States for the year in question.
Frederick Guthrie (3/31/1924) 1941

Frederick Guthrie is an American Bass whose operatic career began in Europe in 1953 singing *Oedipus Rex* in Vienna. For the next twenty years he has performed in Rome, Trieste, Munich and the Opera of Frankfurt. Throughout his career, he has been a significant oratorio singer. He also has an extensive career as a recording artist.

Mike Haynes, Football (7/1/1953) 1971

Michael James Haynes attended King Middle School and graduated from John Marshall High School. He was then a two-time All American at Arizona State University. Mike Haynes played thirteen years in the NFL as a defensive back for the New England Patriots and the Oakland Raiders. During that period, he made nine Pro Bowl appearances, was selected to the All 1980’s Decade team, and to the 75th NFL Anniversary team.

He has also been inducted to the College Football Hall of Fame and the Professional Football Hall of Fame. He is ranked number 93 on the list of the 100 greatest football players of all time.

David Ho, Medicine (11/3/1952)

David Da-i Ho for the past three decades has been a pioneering HIV/AIDS researcher and contributed to the development of treatment strategies for the disease. His groundbreaking studies addressed the replication of the virus and the development of drug therapies. He is currently working on a vaccine for the HIV/AIDS virus. In 1996, he was the TIME Magazine Person of the Year for his contributions. He has also received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Bill Clinton.

John W. House, Ear Surgeon, Professor

Dr. John W. House received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California and his Doctorate in Medicine from the USC School of Medicine. Following a Straight Medicine internship, he decided that Otolaryngology would provide the latitude to pursue his interest in scientific research. He completed his Ear, Nose and Throat Residency at Los Angeles County/USC Medical Center in 1974 after a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Army, where he served as the Chief of ENT Service at Beach Army
Hospital, Fort Walters, Texas. Dr. House entered private practice at the House Clinic in 1975. Dr. John House is president of the House Research Institute, which was founded in 1946 by his father, Howard P. House, M.D.

A recipient of the 1990 USC “Alumni Merit Award,” Dr. House was honored as “Outstanding Teacher” at USC from 1989-91, and was named “Teacher of the Year” by the Family Practice Department at USC in 1987. Currently, Dr. House holds the post of Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology at the Colleges of Medicine at USC and the University of California, Irvine.

Dr. House is widely published and serves on the editorial boards of the Journal of Microsurgery and The Laryngoscope. He also serves on the medical staffs at The Hospital of the Good Samaritan, St. Vincent Medical Center, Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles, LA County/USC, Huntington Memorial Hospital and USC University Hospital. Dr. House is included in LA Magazine’s list of Best Doctors in Los Angeles as well as being named in Best Doctors of America.

Lance Allen Ito, Superior Court Judge (8/2/1950) 1968

Lance Ito is best remembered as the Los Angeles Superior Court judge for the O.J. Simpson trial in 1995. At Marshall High School he was the Student Body President in 1968, and then attended UCLA. He received his Law Degree from UC Berkeley Law School.

Jackie Joseph, Actress (11/7/1934)

Jackie Joseph began her show business career in the Billy Barnes Revues of the 1950’s. She was a regular on the Doris Day Show. She had a lead role in Little Shop of Horrors in 1960. She made numerous television appearances throughout the 1960’s and 1970’s. Following her acting career, she formed a support group in the 1980’s for celebrity wives going through divorces. She has also been an animal rights advocate and a contributor to The Tolucan Times, the newspaper of Toluca Lake.

Alex Kozinski, Federal Judge (7/23/1950) 1968

Alex Kozinski is currently a Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, nominated by President Ronald Reagan in 1985. He has served as the Chief Judge of the 9th Circuit Court from 2001 to 2014. He graduated from UCLA and clerked for Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy and Warren Burger in the 1970’s
Tom LaBonge, Los Angeles City Councilman (10/6/1953) 1971

Tom LaBonge went to Ivanhoe Elementary, King Junior High and graduated from Marshall High School where he was captain of the football team. Later, he served on Tom Bradley’s Youth Council. He continued to have a career of public service working for Councilwoman Peggy Stevenson and John Ferraro and then as Chief of Field Operations for Mayor Riordan. In 2001, he was elected to the Los Angeles City Council.

Robert Laemmle, Theater Owner 1953

Robert Laemmle was the son of Max Laemmle, the founder of Laemmle theaters in 1938. Max was the cousin of the founder of Universal Studios, Carl Laemmle. The eight theaters in the greater Los Angeles area serve over a million customers a year. The theaters in particular cater in independent films and offer special Academy screenings. They also provide sneak screenings. Robert Laemmle currently runs the theater’s operations.

Dana LaMon, Judge, Motivational Speaker (1952) 1970

Dana Lamon is a blind, African American retired judge and professional speaker since 1991. He has been blind since the age of four. Despite his handicap, he earned a B.A. in mathematics from Yale University and a law degree from the University of Southern California. He has also been a member of the California State Bar since 1978. Dana LaMon served as an Administrative Law Judge for the California Department of Social Services from 1981 to 2010.

A dynamic speaker, Lamon earned the title of World Champion of Public Speaking from Toastmasters International in 1992. In 1993, Toastmasters added to his many awards, the Accredited Speaker designation, an accolade given to only sixty five Toastmasters in the organization’s eighty-eight year history. He has spoken throughout the United States as well as internationally.

Rosemary LaPlanche, Miss America  (10/11/1923 – 5/6/1979)  1941

Rosemary E. LaPlanche was Miss California in 1940 and 1941 and Miss America in 1941. Following being Miss America, she played in several movies in the 1940’s.

Carol Lin, Broadcaster, Journalist  1978

Carol Lin was a broadcaster for CNN and was the first news reporter to break the story on the air of the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 just three minutes after the first plane crashed. During her eight-year tenure at CNN she has covered some of the most important stories including the Clinton Impeachment, the millennium coverage from Time Square, and the 1999 Columbine shootings. Her last assignment at CNN was as the Prime Time weekend anchor. She had also worked in Los Angeles for KTTV, for ABC’s Good Morning America and for World News tonight with Peter Jennings.

Carol Lin has received numerous awards including three Los Angeles Press Club Awards for Outstanding Investigative Reporting. She received a Radio-Television News Directors Association Award for Best Investigative Reporting in 1995 and Best Breaking News in 1998. She was also the first recipient of the National IMAGE Award by the Organization of Chinese Americans.

Carol Lin is also the founder of CarolLinreporting.com, a web site devoted to meeting the needs of cancer patients and their families. She is now heavily involved in social media to solve community and social issues.

LeVal Lund, Jr. P.E., Engineer  (1923 - 2007)  1941

LaVal Lund graduated Marshall High School, Occidental College and Caltech, and then served as an engineer in the Seabees. He then embarked on a forty-two year career with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). During this period he earned a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Southern California. During his career, LeVal Lund worked on numerous important projects, including the Second Los Angeles Aqueduct, City of L.A. Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Water Conservation, and the Los Angeles and Olivenhain Dams. After retiring from the LADWP he continued his career by serving local, national and international communities through consulting, research, and volunteer efforts.
LeVal Lund was an active life member of ASCE, a founding TCLEE member, and the instigator for and founding member of the ASCE Metropolitan Los Angeles Branch. He was also a member of AWWA, EERI, ACWA and many other professional societies and organizations. One of his many honors includes the Charles Martin Duke Lifeline Earthquake Engineering Award. The LADWP annually presents the LeVal Lund Award for Practicing Lifeline Risk Reduction.

**Warren Miller, Director, Producer** (10/15/1924) 1942

Warren Miller graduated Marshall High School and enlisted in the Navy in World War II. In the late 1940’s he began making skiing and surfing films with an 8mm camera. In 1949 he founded Warren Miller Entertainment. Warren Miller produced, directed and narrated over 750 skiing and surfing films until his retirement in 1988. He has also published several books and hundreds of stories. He is the “father of ski films” and is recognized as a film icon throughout the ski movie industry.

**Julie Newmar, Actress** (8/16/1933) 1951

Julie Newmar began her acting career as a dancer on stage, with the Los Angeles Opera and in film in the early 1950’s. Her first major film role was in Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. Her first major role on stage was in Silk Stockings in 1955. She next won a Tony for Best Supporting Actress in *Marriage Go Round*. She continued starring on Broadway in major musicals such as *Irma La Douche*, *Damn Yankees* and *Stop the World I Want to Get Off*. Julie Newmar then began a long career in television appearing in a wide range of roles including as Catwoman in the Batman series. She continued to make television appearances and films through 2012.

She has also been an entrepreneur, investing in Los Angeles real estate and patenting a new brand of panty hose and brassieres. He has also been an environmental activist in Los Angeles.

**Andy Reid, Football Coach** (3/19/1958) 1976

Andrew Walter Reid has been a professional football coach since 1992, during which time he was the head coach for the Philadelphia Eagles from 1999 to 2012 and for the Kansas Chiefs since 2012. He won the NFC Championship in 2004 and was named Coach of the Year in the NFL in 2002.
Andrew Schneider, Producer, Screenwriter

Andrew Schneider is a producer and screenwriter whose credits include the television series, *The Sopranos* in 1999, *Northern Exposure* in 1990 and *Alien Nation* in 1994. In 1992 Schneider won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for his work on the *Northern Exposure* episode *Seoul Mates*. He was also nominated for a Writers Guild of America Award for best dramatic series, *The Sopranos* in 2008.

Chris Tashima, Producer 1978

Chris Tashima received an Academy Award in 1997 for Best Short Feature, *Visas and Virtue*. In 2003, he produced and acted in the critically acclaimed film, *Day of Independence*. Over the past twenty-five years, he has appeared in films such as *Americanese* in 2006 and *Model Minority* in 2012. He has also appeared and directed Los Angeles stage productions.

John Robert Tavis, Inventor, Business 1936

John Tavis founded the Tavis Corporation in 1969. The company has been manufacturing Variable Reluctance pressure transducers, a design and patent of John Tavis, for the Aircraft industry since its beginning, starting with flight test instrumentation for the McDonnell Douglas DC-10. In 1973 Tavis Corporation entered the Space and Satellite market furnishing pressure transducers for Martin Marietta for use on the Viking Lander program.

John Tavis has furnished pressure transducers for most U.S. space program spacecraft such as the Mars Orbiter and Pathfinder, the Space Shuttle Orbiter, Space Station and the Atlas launch vehicles. Military Aircraft applications which have utilized Tavis Corporation pressure transducers include Northrop B-2, McDonnell Douglas C-17 and Lockheed Martin F-22. Civilian/Commercial Aircraft experience includes McDonnell Douglas MD-11, Boeing 747 and 767.

Esmond Cardon Walker began his career at Walt Disney in 1938 in the mail room, and rose through the ranks to become President in 1971 and added Chief Operating Officer in 1976 and in 1980 he was elected Chairman of the Board. He was key in the development of Tokyo Disney, Epcot Center and the Disney Channel. He retired in 1983.

His career at Disney was one of coming up through the ranks. He worked in marketing, camera and story, advertising and sales departments. He had a role in most major Disney decisions.

He had been named a Pioneer of the Year Award from the Foundation of Motion Picture Pioneers and UCLA Alumnus of the Year.

La Monte Thornton Young, Composer (10/14/1935) 1953

La Monte Thornton Young is an avant-garde, experimentalist composer and the first 20th century minimalist. He graduated from Marshall High School and at Los Angeles Community College played with jazz artists Ornette Coleman and Don Cherry. He then studied music at UCLA and UC Berkeley.

He is best known for his development of the concept of Drone music. He hears music in more than instruments, but in his natural surroundings, which he interprets in his works. Indian music also had a significant effect on his work. He credits a lot of his early exposure to the jazz musicians he met at Marshall High School.
Guy Benjamin, Football  (6/27/1955)

Guy Benjamin played quarterback for Monroe High School and then attended Stanford University. He was named the top collegiate quarterback in the nation in 1977. He spent six seasons in the NFL. Following his football career he became the Director of United Athletes for Peace.

Doug DeCinces, Baseball  (8/29/1950)  1968

Douglas Vernon DeCinces played fifteen years in major league baseball from 1973 to 1988 mostly with the Baltimore Orioles. He was an All Star in 1983 and has been inducted into the Orioles Hall of Fame.

Debra Winger, Actress  (5/16/1955)  1973

Mary Debra Winger went to Monroe High School and graduated early at the age of fifteen. Her first jobs were in television in the early 1970’s such as Wonder Woman and Police Woman. Her big break in Hollywood came in 1980 when she was cast in a leading role in Midnight Cowboy opposite Jon Travolta. She then landed a key role in E.T. in 1982. She made films throughout the 1980’s and received an Academy Award Best Actress nomination for Shadowlands in 1993. She also received Academy Award nominations for Terms of Endearment and An Officer and a Gentleman. In 2005, she received a Best Actress Emmy nomination for Dawn Anna. She has also won four Golden Globe nominations.
Sharon Shapiro graduated from Monroe High School in 1979. She then attended UCLA. At UCLA she was an eight-time National title holder, a six-year member of the United States National Team, two-time National Collegiate All-Around Champion, and a twelve time All-American.

She was the first American gymnast to win the All-Around and every individual event at a National championship—a feat she accomplished in 1980 as a UCLA freshman. At the completion of her college career, Sharon held virtually all UCLA, Pac-10 and National collegiate gymnastics records.

In 1977, she earned four gold medals at the 11th World Maccabiah Games. She is a member of the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.
**Narbonne High School**

**Auti Angel, Actress, Entertainer  (1987)**

Auti Angel was a professional dancer when she was paralyzed in an automobile accident in 1992. She went on to pursue an entertainment career. She currently stars on the *Best Reality Show* which has won a Critics Choice Award. She also stars on the Sundance Channel's *Push Girls*. She also plays in HBO’s television movie *Musical Chairs*.

She has also become a spokesperson, motivational speaker and role model for handicapped individuals. Her life story serves as an example to others in addressing their personal handicaps.

**Nnamdi Asomugha, Football**

Nnamdi Asomugha graduated from Narbonne High School and graduated UC Berkeley with a degree in corporate finance. His professional football career spanned ten years from 2003 to 2013 where he played for the Oakland Raiders, Philadelphia Eagles and San Francisco 49rs. He was a three-time Pro Bowl Selection, four-time All-Pro, and two-time Oakland Raiders MVP. He was also selected to the NFL all 2000’s All-Decade Team. In 2009 he was the NFL “Whizzer White” Man of the Year. In 2012 he was awarded the National Conference on Citizenship “Role Model of the Year” award.

Nnamdi Asomugha serves as Chairman of the Asomugha Foundation addressing orphans and widows in need providing food, shelter and medicine, education and vocational training. The Foundation also provides college tours for students in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas. He also distributes backpacks to incoming freshman each year at Narbonne High School. He also outfits the football and basketball team each year with shoes.

He has received numerous awards and recognitions including Home Depot Neighborhood MVP 2007, The President’s Volunteer Service Award in 2008, and Essence magazine “Do Right Men of 2008.”

**Douglas R. Barry, Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Chief**

Douglas Barry graduated Narbonne High School, L.A. Harbor College and Cal State Long Beach. He began in 1975 as a firefighter and earned promotions to Captain in 1986. He became Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Chief in 2006 after thirty-one years of distinguished service. He became Chief during a
period of racial and gender turmoil which had gained the national spotlight. His leadership resulted in bringing firefighters together, restoring both morale and the reputation of the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Kelli Bernard, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, Los Angeles

Kelli Bernard was student body president and ran track at Narbonne High School. Following graduation from Narbonne, she earned her B.A. from UC Berkeley. She received her Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from UCLA. Prior to becoming Deputy Mayor for Economic Planning in 2013, she served as Director of Economic Development for the Department of Water and Power and for L.A. City Council President Eric Garcetti.

Barrett Berry, Business

Barrett Berry graduated Narbonne High School in 1985 and then earned his B.A. from Morris Brown College. He then received a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University in 2008. He was then a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at the Wilson Foundation and a Catherine Reynolds Foundation Fellow at Harvard.

He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Business at Indiana University since 2009 and a lecturer at Valpariso University in Health Administration since 2012. He has also worked in The White House and was appointed to serve as a senior aide at U.S. Small Business Administration, Labor Department and Rural Development at the Agriculture Department.

In 2008, Barrett Berry founded Empowered Living Community Development Corporation, a non-profit that produces business consulting and economic development television and talk-radio programs entitled Empowered Living. His radio program rated second highest listening audience in the Indiana market.

Marc Brown, Reporter  (9/29/1961)

Marc Alan Brown graduated from Narbonne High School, attended L.A. Harbor College and earned his B.A. from the University of Southern California in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. His broadcasting career began in Eureka, California followed by work in Reno, San Diego and San Jose. In 1989 he began working for KABC in Los Angeles as a reporter, becoming a KABC’s anchor in 1996. He was the second African American to be a newscast anchor in Los Angeles.

He has earned four Emmys, a Golden Mike and an Associated Press and a Radio and Television News Director Association Award.

Rodger Clayton is recognized as a pioneer West Coast, hip hop artist. He began as a DJ and recording artist in the mid-1970's and founded Uncle Jamm's Army, a West Coast hip hop crew in 1983. Their major songs included *What's Your Sign, Dial-a-Freak*, and "Yes, Yes, Yes" which were electro, old school hip hop, and early West Coast hip-hop genres. Rodger Clayton also promoted hip hop concerts that filled venues such as the L.A. Sports Arena and included East Coast groups such as Run DMC, Whodini and L.L. Cool Jay. Uncle Jamm’s Army disbanded in 1988 as Gangsta Rap began to take over old hip hop.

Lynn Davis, Vocalist  (7/12/1958)

Lynn Blythe Davis graduated from Narbonne High School at age seventeen and became a part of the George Duke Band. The following year, she toured with the group as a background singer along with Sheila E. and Josie James.

Following the tour, she continued to contribute vocals for George Duke. In 1979, Davis released a single *I Want You for Myself*, which peaked at number 23 on *Billboard*’s R&B Singles’ chart and Dance chart. She toured and recorded with many major recording artists such as Emerson, Lake and Palmer, Whitney Houston, Mariah Carey and Marvin Gaye.

Bo Derek, Actress  (11/20/1956)

Mary Cathleen Collins (Bo Derek) attended Narbonne High School and checked out to Patton Continuation. She left school at sixteen in 1971. She married film director John Derek when she was eighteen years old. She is best remembered for her role in the film "10" in 1979 directed by John Derek, and two additional films in the early 1980’s, *Tarzan the Ape Man* and *Bolero*.

Edward Devore Jr., Congressional Medal of Honor  

Edward Allen DeVore, Jr. is a recipient of the Congressional Medal Honor for bravery in combat. On March 17, 1968, he was serving as a Specialist Four in the Ninth Infantry Division. During a firefight on that day, near Saigon in the Republic of Vietnam, he single-handedly attacked an enemy position which had pinned...
down his squad, drawing fire to himself and allowing his comrades to retreat to safety. Private DeVore raced through a hail of fire to provide a base of fire with his machinegun, enabling the point element to move the wounded back to friendly lines.

After supporting artillery, gunships and air strikes had been employed on enemy positions, a squad was sent forward to retrieve their fallen comrades. Intense enemy weapons fire pinned down this element in the kill zone. With complete disregard for his safety, Private DeVore assaulted the enemy positions. Hit in the shoulder and knocked down 35 meters short of his objectives, he ignored his pain and the warnings of his fellow soldiers, jumped to his feet and continued his assault. Although mortally wounded, he continued to place suppressive fire upon the entrenched insurgents. By drawing the enemy fire upon himself, he enabled the trapped squad to rejoin the platoon in safety. Private DeVore was mortally wounded in the assault and died the next day.

Vivian Flowers is a fifth generation Arkansan elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2014. She attended Howard University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she graduated with Bachelor’s Degrees in Political Science and Professional Technical Writing. Her first elected office was to the State Board of Common Cause Arkansas in 1996.

She has worked with the Bureau of Legislative Research, and as a committee staff member assigned to the House and Senate Public Health and Agriculture Committees, the House Rules Committee, and the Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus.

In 2006, she was elected to the Women’s Foundation of Arkansas Board of Directors, and served as the Women of Promise Chair for two years of her four-year tenure. In addition, she has worked with the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits, the Pine Bluff Historic District Commission, and the CASA Women’s Shelter in Pine Bluff. She is a lifetime member of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus as well as the Pine Bluff chapter of the NAACP. She is also a member of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dashon Goldson played football for Narbonne High School. He then attended the University of Washington, where he continued his academic and football career from 2003 to 2006 graduating with a degree in American Ethnic Studies. He has played nine seasons in the NFL from 2007 to the present with the San Francisco 49rs, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and now with Washington. He has been selected to two Pro Bowls, has been an All Pro and an NFC Champion during his career.
Patrick Goodpaster, LAPD, Medal of Valor

Patrick Goodpaster graduated from Narbonne High School in 2000. He played football at Narbonne and then attended Colorado State University. He is currently a Los Angeles Police Officer. In 2008 he was honored with the Medal of Valor for heroism when without regard for his own safety, he ran into a burning home in the early morning to rescue a child and his parents.


Richard Griffin was a psychedelic artist in the 1960’s designing album covers and posters for such groups as the Grateful Dead. He attended Fleming Junior High School and while at Narbonne began surfer drawings and a surfer comic strip. He became one of the leading artists of pop-culture during the 1960’s and 1970’s.

Mark E. Henderson, Gardena City Councilman

Mark Henderson graduated from Narbonne High School and then served in the U.S. Navy. He earned his B.A. from DeVry University in Telecommunications Management. He also earned an MBA from the University of Redlands. He earned is PhD in Organizational leadership from the University of La Verne.

He was elected to the Gardena City Council in 2015. He previously served the City of Gardena as an appointed member of the Planning and Environmental Quality Commission, from 2010 to 2013. Prior to that appointment, he served as a Member-at-Large for the City of Gardena Rent Mediation Board. He is currently an administrator at Los Angeles Pierce College and has been with the Los Angeles Community College District since 2002. In 2014 the Center for Digital Education recognized him as a Top 30 Technologist, Transformer, and Trailblazer. He has also been very involved in community service. He was a volunteer coach for City of Gardena youth sports activities. He is a city commissioner with the Gardena Pop Warner organization. He is the current President of a community-based organization named Brothers Inc., which works with middle school-aged African-American and Latino males in the disciplines of decision-making and critical thinking. He is a board member of PV Jobs Inc., which works to train community members and Veterans in obtaining employment within the Building Trades. He is very active in addressing Veteran's concerns.
Parnelli Jones, Race Car Driver  (8/12/1933)

Parnelli Jones didn’t like high school and dropped out of Narbonne High School when he was sixteen years old and started competitive racing at seventeen. He loved racing cars and was involved in hotrod, jalopies, midget, sprint car and stock car races in the 1950’s. The Harbor area, where he was raised, supported his passion because it was a hotbed for car racing in the 1950’s.

In 1962, he won the Indianapolis 500 as a driver for J.C. Agajanian. Parnelli Jones currently owns seven Firestone Stores in Los Angeles and was the distributor for Firestone Tires to eleven Western States.

James Lesure, Actor  (9/211970)

James Lesure graduated from Narbonne High School and then attended the Air Force Academy and the University of Southern California. He began his acting career on stage in England and Los Angeles.

He began working in television in continuing series such as Las Vegas, For Your Love, Mr. Sunshine, and Lipstick Jungle. He has also made numerous feature television appearances in Monk, George Lopez, Drew Carey Show and Seinfeld. Recently he has appeared in Men at Work and Blue Bloods. He has also appeared in independent films such as Crimson Tide, The Ring 2 and Our Family Wedding.

James Lesure earned a 2006 MIB Prism Award for Outstanding Male Actor in a TV Drama for his work in Las Vegas. He is the recipient of the Celebrity Honoree and Distinguished Support Awards from the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation.


Roy Lewis played football for the University of Washington. Although undrafted he played professional football from 2008 to 2011. He was a Super Bowl Champion in 2008 with the Seattle Seahawks. He was also in 2010 the Steve Largent Award Winner and the Seattle Seahawks Man of the Year.
Emilio Loza, Artist  1987

Emilio Loza graduated Narbonne High School, El Camino College, CSULB and the California Institute for the Arts in Valencia. He also studied in Italy. He is a highly recognized sculptor with his work in numerous private, corporate collections. He is also exhibited widely in California and Florida. His commissions have included the World Boxing Hall of Fame, Walt Disney and the Boy Scouts of America. He is currently a sculptor and senior dimensional designer at Walt Disney Imagineering.

John Mizuno, United States Congressman  (8/2/1964)

John Mizuno is a U.S. Congressman from the State of Hawaii. He was elected in 2006. Prior to becoming a U.S. Representative, he had been an Administrative Law Judge in California and Legislative Aide to Representative Dennis Arakaki.

Denise Nakano, NBC News Anchor, Philadelphia  1993

Denise Nakano graduated from the University of the Pacific in Stockton with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications. She also minored in Political Science. She began her news reporting career in Seattle, Chico and Sacramento, California. She is currently the NBC News Philadelphia weekend anchor.

Denise Nakano is an active member of the Asian American Journalists Association and previously served as a National Board Representative.

Stephen Neal, U.S. Congressman  (11/7/1934)

Stephen Neal graduated Narbonne High School in 1952 and then the University of Hawaii. He served twenty years in the U.S. Congress as a representative from North Carolina from 1975 to 1995.
Earl Paysinger, Assistant Chief Office of Special Operations, LAPD

Assistant Chief Earl Paysinger graduated Narbonne High School in 1973 and earned his B.A. from Cal State Long Beach. He is the Director of the Office of Operations for the Los Angeles Police Department supervising the daily activities of police officers since 2006. He is recognized for major reductions in crime and building partnerships with communities throughout Los Angeles. He is particularly interested in youth development activities and is the author of the LAPD’s “Youth First” campaign, which addressed over 10,000 youth last year.

He was also responsible for dramatically enhancing the twenty-one Area Community Relations offices. He pioneered the successful "Project Elementoring" initiative that provided newly appointed police officers the opportunity to adopt a local elementary school so that they could counsel, coach and encourage young students in an informal and compassionate way.

Joe Puerta, Vocalist, Bassist, Ambrosia (7/2/1951)

Joe Puerta graduated Narbonne High School and co-founded the rock group Ambrosia. Ambrosia is an American rock band formed in Southern California in 1970. Ambrosia had five Top Forty hit singles between 1975 and 1980. He is the bassist/vocalist for the group. In 1978 one of their biggest hits was How Much I Feel which reached #5 on the charts and the album Life Beyond L.A. reached the top 20. At the same time Ambrosia went on the road touring with some of the biggest groups in the industry including the Doobie Brothers, Stephen Stills and Peter Frampton. Joe Puerta is also credited with co-writing one of their earlier hits, Holdin’ On To Yesterday in 1975. He was then a member of Sheena Easton’s band and later played with Bruce Hornsby.

Darrell Reid, Football (6/20/1982) 2000

Darrell Reid graduated Narbonne High School and attended the University of Minnesota where he was a four-year starter. He played professional football for the Indianapolis Colts from 2005 to 2009 and for the Denver Broncos from 2009 to 2010. He was a Super Bowl XLI Champion in 2007. Darrell Reid has also been very active in community and philanthropic efforts. The Darrell Reid Footz Foundation has a mission help address young people to meet life’s challenges. The Footz Foundation holds several annual events including youth football camps. Darrell Reid also holds an annual Thanksgiving Food Fest.
Dr. Warren Roberts, Neurosurgeon

Dr. Warren Roberts graduated Narbonne High School. He then earned an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley and his medical degree from the UCLA School of Medicine. Dr. Warren Roberts has performed hundreds of cases, including complex spine, vascular, tumor and skull base procedures. He has also participated in basic science research involving brain tumor gene therapy.

He is a member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the North American Spine Society.


Kirill Sheynkman graduated Narbonne High School, Stanford University and received his MBS from UC Berkeley. He began his business career at Oracle. He then founded the Stanford Technology Group in 1993, Plumtree Software in 1997, and Elastra Corporation in 2007. In 2010 he co-founded RTP Ventures and is currently its Managing Director. He currently manages over $750 million in international funds. His client’s include Russia’s second largest tech investor, Leonid Boguslavsky.

Arthur G. Stephenson, Director NASA Marshall Space Center (1942)

Arthur G. Stephenson graduated from Narbonne High School. He then attended the University of Redlands earning a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He then completed the Executive Management program at the Anderson School of Management at UCLA.

He worked for TRW for 28 years and then became the President of Oceaneering Advanced Technologies in Houston Texas. He joined NASA in 1998 as the 9th Director of the Marshall Space Center in Huntsville Alabama responsible for the reusable launch vehicle – space shuttle program. He served in that position until his retirement in 2003.
Quentin Tarantino, Director  (3/27/1963)

Quentin Jerome Tarantino attended Narbonne High School, but dropped out when he was fifteen to attend film school. In 1992, he wrote and directed his first film, a cult classic, *Reservoir Dogs*, which received high critical acclaim. Two years later, he directed *Pulp Fiction* which was a box office hit and was considered exceptional by movie critics. *Pulp Fiction* garnered three Academy Award nominations. Tarantino continued to make highly recognized films including the *Kill Bill* series, *Jackie Brown*, *Inglorious Bastards* and *Django Unchained*. *Django Unchained* was the highest grossing film of his career.

He has won two Academy Awards, two Golden Globes and numerous other industry awards. He is considered one of the outstanding directors of his generation.

*War*

Morris "B.B." Dickerson, War, Bassist  (born 8/3/1949)

Morris Dickerson was a funk rock bassist for the Latino rock band War. He co-wrote and played on all of their major hits including “Low Rider,” *Spill the Wine, Why Can’t We Be Friends, The World is a Ghetto, Me and Baby Brother* and *The Cisco Kid*. Morris Dickerson currently tours with the “Low Rider” band.

Harriet “Petey” Weaver, Artist and Author  6/18/1908 – 7/2/1993)

Harriet E. Weaver published her first book, *Cartooning Plus Good Drawing in 1939*. She also published *Figure Drawing: How to Draw People*. At the same time, she was the first woman ranger in the California Division of Parks. She was assigned to Big Basin Redwoods Park in Santa Cruz County in the 1930’s. However, it was not until the 1970’s that women could finally work as full-time rangers. She authored a book about the parks entitled, *Them Were the Days at Big Basin and Frosty, A Raccoon to Remember* in 1973.
Lisa Willis was an All-Star basketball player at Narbonne High School. Following graduation, she attended UCLA where she led UCLA Women’s basketball in 3-point shooting, rebounding, scoring and free-throw shooting. She played professional basketball for the Los Angeles Sparks and the New York Liberty.

After retiring from the WNBA she became the director of The Promise Group which addressed the needs of foster and at-risk children. She was also involved with the West Athens Task Force addressing community concerns and community redevelopment. Her current effort is with her basketball camp, Think.Work.Play!
Noah Berry Jr., Actor  (8/10/1913 – 11/1/1994)

Noah Lindsey Beery made his film debut in the 1920 classic silent film, *The Mark of Zorro*. He made numerous notable films during his career including *Red River*, *Only Angels Have Wings* and *The Spirit of St. Louis*. He appeared in over 100 films during his film career. His television work included *Circus Boy* and *Riverboat* in the 1950’s. He is known most for his role in the *Rockford Files* where he played James Garner’s father. The series ran from 1974 to 1980.

Adam Corolla, Comedian, Radio Personality  (5/27/1964)

Adam Lakers Corolla attended Colfax Elementary, Walter Reed Junior High School and North Hollywood High School. He didn’t receive his diploma until several years later because he had not paid a school library fine. In the early 1990’s he studied comedy at *The Groundlings*. In 2005 he had his own radio show, *The Adam Corolla Show* that ran for four years. In 2009 he began a podcast on his own website that became the most downloaded comedy program in the country with over 60 million downloads between 2009 and 2011. This evolved into the ACE network. It received the iTunes award in 2009 for the Best Audio Podcast.

Shelley Fabares, Actress  (1/19/1944)

Michele Ann Marie “Shelley” Fabares starred in *The Donna Reed Show* that ran for five seasons beginning in 1958. She had a brief singing career with a number one hit, *Johnny Angel*. During the 1960’s, she made a series of surf and beach films including *Ride the Wild Surf*, *Hold On*, *Spinout* and *Clambake*. She continued to make films into the 1970’s along with television appearances.

Farley Earle Granger made his first film right out of North Hollywood High School in 1943. He made two Hitchcock films, Rope in 1948 and the critically acclaimed classic Strangers on the Train in 1951. He also appeared in the classic film They Live by Night in 1949. He made numerous films in the early 1950’s and then turned his attention to stage and television. In 1955, he appeared on Broadway in the Carefree Tree, the Crucible, Seagull, The King and I, and The Glass Menagerie. He returned to films in 1968 and then gave an excellent stage performance in 1980 in The Deathtrap followed by an Obie winning performance in Talley and Son in 1986.

His memoir, Include Me Out, From Goldwyn to Broadway was a best seller. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Dr. Paul E. Hadley, Professor of International Relations, Director Emeritus of the Emeriti Center  (4/10/2007)

Dr. Paul E. Hadley began his career working for the United States Department of State as a Director of its Cultural Affairs department. He specialized in Latin America affairs.

He then became an instructor at the University of Southern California in 1945 teaching International Relations, and earned his Master’s and Doctorate while he taught. He also began at the same time a career in University administration at USC. He was the USC Vice-President of Academic Affairs. His major contribution was the development of an assignment and promotion process. At USC, he also served as Associate Vice President for Academic Planning and Research, Dean of the College of Continuing Education, and Chair of the Department of Comparative Literature. Paul Hadley was also a co-founder of the USC Emeriti Center and Emeriti College devoted to providing services to retired USC faculty. Paul Hadley is a member of the USC Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame.

Alyson Hannigan, Actress  (3/24/1974)

Alyson Hannigan graduated North Hollywood High School and Cal State Northridge. She has starred in both television and motion pictures. She received two People’s Choice Awards from her role in How I Met Your Mother. She also received Teen Choice and Saturn Awards for her starring role in Buffy the Vampire Slayer.
Alan Ladd, Actor (9/3/1913 – 1/29/1964) 1934

Alan Ladd was a swimming and diving champion at North Hollywood High School and also was active in the drama productions. He appeared in many small roles in films during the late 1930’s and early 1940’s finally getting recognition in 1942 in the film Joan of Paris. His next film, This Gun for Hire made him a box office star. Hit films followed including A Boy on a Dolphin, Saskatchewan, The Glass Key and The Blue Dahlia. In 1954, he starred in the Hollywood classic, Shane. He later formed his own production company producing several films in the late 1950’s

Martin Milner, Actor (12/28/1931 – 9/13/2015) 1951

Martin Milner’s first role was when he was fifteen in Life with Father. He graduated from North Hollywood High school and spent a year at the University of Southern California. He worked steadily in films throughout the 1950’s with movies such as Sands of Iwo Jima, Marjorie Morningstar, Sweet Smell of Success and Gunfight at the O.K. Corral. His first major television hit series was the classic Route 66 in 1960 to 1964. Then in 1968, Jack Webb cast him in the hit television series Adam 12 that ran for seven seasons.

Bob Ronka, Los Angeles City Councilman (c. 1943)


Susan Sontag, Author and Activist (1/16/1933 – 12/28/2004) 1951

Susan Rosenblatt Sontag’s impact on literature both in the U.S. and internationally was from the mid 1960’s until her death in 2004. She graduated from North Hollywood High School at fifteen. Her first major work was Notes on Camp in 1946. Her other works include The Benefactor, The Volcano Lover and In America. She also published a collection of short stories entitled I, Etcetera, and published several plays such as The Benefactor, Death Kit, The Volcano and In America. She also published numerous nonfiction works including Against Interpretation, On Photography, Regarding the Pain of Others, Where the Stress
Falls and Illness as a Metaphor. She also wrote and directed four films including Duet for Cannibals, Brother Carl, Promised Lands and Unguided Tour. She also wrote and directed several stage productions.

For more than two decades she was a dedicated activist with PEN, an organization devoted to the freedom of expression and working to protect and free writers imprisoned for their work. She also put herself in the middle of major conflicts such as Vietnam and Sarajevo as a literary critic. During her career, she has won numerous awards including a Guggenheim and McArthur Fellowship, National Book Award, National Book Critics’ Circle Award, and the Jerusalem Prize.

Russ Tamblyn, Actor (12/30/1934)

Russell Irving “Russ” Tamblyn was a gymnast at North Hollywood High School. His tumbling, acrobatic and dancing skills would be important later in his acting career in the musicals he performed in. He was featured in numerous films during the 1950’s and received a Golden Globe for Best New Star of the Year in 1955 for Seven Brides for Seven Brothers. He also received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor for Peyton Place in 1957. He then starred in Tom Thumb in 1958. He was forever etched in film history in 1961 with his role as Riff in the classic blockbuster film, Westside Story.

Michael Tilson Thomas, Conductor, Pianist (12/21/1944) 1962

Michael Tilson Thomas attended Walter Reed Junior High School and played in the orchestra there, before graduating North Hollywood High. He has won five Grammy Awards for Best Orchestral Performance, four Grammy Awards for Best Classical Album, and two Grammy Awards for best Choral performance.

Michael Tilson Thomas is the current Director of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and the Principal Guest Conductor of the London Symphony. He is also the founder of the New World Symphony. He has toured extensively with the San Francisco Symphony.

As a recording artist, he has made over 120 albums. President Obama has presented him with the National Medal of the Arts. He has also won a Peabody Award for his classical radio series. In addition, he has received numerous other accolades within the U.S. and internationally.

Wayne Warga wrote for Life Magazine and was the Assistant Editor to the Calendar Section of the Times. He also wrote for the television show *Entertainment Tonight*.

He wrote *Return to Earth* with astronaut Buzz Aldrin and a nonfiction work about Natalie Wood, *Natalie, A Memoir of Her Sister*. He also wrote three mysteries, *Hardcover*, *Fatal Impressions* and *Singapore Transfer* in the late 1980’s and early 90’s.

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John Williams, Composer, Conductor  (2/8/1932)  1950

John Towner Williams is one of the most successful composers of our time with a career that spans almost seven decades. He has won five Academy Awards with forty-nine Academy Award nominations, twenty-two Grammys with sixty-five nominations, four Golden Globes and seven British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards. He is also a Kennedy Center Awards recipient.

His movie scores are the most recognizable and popular, and include *Jaws*, *E.T.*, *Superman*, *Angela’s Ashes*, *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters*, *Jurassic Park*, *Home Alone*, *Indiana Jones*, *Harry Potter* and *Schindler’s List*. He has served as the musical director for almost eighty films.

In 1980, he became the Conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra and became the Laureate Conductor of the Boston Pops following his retirement in 1993. He has also been guest conductor for almost every major symphony in the United States.
Amy Alcott, Golf  (2/22/1956)  1974

Amy Alcott at Palisades High School made history when she became the first female to play in the Boys State Championships. She is now a member of the LPGA and the World Golf Halls of Fame. In her twenty-seven year career beginning in 1975, she won thirty-two golf championships and five LPGA Championships.

J.J. Abrams, Producer and Director  (6/27/1966)  1984

Jeffrey Jacob Abrams is a producer and writer best known for the television series *Lost*, *Mission Impossible*, *Super 8* and the *Star Trek* film series. He has won six Emmys for the television series *Lost*. He has also received a PGA Lifetime Achievement Award in Television, and Writers’ Guild of America Award for Television Dramatic series.

Black Eyed Peas

Will.i.am, Vocalist, Songwriter  (3/15/1975)

Will.i.am, was born William Adams and is the founding member of the Black Eyed Peas winning seven Grammy Awards and eight American Music Awards. Will.i.am’s music career began in 1987 with two other students in Junior High School and in 1997 they formed the Black Eyed Peas. Their first albums were *Bridging the Gap* and *Joints and Jam*. His first solo release in 2001 was *Lost Change*, followed by *Must B 21* and *Songs About Girls*. Their break through single in 2002 was *Where Is the Love*.

The Black Eyed Peas have also received a Latin Grammy Award and numerous NCAAP Image Awards.
Christine Brinkley, Model  (2/2/1954)  1972

Christie Lee Hudson attended Paul Revere Middle School and graduated from Palisades High School in 1972. She is a supermodel best known for appearing on the cover of Sport Illustrated Magazine in 1979, 1980 and 1981. During her career, she has appeared in over 500 covers of every major fashion magazine world-wide. She also became the spokesperson for Cover Girl cosmetics for 25 years.

Christine Brinkley has also been an animal rights activist, and involved in anti-nuclear activities. She has also been involved in USO missions around the world as well as working with Make A Wish Foundation, March of dimes and variety of associations which support mothers.

Jeannie Marie Buss, Business   (9/26/1961)

Jeannie Buss is currently the President and co-owner of the Los Angeles Lakers. She also serves on the NBA’s Board of Governors. After graduating Palisades High School, she attended the University of Southern California. At nineteen, she became general manager of the L.A. Strings professional tennis team. She later became general manager of the Los Angeles Roller Blades roller skating franchise and then President of the Great Western Forum, then home to the Lakers.

With the death of her father Jerry Buss, she became President of the Los Angeles Lakers. Sports Illustrated has named her one the twenty most important women in sports.

Raffi Hovannisian, Foreign Minister for Armenia   (11/20/1959)  1977

Raffi Hovannisian was the first Foreign Minister of the independent Republic of Armenia and the founding leader of the National Liberal Heritage Party. He is also the Founder of the Armenian Center for National and International Studies. As Foreign Minister, he was an advocate of an aggressive foreign policy seeking restoration of lands in Turkey and Azerbaijan and rights for Armenians in Georgia. He graduated Palisades High School in 1977 and graduated from U.C. Berkeley and the Tufts School of Law.
Steve Kerr, Basketball  (9/27/1965)

Stephen Douglas "Steve" Kerr is a five-time NBA Champion winning three championships with the Chicago Bulls and two with the San Antonio Spurs. He was a collegiate basketball player at the University of Arizona and also a member of Team U.S.A. that won the World Championships in 1986. He was an executive with the Phoenix Suns before becoming the Head Coach of the Golden State Warriors.

Michelle King, Educator, Deputy Superintendent, LAUSD

Michelle King graduated Palisades High School and received her B.S. in biology and teaching credential in science from U.C.L.A. in 1984. She taught at Porter Middle School, Wright Middle School and Hamilton High School. She became the principal of Hamilton High School in 2002. In 2005 she became the Los Angeles Unified School District Assistant Superintendent for Health and Services and then Secondary Instructional Services in 2006 and then in 2008 the Superintendent of LAUSD District 3. She became Deputy and then in 2016 she was appointed Superintendent of LAUSD.

Ms. King is dedicated to access and equity for all students. She has led district-wide instructional reform plans that address graduation requirements and the need to significantly improve student achievement. She has championed projects and programs such as the Restorative Justice Initiative, which aims to break the ‘pipeline to prison’ cycle that some students fall victim to.

Jennifer Jason Leigh, Actress  (2/5/1962)

Jennifer Jason Leigh is a stage and screen actress who has won numerous industry awards. She received Boston and New York Film Critic Awards for her roles in Last Exit to Brooklyn, and Miami Blues. She received a Chicago Film Critics Award and received a Golden Globe nomination for her role in Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle. She was also recognized for her roles in Georgia, Thanks for a Grateful Nation, The King Is Alive, The Anniversary Party, The Machinist, Child Star and Delores Claiborne.
Michael Medved, Radio (10/3/1948)

Michael Medved is nationally syndicated radio talk show host and author. He has written twelve nonfiction books that address social and political issues in America. His radio program also centers on major political and social issues. He is a regular columnist for USA Today and the Wall Street Journal as well as other major U.S. publications.

Stephen Rosenbaum, Visual Effects Artist (10/26/65)  1983

Stephen Rosenbaum is one of the most famous special effects artists in the film industry today. In his twenty-five year career, he has won two Academy Awards and two BAFTA Awards for Avatar and Forest Gump for Visual Effects. He has also worked on films that have won six Academy Awards such as Jurassic Park, Terminator 2 and Judgment Day.

Kent Steffes, Beach Volleyball (6/23/1968)

Kent Steffes graduated from Palisades High School. He then graduated from UCLA and earned a business degree from Stanford. He was a major force in the new sport of beach volleyball, winning 110 professional beach volleyball tournaments including 53 from 1992-94. He also won the first Olympic gold medal awarded in men’s beach volleyball at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Randy Stoklos, Beach Volleyball (12/13/1960)  1978

Randy Stoklos graduated from Palisades High School in 1978 and then attended UCLA where he played volleyball. He was a professional beach volleyball player becoming the first player to win $1 million in the sport. He won one U.S. championship and five World championships. He was inducted into the Volleyball Hall of Fame on October 23, 2008.
David Tokofsky, LAUSD Board Member, Teacher 1977

David Tokofsky graduated from Palisades High School and then UC Berkeley in 1983. He became a teacher at Marshall High teaching ESL and Social Studies. In 1987 he gained national recognition when his Academic Decathlon team won the United States National Championship. As a teacher, he was active in reform movements, drafting his school’s school-based management plan and becoming active in the L.E.A.R.N. reform program. During his teaching career he received numerous awards from U.C. Berkeley, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S. State Department of Education.

He was elected to the Los Angeles Board of Education in 1995 where he served twelve years to 2007. He currently works as a strategist for the Associated Administrators, Los Angeles.

Kiki Vandeweghe, Basketball (8/1/1958)

Ernest Maurice "Kiki" Vandeweghe III played basketball at Palisades High School and then at UCLA from 1976 to 1980. He was drafted in the first round of the NBA draft and played thirteen years in the NBA mainly with the Denver Nuggets and Portland Trailblazers. He was a two-time NBA All Star. He coached the New Jersey Nets, worked as an analyst and is currently the Vice-President of Operations for the National Basketball Association.

David Wallechinsky, Author (2/5/1948)

David Wallechinsky graduated Palisades High School and along with his classmate, David Medved, wrote What Happened to the Class of 1965? He then wrote the People’s Almanac and the Book of Lists, which both became international bestsellers. He is also an Olympic historian writing The Complete Book of the Summer Olympics Volume One and Winter Olympics, Volume Two. He has also founded a website AllGov.com, which updates information regarding 340 governmental departments.
Forrest Whitaker, Actor  (7/15/1961)  1979

Forest Steven Whitaker III in 2006 won an Academy Award, BAFTA, Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe for Best Actor in *The Last King of Scotland*. After graduating Palisades High School in 1979, he went to college on a football scholarship, but transferred to the University of Southern California to concentrate on drama and singing. His first major film was *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, and he then became highly recognized in his performance in *The Color of Money*.

While still acting in television and film roles he began directing with his first feature being *Waiting to Exhale*. He also formed his own production company, Spirit Dance Entertainment, which he closed in 2002 to concentrate on acting. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Philip Ahn attended Fremont Elementary, Central Junior High School and Polytechnic High School. Although he studied electrical engineering he took an interest in drama and speech. In 1934, Philip Ahn enrolled in the University of Southern California and took business, acting, drama and cinematography classes. He also worked on his first motion picture Anything Goes in 1936. Afterwards, he appeared in The Good Earth, The General Died at Dawn, Charlie Chan in Honolulu and Daughter of Shanghai opposite Anna May Wong. He then played in Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Phillip Ahn began his television career in 1952 and appeared in countless television programs from Adventures in Paradise to Hawaii Five-O and Bonanza. His last performance was in the series Kung Fu. During his career, he was cast in over 200 film and television roles, often as the “bad” guy. In 1987, Philip Ahn was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was the first Asian-American to be so honored.

He was also a major civic leader. He served as Honorary Mayor of Panorama City for twenty years. He was also a major leader in the growing Korean community of Los Angeles.

Richard Alarcon, California State Senator, Los Angeles City Councilman
(11/24/1953) 1972

Richard Anthony Alarcón rose from Assistant to Mayor Tom Bradley to Los Angeles City Council first elected in 1993. He became a California State Senator in 1998 and served two terms. He was credited with working to help restore his Council District and the San Fernando Valley following the Northridge earthquake in 1994.

Carl David Anderson, Physicist, Nobel Prize
(September 3, 1905 – 1/11/1991) 1924

Carl Anderson won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1936 for his discovery of the positron in 1932 and the muon, a subatomic particle in 1936. The positron is the antimatter counterpart of the electron. He first became interested in science at Los Angeles Polytechnic High School and following graduation he enrolled
at Cal Tech. At Cal Tech, he studied under Robert Millikan who was also a Nobel Prize winner. He spent his teaching and research career at Cal Tech in Pasadena.


Richard Bishop began competing in gymnastics at Polytechnic High School and later at Compton Junior College. He competed in the 1932 Olympics and later graduated from UCLA in 1936. Bishop eventually attended UCLA, graduating in 1936. Richard Bishop taught physical education and coached gymnastics at Roosevelt High School and was the physical education department chairperson for 17 years.


Thomas J. "Tom" Bradley attended Rosemont Elementary, Lafayette Junior High School and graduated from Polytechnic High School. At Polytechnic, he was the first African American President of Boys League and the first to be inducted into the Ephebians. He then attended UCLA and then became a LAPD police officer in 1940. While a police officer, he studied law at Southwestern Law School and began private practice.

Tom Bradley became the first African American elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1963. He then served as Mayor of Los Angeles from 1973 to 1993, the longest tenure of any mayor in the city’s history. He was the first African American Mayor of Los Angeles and only the second elected in a major urban city in the United States.

**Helen Gurley Brown, Editor, Cosmopolitan (2/18/1922 – 8/13/2012) 1939**

Helen Marie Gurley was an author who in 1962 wrote the ground breaking and best-selling book, *Sex and the Single Girl*. In 1965, she became the co-editor and then editor in chief of Cosmopolitan Magazine for the next thirty-two years. In this role, she became an out spoken voice for women and a major part of America’s sexual revolution of the 1960’s. The magazine became one of the best-selling journals internationally and within the United States. Helen Gurley Brown was one of the most influential female authors and journalists of her generation.
Mary K. Browne, Tennis  (6/3/1891 – 8/19/1971)  1909

Mary Kendall Browne was one of the first women to play professional tennis. As an amateur, she won three consecutive U.A. Amateur singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles in 1912-1914. In 1924, she won the doubles championship at Wimbledon. She consistently finished second in singles championships to Helen Moody Wills. She is a member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Colleen Camp, Actress  (6/7/1953)

Colleen Camp performed in two of the Police Academy films and in the 1985 film, Clue. She has appeared in a wide range of television series beginning in 1973 including Marcus Welby M.D., Starsky and Hutch, and Roseanne. She has also appeared in numerous movies since 1974.

Gail Goodrich, Basketball  (4/23/1943)  1961

Gail Charles Goodrich Jr. graduated from Polytechnic High School and attended UCLA where he led the 1964 and 1965 Bruin Basketball Team to back-to-back National Championships. He then spent fourteen years in the NBA with nine of those seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers. During his career, he was a fivetime All-Star and won an NBA Championship in 1972. He was a first team All-American in college and First Team NBA in 1974. He has been inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.


Fred Girard Haney was a baseball player, manager and executive during his thirty-seven years in professional baseball. He was a star athlete at Los Angeles Polytechnic High School as a four-year letterman in football, swimming, water polo and handball. He was the World Series Champion with Milwaukee Braves in 1957 and became the manager of the expansion Anaheim Angels in 1961.

Hampton Hawes was an entirely self-taught, highly recognized jazz, be-bop pianist in the 1950’s playing with some of the best artists and bands of the era including Dexter Gordon, Art Pepper and Teddy Edwards. During his career, he recorded over 150 albums. He is considered one of the top two jazz pianists of his era.

Ivan J. Houston, President, Golden West Insurance Company  (6/15/1925)

Ivan Houston attended Wadsworth Elementary, McKinley (Carver) Junior High School and graduated from Polytechnic having majored in Math and Science. Ivan Houston then went on to graduate Berkeley. He became President and CEO of Golden West Mutual Life Insurance Company, which at that time was the largest owned black business west of the Mississippi.

Golden West Mutual Life Insurance Company began in 1925, opening their flagship office at Adams Boulevard in 1948, the same year Ivan Houston graduated from Berkeley. The company also acquired an historical collection of African American art and murals.

Ivan Houston was named a Harvard Business Leader of the 20th Century and for fourteen consecutive years he was on the list of the 100 most influential Black Americans.

Ed Iskendarian, Auto Racing and Manufacturing  (7/10/1921)

Ed Iskendarian was born in 1921 and attended Los Angeles Polytechnic High School where his hobby was tearing down and re-building Model T’s and then racing them. After graduating high school, he became a tool and die maker. From there he got into the cam shaft manufacturing business. He was extremely successful and then began to build additional components to compliment the new cam shafts including newly designed lifters, self-locking roller tappets and the first anti-pump-up hydraulic lifters. Today, he is the world’s largest producer of cam shafts for automobiles.

George Albert Kasem served as a United States Congressman from 1959 to 1961 representing California’s 25th District which includes the San Gabriel Valley. He was of Lebanese heritage and the first Arab American to serve in Congress.

Vierling Kersey, Educator  1908

Vierling Kersey was the Los Angeles Unified School District Superintendent from 1937 to 1948, the longest serving Superintendent in the District’s history. In 1949, he was the Principal of Van Nuys High School and the first Director of the Los Angeles Valley College, then located on the campus of Van Nuys High School. He then served as the California State Superintendent of Schools.

Bruce Russell, Cartoonist  (8/4/1903 – 12/18/1963)

Bruce Alexander Russell was an L.A. Times political cartoonist from 1927 to 1934 when he became the lead cartoonist until his death in 1948. As a political cartoonist, he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1946 for Editorial Cartooning exemplified by the political cartoon, Time to Bridge That Gulch.

Vaino Spencer, Judge  (7/22/1920)

Vaino Spencer graduated Polytechnic High School and earned her law degree from Southwestern School of Law. She was the first African American woman to be appointed to the California State 2nd Court of Appeal. Previously in 1961, she was the first African American female judge appointed to a municipal court. She also had been a Superior Court Judge from 1976 to 1980. She was named Appellate Judge of the Year in 1983 and 1989 by the Trial Lawyers Association. In 1979, she co-founded the National Association of Women Judges. Throughout her career she had been a pioneer for civil rights. When Vaino Spencer retired from the bench in 2007, she had served forty-six years as a judge in the State of California.
Charles Thomas, Secretary of the Navy  (9/28/1897 – 10/17/1983)  1915

Charles Sparks Thomas served as Secretary of the Navy from 1954 to 1957. He had previously served two terms as Chairman of the Republican National Committee and was President of Trans World Airlines. In the latter part of his career, he served as President of the Irvine Company.


Paul Revere Williams is a renowned African American architect known for the LAX theme building, Angelus Temple, Perino’s, the Ambassador and Beverly Hills Hotels, Saks 5th Avenue Beverly Hills, 1st AME Church, the 2nd Baptist Church, the Shrine Auditorium and numerous movie star homes. He was known as the architect to the stars of the 1920’s, 30’s and 40’s. His designs are some of the most famous homes in architecture of Los Angeles including residences for Conrad Hilton and William Paley. His career spanned fifty years and 3000 projects.

He attended Sentuous Elementary School. At Polytechnic, he was discouraged by his counselor from aspiring to be an architect. Undaunted, he took night classes at the Los Angeles School for Art. His first major award for design in 1914 emphasized the “open” concept. In 1916, he was one of the first six architecture students at USC. At twenty-eight with help from a Poly classmate he began his own architectural firm.

He also became the first African American member of the American Association of Architects. Paul Revere Williams has had a profound impact on the entire culture of the City of Los Angeles.

Gin Wong, Architect  (9/7/1922)  1942

Gin Wong was the former President of Pereira and Associates, one of Los Angeles’ major architects and founder of his own firm, Gin Wong and Associates. He designed the iconic 76 gas station in Beverly Hills, Hyatt Hotels, LAX theme building, and the ARCO building in downtown Los Angeles.
Hal Bledsole, Football  (12/21/1941)

Hal Bledsole played college football at the University of Southern California. He was a two-time first team All-American. He has been inducted into the USC Athletics Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame. He played two years in the NFL.

Ron Contarsy, Fashion Photographer


Ron is a graduate of Reseda High School and Art Center College of Design. He is a frequent contributor to Hong Kong Tatler, Harper’s Bazaar International, Blush Magazine, Red Collector Paris, West East Magazine, NOI.SE and Solitaire Magazine.

Ron is a founder and principal at Highmark Studios, a boutique creative agency serving New York, Los Angeles, and Hong Kong.

Pam Elyea, Business, Hollywood Props

Pamela Elyea graduated from Reseda High School and attended the Pasadena Art Center as a photography major. Pamela Elyea is the co-founder of History for Hire with her husband Jim. History for Hire, located in North Hollywood, is a major prop house providing an immense inventory of props to Hollywood film and production studios. With a 5000 volume library, Pam Elyea thoroughly researches every item sent to a studio to ensure authenticity. History for Hire has over 1 million props in its inventory.
Robert Hilburn was the Los Angeles Times music critic from 1970 to 2005. His columns were published internationally and throughout the United States. After graduating Reseda High School and Cal State Northridge, he began writing for the Valley News and served as a public information officer for LAUSD. He joined the Los Angeles Times in 1970. He has published several books on rock music and is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction committee.

Greg Lee played point guard for the UCLA Bruins on their 1972 and 1973 National Basketball Championship teams. He played two years in the NBA and ABA and later became a professional volleyball player. After his retirement he became a high school teacher and basketball coach.

Jim Milton McGlothlin graduated Reseda High school and became a professional baseball pitcher. He played eight years in the major leagues mostly with the California Angels and the Cincinnati Reds. He was an All-Star selection in 1967 and a World Series Champion in 1970 and 1972.

Dr. Allen Minton is the Section Chief and investigator for the National Institute for Digestive, Diabetes and Kidney Diseases. His specialties include Biomedical Engineering, Biophysics and Physics. He has authored numerous research papers.
Jeff Sedlik, Photographer and Professor

Jeff Sedlik is the founder, President and CEO of the PLUS Coalition, an organization devoted to making image licensing better. He is also the past President of Advertising Photographers of America.

Jeff Sedlik works out of studios in New York and Los Angeles as a fine art photographer. His clients include major companies such as Nike, FedEx, Sony, Blue Cross and numerous others. He also is the President of Mason Editions, producing and distributing fine art posters. He is also a professor at the Art Center College of Design, and the founder of the Digital Technology Advisory Council.

He has won numerous awards including the Clio, One Show, Art Directors Club, IPC Industry Award and a ten-time recipient of the Communications Arts Award of Excellence.

Jay Silverman, Photographer, Director

For thirty years, Jay Silverman has excelled as a Director and Photographer specializing in award-winning television, digital, and print campaigns. His wholly owned studio in Hollywood includes three sound stages that are fully equipped on a 40,000 sq. ft. production lot.

After graduating from Brooks Institute of Photography with honors, he began his successful career as a photographer by shooting renowned celebrities, sports heroes, music recording artists, and fashion models for national endorsement campaigns. Some of his top campaigns are for Pepsi, Coors, Purina Budweiser, Gatorade, Visa, and McDonald’s just to name a few.

Jay’s work has been honored with numerous Belding, Telly, Promax, and Lucy Awards. In addition, he has also been recognized for his achievements in creating and producing many national PSA campaigns for the American Cancer Society, the Foundation for the Junior Blind, The Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, and the Sierra Club.

Some of his early directorial work was for the original launches of the smash hit TV series American Idol, Desperate Housewives, NYPD Blues, Drew Carey Show and many more. He also co-created and was executive producer for The Cleaner, an hour long drama for Paramount Pictures, which aired on A & E. Additionally, he produced and directed forty episodes of One on One for TVOne featuring many stars like Beyonce, Denzel Washington, Usher, Jamie Foxx and Terrence Howard. He also produced and directed a one hour special titled Inside the Rings with Troy Aikman airing on Fox before the 2011 Super Bowl.
Gill Smith, Advertising Photographer

Gil Smith graduated Reseda High School and the Rochester School of Technology. He then founded his photographic studio in 1980. Gil Smith is an advertising photographer whose international work specializes in “simulated” action images in the automotive and sports industry. He has worked with automobile industries in the United States, Europe and Japan. Auto companies have included Mustang, Renault, Cadillac and Volvo to name a few. He has also worked with Kawasaki, Yamaha and Honda motorcycles.

He has been chosen as a Canon USA “Explorers of Light,” one of a handful of photographers internationally who are pushing the frontiers of digital photography. He has also been the recipient of numerous industry awards. In addition to his photographic career, he is the Chairman of the Ricardo Montalban Foundation.

Dan Steinhardt, Photography

Dan Steinhardt is recognized as a photographic imaging industry leader. He has over three decades of business experience in photography. In addition to national academic achievement, Steinhardt was first recognized at Reseda High School for his photography when Scholastic Magazine awarded him the Grand Prize as the best high school photographer in North America. As Marketing Manager at Epson America of Long Beach, Steinhardt’s responsibilities help position Epson as a key player in the photographic industry to high-end professional and amateur photo markets. He also works in the development of new imaging products for photographic markets.

After graduation from the Brooks Institute, Steinhardt operated his own commercial photography studio in Chicago from 1980 to 1988 specializing in advertising photography for national clients. During this time Steinhardt specialized in large format table-top product and food photography and was recognized by American Photographer Magazine as, "The new face of advertising photography".

Before joining Epson, Steinhardt was a marketing director in the Professional Division at Eastman Kodak Company and held a variety of positions at Eastman Kodak in Rochester and New York City including strategic marketing director, market segment manager and professional imaging specialist.

Jeff Widener, News Photographer   (8/11/1956)

Jeff Widener graduated Reseda High School where he won the prestigious Kodak photo competition over 8000 other entrants. He then attended Pierce College and Moorpark College majoring in photo journalism.
Jeff Widener worked for Associated Press as a news photographer and then became AP Chief in the Far East. He is best known for his iconic photograph of the man confronting a line of tanks in Tianamen Square during the China protests of 1989. He was nominated for a Pulitzer for the photograph. Today the photograph is one of the most recognized photographs ever taken.

Jeff Widener has covered hundreds of stories throughout the Far and Middle East involving civil unrest, war and social issues. His photos have covered war and the Olympics. His photos have also covered Afghanistan, Cambodia, Burma, Syria, Jordan, India, Laos, Vietnam and Pakistan to name only a few.

In addition to a Pulitzer nomination in 1990, he has received numerous awards and his work has been highly recognized by the Overseas Press Club, the DART Award from Columbia University, the Harry Chapin Media Award, and the Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism to name only a few.

**Warren King, Photography Teacher**

Warren King’s legacy as a teacher of photography can be found in the lives and work of his students. Today they are some of the most famous artists of this generation, including Jeff Widener, Gil Smith, Dan Steinhardt, Jay Silverman and Jeff Sedlik.
Lou Adler attended Roosevelt High School but didn’t graduate. He was able however to get into Los Angeles City College in 1951. In 1964, he founded Dunhill Records and later Ode Records. He was also a co-producer of the Monterey Pop Festival and its film.

He became a major producer and promoter of rock performers including Herb Alpert, Sam Cooke, The Mamas and the Papas, Jan and Dean, Barry McGuire, Johnny Rivers and many more. He won two Grammys with Carole King for album, *Tapestry* and the song *It’s Too Late*.

Lou Adler also produced the *Rocky Horror Show*, directed the Cheech and Chong film, *Up in Smoke*, and owns the Roxy Theater in Los Angeles. Lou Adler has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and has been inducted into the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame.

Samuel "Sam" Balter, Jr. was an All American basketball player at UCLA. He was also a member of the first U.S.A. Olympic Basketball team that won the Gold Medal in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He was the only Jewish-American athlete to win a Gold Medal in the Berlin games. He later became the UCLA football and basketball announcer and Sports Director for KLAC radio from 1946 to 1962. He is a member of the UCLA Sports Hall of Fame, the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame and the Southern California Broadcasters Hall of Fame.

Paul Bannai graduated from Roosevelt High School and was also assigned to Manzanar Camp in 1942. Paul Bannai, a Republican, was the 1st Japanese American member of the California State Legislature. He was a member of the Assembly from 1973 to 1980. Prior to entering the Assembly, he was a Gardena City Councilman and had also served in the Army during World War II. He then served as Memorial Affairs Director for the Veterans Administration.
Leo Buscaglia, Author  (3/31/1924 – 6/12/1998)  1942

Felice Leonardo "Leo" Buscaglia graduated from Roosevelt High School and then attended the University of Southern California. As an author, he wrote more than a dozen books addressing social and physical relations between people. His most popular book was Love published in 1972. He became a speaker and media personality around the subject and was often referred to as Dr. Love. His books were consistent best sellers with five being on the New York Times Best Seller List at the same time.


Gil Anthony Cedillo attended Lorena Street and Euclid Elementary Schools, Stevenson Middle School and Roosevelt High School. He was the football team quarterback and earned a full scholarship to UCLA. He is currently a member of the Los Angeles City Council. He had previously served as a California Assemblyman and State Senator. He has been a powerful advocate for immigrant rights.


Willie Davis was a three sport athlete at Roosevelt High School. After graduating from Roosevelt, he signed in 1958 with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He played nineteen years in professional baseball. He was a two-time All Star, a three-time Gold Glove award winner and a two-time World Series Champion.

Stanley Franzen, Film Editor  (8/15/1919 - 1/23/2011)

Stanley Franzen was a film editor for over fifty years. He was the former president of the American Cinema Editors and the Motion Picture Editors' Guild. His television credits included The Bob Cummings Show, The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show, I Married Joan and The Peoples’ Choice. He also edited The Amityville Horror in 1979.
Michael Galitzen, Olympian  (9/6/1909 – 1959)

Michael Galitzen was an Olympic diver winning a Gold Medal in the 1932 Olympics. He also won Silver Medals in the 1928 Olympics.

Mike Garrett, Football and Athletic Director  (4/12/1944)  1962

Michael Lockett Garrett graduated Roosevelt High School and attended the University of Southern California. At USC, he was a two-time All American running back and in 1965 won the Heisman Trophy for the most outstanding collegiate football player. He then played eight seasons of professional football with the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Diego Chargers of the AFL. He was a two-time AFL Champion and All Star and was a Super Bowl IV Champion. After earning his Juris Doctorate, he became the Athletic Director for the University of Southern California and is currently the Athletic Director for Langston University in Oklahoma.


Sydney Gold in junior high school started the Dugout Athletic Club, a workout club for junior high school students. He later went to Roosevelt High School. Today he is known as the father of body building and the American fitness movement. He is the co-founder of Gold’s Gym and World Gyms. He opened the first Golds Gym in 1965 in Venice, California. World Gyms today has over 300 locations worldwide. Joe Gold was also known for the development of fitness equipment and in particular fitness machines.

Ignacio Gomez, Artist

Ignacio Gomez graduated from Roosevelt High School, Los Angeles Trade Tech and the Pasadena School of Art and Design. He is an accomplished painter and illustrator. His works include a 1976 Beatles album cover, forty portraits of renowned Latino entertainers, and other paintings that are part of private collections. He has been commissioned by the Boy Scouts for the past twenty-five years for covers of their magazine. The Latino Congressional Caucus commissioned him to paint four Latino Congressional
Medal of Honor recipients. He has also sculpted two monuments to Cesar Chavez in San Fernando and Riverside, California. He has paintings exhibited internationally and in the Smithsonian.

Paul Gonzales, Boxing  (4/18/1964)

Paul Garza Gonzales was the first Mexican-American to win an Olympic Boxing Gold Medal in the 1984 Summer Olympics.

Norman Granz, Jazz Record Producer  (8/6/1918 – 11/22/2001)

Norman Granz was a record producer whose record labels included some of the greatest stars of jazz including Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Stan Getz, Dizzy Gillespie and most other major figures in the industry. He was also known as a powerful advocate and a pioneer for integration in music demanding equal wages and accommodations for his artists. In 1993 he received the Grammy Trustees Award.


Archie Green was an American folklorist concentrating on the labor movement, unions and workers. He attended UC Berkeley and later became a professor focused on the labor movement. He was a recording artist, composer, and a researcher on labor history. He also published the Big Red Songbook which chronicled the history of labor and union songs.


William “Bill” Harmatz was a star gymnast at Roosevelt High School. He became a jockey winning forty major stakes races during his career including the Preakness. He has been inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.
Daniel Hernandez, Community Leader  (1946)

Daniel “Danny” Hernandez graduated from Roosevelt High School and served with the U.S. Marines. Following his service, he returned to East Los Angeles and became the principal force behind the development and expansion of the Hollenbeck Youth Center and the Inner City Games. The Inner City Games today are hosted in fourteen U.S. cities and touch over 100,000 youth. At the same time, he expanded the reach of the Hollenbeck Youth Center with nationally recognized programs to address gang participation and increase student academic achievement. Daniel Hernandez is the current President of the Hollenbeck Youth Center.


Genaro Hernández was the World Junior Lightweight Champion from 1991–1994. He lost his title to Floyd Mayweather in 1998 and then retired.


Joseph Hittelman graduated Roosevelt High School, UC Berkeley and the University of San Francisco Medical School. He had a family practice and at the same time was a powerful advocate for health care for the poor. He tried to liberalize medical services and fill in medical service gaps that affected the economically disadvantaged.

His advocacy was a major reason he was called before the McCarthy Committee that investigated him as part of the House Un-American Activities Committee investigation of Communists in a wide range of careers. He refused to answer the Committees questions and was found not guilty. However, he was blacklisted for years from major L.A. hospitals. He was finally reinstated in the later part of his career.
Al Jarvis, D.J.  (1918 – 5/6/1970)  1926

Al Jarvis went to Roosevelt High School and performed in their drama program. He won a Shakespeare contest, and a role at the Pasadena Playhouse. In 1932, he was a KFWB announcer in Los Angeles with a new idea of playing records on the radio. His *Make Believe Ballroom* broadcast music six hours a day. Most of the music was jazz and big band, but he also discovered and highlighted new, upcoming stars like Nat King Cole, Frankie Lane and Gogi Grant. A similar program modeled on Al Jarvis’ show and with the same name began in New York City. Disc Jockeys were born in the KFWB radio station in Los Angeles.

Herman Katz, Educator  (1933 - 4/12/2015)  1950

Herman Katz was born and raised in Boyle Heights and attended Roosevelt High School. He taught history and reading at Hollenbeck Junior High School beginning in 1957 and then became a counselor at Roosevelt High School where he remained for the next thirty years. He became a legend at Roosevelt High School as a counselor, known for his compassion for, belief in and dedication to every student. In particular, he counseled a young Antonio Villar, helping him to believe in himself. Antonio Villar went on to graduate from UCLA and then law school and become Mayor of Los Angeles.

Robert Kinoshita, Special Effects Artist  (2/24/1914 – 12/9/2014)

Robert Kinoshita attended Roosevelt High School and then the University of Southern California. He spent time at a Japanese Internment Camp in Arizona and eventually returned to Southern California where he gained fame as the designer of the robots for *Forbidden Planet* and *Lost in Space*.

Herbert G. Klein  (4/1/1918 – 7/2/2009)

Herb Klein graduated Roosevelt High School and then attended the University of Southern California. He worked for the San Diego Tribune before becoming President Richard Nixon’s Director of Communications. He had also worked for Copley newspapers for five decades and was Vice-President and Editor in Chief for Copley newspapers from 1980 to 2000.
Meyer Luskin, Business

Meyer Luskin graduated from Roosevelt High School and then went to UCLA and earned an MBA from Stanford University. Meyer Luskin is the President, CEO and Chairman of Scope Industries. He is also a major philanthropist donating $100 million to UCLA for the Meyer Luskin School of Public Affairs supporting public and civic engagement. They also supported the Renee and Meyer Luskin College Ready Academy.

Matthew “Marty” Martinez, Congressman (2/14/1929 – 10/15/2011)

Matthew Martinez served four terms as a United States Congressman from 1983 to 1991.

Fumio Naka, Scientist (7/18/1923 - 12/21/2013) 1940

Fumio Robert Naka went to Roosevelt High School and attended UCLA at sixteen. He was then interned at Manzanar in 1942. With the help of Quakers, he was able to continue his studies at the University of Missouri and graduated Harvard with a degree in electron optics.

In 1951, he developed with a team at MIT the first radar analog detection equipment. He also worked on the U-2 program and began working on stealth technology in the early 1960’s. He is widely recognized as the father of stealth technology. He was the Chief Scientist for the Air Force in the early 1970’s and Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office. He has received numerous honors and awards including being inducted into the Air Force Space and Missiles Hall of Fame.

Julian Nava, Educator, LAUSD School Board Member, Ambassador (6/19/1927) 1945

Julian Nava graduated Roosevelt High School 1945. He then joined the Navy, returning to attend East Los Angeles Community College and then transferring to Pomona College. He then received his Doctorate in
Latin American History from Harvard. From 1957 to 2000, he was a professor at Cal State Northridge. In 1967, he became the first Mexican American to serve on the Los Angeles Unified School District School Board. In 1980, he was appointed United States Ambassador to Mexico. He was the first Mexican American to serve in that post.

**Lennie Niehaus, Composer and Arranger**  (6/11/1929)  1948

Leonard Niehaus is a composer and arranger and also a jazz saxophonist. He graduated Roosevelt High School in 1948 and then studied music at Los Angeles City College. During the 1950’s, he played with Lalo Guerrero, and several major jazz bands. He then began composing for movies in 1962. He composed for numerous Clint Eastwood films including *Bird* which won several film critic awards. He also composed scores for such films as *Million Dollar Baby*, *Gran Torino* and *Mystic River*. He has won numerous awards including a Prime Time Emmy for his compositions.

**Eugene Obregon, Congressional Medal of Honor**  (11/12/30 – (9/26/1950)  1942

Eugene Arnold Obregon enlisted in the Marine Corps after graduating from Roosevelt High School. He was part of the landing at Inchon at the start of the Korean War. On September 30, 1950, his company was pinned down by hostile fire. A fellow Marine fell injured in the line of fire. Private Obregon went to the injured Marine armed only with a pistol and pulled him to safety only to come under more hostile fire. Private Obregon shielded the wounded Marine while returning fire until he was fatally wounded. He was awarded the nation’s highest military recognition for his heroism, The Congressional Medal of Honor. Eugene Obregon became one of forty Mexican Americans to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

**Alfonso Perez, Educator**

Alfonso Perez graduated Garfield High School and entered World War II as an Air Force bombardier. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross. He graduated from Occidental College in 1947 and then earned his Master’s degree in special education from USC.

As principal of Widney High School, he designed a model special education school that became a national model for the mainstreaming of students in 1956. He then was principal at Roosevelt High School during the volatile 1970’s, restoring both order and trust. In 1982 the Alfonso B. Perez School for special education students was named in his honor. In 2003 Alfonso Perez was inducted into the Mexican American Hall of Fame.
Harry Pregerson, Federal Judge  (10/13/1923)  1941

Harry Pregerson was first appointed a Federal Judge for the Central District of California in 1967 by President Johnson, and was then appointed to the 9th District Court of Appeals in 1979 by President Carter. He became the first Jewish American Federal Circuit Court Judge. Growing up in Boyle Heights in the 1930’s and 1940’s, Pregerson graduated Roosevelt High School and then was the only student in his class to go to UCLA, mainly because of finances.

Marvin Rand, Photographer  (1924-2009)

Marvin Rand attended Roosevelt High School. He then studied photography at the Art Center College of Design. He became one of the most famous Los Angeles photographers specializing in architecture. For five decades, he chronicled the growth of Los Angeles recording the work of some of the greatest architects of the era and their designs.

Frank Romero, Artists  1944

Frank Romero has been an East Los Angeles artist for forty years and a key figure in the Latino arts movement of the 1970’s. He has fifteen major murals throughout Los Angeles and was a contributor to the 1984 Olympics. His work has been exhibited world-wide and is part of many permanent collections including the National Museum of Art in Washington D.C. and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He was also one of the founders of the Los Four, an art collective of Hispanic artists in the 1970’s.

Frank Romero attended 1st Street Elementary and Euclid Avenue Schools and then Stevenson Junior High School. At Stevenson he learned from art teachers Jerry Uribe and Ronald Silverman, then student teachers from Cal State L.A.

Edward Roybal, Congressman  (2/10/1916 – 10/24/2005)  1934

Edward Roybal was a Los Angeles City Councilman for thirteen years and a United States Congressman from 1963 to 1975. While in Congress, he was the founder of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. He also
wrote the first federal bilingual education bill. He was also influential in legislation supporting senior housing and Meals on Wheels. He was a major spokesperson for the disadvantaged. He is recognized as one of the most significant Hispanic leaders of his generation.

Edward Roybal received the Presidential Citizens Medal. He also has numerous buildings named after him including a high school in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Andy Russell, Vocalist  (9/16/1919 – 4/16/1992)  1938

Andrés Rábago was a hit singer in the 1940’s and 1950’s selling over eight million records with songs such as Besame Mucho, Laughing on the Outside, and What A Difference a Day Makes. He made regular appearances on radio and television shows and continued his career throughout Latin America with concerts, radio and television programs. During his fifty-year career, he was the first American-Latino, bilingual singer.

Julius Schulman, Photographer  (10/10/1910 – 7/15/2009)

Julius Schulman was an internationally recognized photographer who built a portfolio of California modernist art focusing on modern architecture in Los Angeles. His most famous work was Case Study House #22, the Stahl House. His collection is housed at the Getty Museum.

Lionel “Chico” Sesma  1936

Lionel “Chico’ Sesma attended Roosevelt High School and was a member of the dance, concert and marching band.

In 1949, he became a DJ with station KWOL which later became KDAY. He became a powerful influence in the promotion of Latin music and musicians. In addition to his groundbreaking work on radio, he began promoting Latin Concerts at the Palladium.
Wallace Tashima, Federal Judge  (6/24/1934)

Atsushi Wallace Tashima as a child was send to the Poston War Relocation Center. After the war, he attended and graduated from Roosevelt High School and then entered the Marine Corps where he served from 1953 to 1958. He then attended UCLA and then Harvard Law School. In 1980, President Carter nominated him to the Federal District Court for Central California and President Clinton in 1996 appointed him to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Wallace Tashima became the first Japanese American appointed federal circuit judge.

Donald Sterling, Business  (4/26/1934)  1952

Donald Tokowitz was on the Roosevelt High School gymnastics team and was the senior class president in 1952. He then attended Cal State L.A. and Southwestern Law School. He began a law practice, and also became involved in real estate. He currently owns over 150 properties in the Los Angeles basin. He also purchased the Los Angeles Clippers in 1979 only to lose the franchise in a scandal over racial comments.

Saul Toledo, Baseball  (8/15/1920 – 9/28/2010)

Saul Mario Toledo graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1939. He then played baseball in East Los Angeles for a variety of merchant and semi-pro teams. After his playing career ended, he became a fixture as an announcer for East Los Angeles baseball teams. During his career, he collected Hispanic baseball memorabilia and became an historian writing about baseball and baseball players in East Los Angeles. He was known as “Mr. Baseball” in East L.A.

Don Tosti, Musician, Bassist, Composer  (1928 - 2/2/2004)

Edmundo Martinez Tostado, “Don Tosti” attended Roosevelt High School and became a concert master for the All National High School symphony orchestra as a violinist. At 19, as a bassist, he played with the major bands of the era including Jack Teagarden, Jimmy Dorsey, Charlie Barnett, Bobby Sherwood and les Brown. In the late 1940’s he formed a band called the Pachuco Boogie Boys who recorded Pachuco Boogie in 1948, which became the first million selling Latino song. He was considered the “Godfather of Latino
R&B in the late 1940’s. His compositions ranged across the board from classical to jazz in addition to creating a unique “Pachuco Style of music. He is a pioneer of Chicano music. He was also a highly requested side-man. He has a Golden Palm Star on the Palm Springs Walk of Stars.

Evelyn “Bobbi” Trout, Aviatrix  (1/7/1906 – 1/24/2003) 1926

Evelyn Trout was one of the first and most famous women flyers beginning in the early 1920’s and still flying in the 1980’s. She set the first non-refueling endurance record for women in 1929 and continued to set racing and flying records into the 1930’s.

Adolfo and Omar Valenzuela, Vocalists, Music Producers

Omar and Adolfo Valenzuela are a respected and recognized Mexican-American team of producers in the Latin music industry. Born in Sinaloa, Mexico and raised in Los Angeles, Omar and Adolfo Valenzuela are musical prodigies who began performing at age 12, had their first band at 13, produced their first independent artist at 17 only to become classically trained jazz musicians at age 18. With the ability to innovate and generate new music movements, they are responsible for revamping Banda music and crafting the ‘Alterado’ movement within the “Corridos” genre by fusing the gangster rap with Regional Mexican music.

They have joint ventures with Universal, Warner and Sony. Today the Valenzuela’s run their own record label, Twiins Music Group. Their goal is to make the city of Los Angeles the home base for Regional Mexican music and are permanently strategizing their crossover endeavors. The Valenzuela’s are also avid entrepreneurs who are always on the look for new business ventures and in seeking to expand their brand the Twiins just launched their new online clothing and merchandising company Twiins Store. Having started in their early teens, the twins are celebrating 18 years as producers. BMI honored the Valenzuela brothers as ‘the most influential & successful producers of Regional Mexican music’ in 2008.

Antonio Villaraigosa, Los Angeles Mayor  (1/23/1953) 1970

Antonio Ramón Villar Jr. graduated Roosevelt High School after taking night school classes to earn enough credits. He credits his teacher Herman Katz for continuing to encourage and inspire him. After graduation, he attended UCLA graduating in 1977. He then became a community and union organizer. His union and community background led him to become a California State Assemblyman, Speaker of the Assembly and then the Mayor of Los Angeles.
Harold M. Williams, Public Service (1/5/1928)

Harold Marvin Williams was Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission during the Carter administration. He was also the first Dean of the UCLA Graduate School of Management, and became the first President of the Getty Center and Trust. His career is one of exemplary public service and dedication to the arts.

Howard Zieff, Director (10/21/1927 - 2/21/2009)

Howard Zieff began his film career in advertising designing such campaigns as the Alka Seltzer, “That’s a Spicy Meatball” commercial and campaigns for Polaroid and Volkswagen.

He was the director of Private Benjamin and My Girl, and other films included Slither, The Dream Team and Unfaithfully Yours.


Harold Zinkin was Mr. California in 1941 and was then inventor of the Universal Weight Machine and training system which revolutionized weight training. He was a classmate of Joe Gold, co-founder of Gold’s Gyms.
San Fernando High School

Vincent Barabba, Director of the Census  (9/6/1934)  1950

Vincent Barabba graduated Cal State Northridge, and then received his MBA from UCLA. He began his career in market research at Xerox, General Motors and Eastman Kodak. He also formed his own company, Market Insight Corporation. He then became the Director of the United States Census.

Paula Boland, California State Assemblywoman  1958

Paula Boland was a member of the California State Assembly from 1990 to 1996. During her time in office, she was a major proponent of the secession of the San Fernando Valley from the City of Los Angeles. Paula Boland has been a strong supporter of law enforcement and small business. She was also influential in establishing the Granada Hills Hospital Foundation.

Raul Bocanegra, California State Assemblyman

Raul Bocanegra graduated San Fernando High School. He was then elected to serve the 39th Assembly District from 2012 to 2014.

William Hawley Bowlus, Aircraft Designer and Builder  

William Bowlus was a pioneer in aircraft design and building, especially in gliders. He also was deeply involved in the design of recreational vehicles, and is known as the designer of Airstream trailers. He was also the head of construction for the Spirit of St. Louis, the Charles Lindbergh aircraft. William Bowlus has been inducted into the Soaring Hall of Fame.
Tony Cardenas, United States Congressman (3/31/1963)

Antonio "Tony" Cárdenas graduated from San Fernando High School and then earned an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. He was elected to the California Assembly and then to the Los Angeles City Council before becoming a member of the United States Congress in 2013.

Tony Cardenas has been an animal rights advocate, a strong supporter of public education, renewable energy and juvenile justice reform.

Bobby Chacon (11/28/1951) 1969

Bobby Chacon is a two-time World Boxing Champion. His career began in 1972 and lasted until 1989. He had a record of fifty-nine wins and seven losses with forty-seven wins by knockout.

Denny Crum, Basketball (3/2/1937) 1955

Denzil E. "Denny" Crum coached the University of Louisville for thirty years from 1971 to 2001 winning two NCAA Basketball Championships. He began his basketball career at San Fernando High School as a player and then at Pierce College and finally at UCLA. He also taught at Pacoima Junior High School. He became a UCLA assistant coach under John Wooden and was involved in three National Championships before being hired at Louisville.

Anthony Davis, Football (9/8/1952), 1971

Anthony Davis was an All American football player at the University of Southern California. In 1972, he scored six touchdowns against Notre Dame to set a school scoring record. Following his college career, he spent eight years playing professional football. He has been inducted into the Collegiate Football Hall of Fame.
Dr. Calvin E. Gross, New York Superintendent of Schools  (4/8/1919 – 1987)

Dr. Calvin Gross was an educator who served as the New York Superintendent of Schools from 1963 to 1965. Following his tenure in New York he became the Dean of the School of Education at the University of Missouri from 1965 to 1972. He then served as the president of the National College of Education in Evanston, Illinois. From 1978 until his death in 1987 he was the Superintendent of Schools in Alamo Heights ISD.

Barbara Lee, U.S. Congresswoman  (7/16/1946)

Barbara Jean Tutt graduated from San Fernando High School and then Mills College and the University of California, Berkeley. She was a staff member to Congressman Ron Dellums before being elected to the California Assembly and Senate and then eventually the United State Congress representing the 13th District in 1998. She has been a major critic of the U.S. policy in the Middle East and the only member of Congress to vote against the Authorization to Use Force Against Terrorists. Barbara Lee also began a Foundation dedicated to advancing women in politics, supporting female elected officials.

George Lopez, Comedian  (4/23/1961)

George Lopez graduated from San Fernando High School in 1979. He began his career on Clear Channel Radio becoming the first Hispanic radio host on a morning slot on an English language station. In 2000, he began his own television comedy show, George Lopez Tonight, where he produces, writes and acts. The sitcom was a major television hit.

George Lopez has also contributed through his foundation to a number of Latino causes in the greater Los Angeles area and he has been named one of the twenty-five most influential Hispanics in America today.
Nury Martinez, Councilwoman for the Los Angeles City Council

Nury Martinez is a graduate of San Fernando High School and Cal State Northridge. She was an LAUSD Board Member elected in 2009 and then in 2013 she was elected to the Los Angeles City Council.

Marilyn Mason, Actress  (12/22/1945 - 8/7/1940)

Marilyn Mason as an actress who appeared in a range of television series in the 1960’s and 70’s including Barnaby Jones, Ben Casey, Bonanza, the Man from UNCLE to name only a few. She is remembered for her work with Elvis Presley and the series Longstreet that ran for one year, 1971 to 1972.

Gary Matthews, Baseball  (7/5/1950)

Gary Matthews Sr. played sixteen years in professional baseball as an outfielder from 1972 to 1987 for five different teams. He was an All Star in 1979 and National League Rookie of the Year in 1973.

Cindy Montañez, California Assemblywoman

Cindy Montanez was a San Fernando City Councilwoman and a California Assemblywoman from 2002 to 2006 representing the 39th Assembly District. She has since served on the Department of Water and Power and Unemployment Appeals boards.

Alex Padilla, California Assemblyman  (3/22/1973)

Alejandro "Alex" Padilla graduated from San Fernando High School and then earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering from MIT. He was first Latino and youngest representative elected to the Los
Angeles City Council in 1999 and then to the California Senate in 2006. In 2014, he was elected California Secretary of State.

Alex Padilla has served on the governing board of MIT and has also served as the President of the National Association of Elected and Appointed Latino Officials.

Arthur Snyder, Los Angeles City Councilman  (11/10/1932 – 11/7/2012)

Arthur Snyder graduated LACC and Pepperdine College. He worked his way through college in a range of hard labor jobs. He then earned a law degree from the University of Southern California. He was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1967 and served until his resignation in 1985. He was succeeded by Richard Alatorre.

Richie Valens, Vocalist  (5/13/1941 – 2/3/1959)

Richard Steven Valenzuela was the first Chicano rock and roll star and a pioneer. He attended Pacoima Junior High School and San Fernando High School and left high school to pursue a recording career. It was at Pacoima Junior High School that he formed the Silhouettes, his first band. His first major hit was La Bamba in 1958 followed by Come on Let’s Go and Donna. Richie Valens was killed in a plane crash in Iowa in February, 1959 while on tour along with rock legend Buddy Holly and the Big Bopper. The song, When the Music Died, memorialized all three musicians. Richie Valens was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Charles White, Football  (1/22/1958)  1976

Charles Raymond White was an outstanding football and track and field athlete at San Fernando High School. He then attended the University of Southern California where he won the Heisman Trophy in 1979 and in 1980 was the Most Valuable Player in the Rose Bowl. He then played eight seasons in the National Football League with the Cleveland Browns and the Los Angeles Rams. In 1987, he was first team All Pro and a Pro Bowl selection.
Ben Agajanian, Football  (8/28/1919)  1937

Benjamin James Agajanian had a twenty-two year professional football career as a place kicker for ten different teams beginning in 1945. He then spent twenty years with the Dallas Cowboys as their kicking coach. He overcame a serious foot injury while a collegian at the University of New Mexico to become professional football’s first kicking specialist.

J.C. Agajanian, Auto Racing  (6/16/1913 - 5/5/1984)

Joshua "J.C./Aggie" Agajanian was a famous race car promoter and owner. He won three Indianapolis 500 races. He also owned the Ascot Racing track in Gardena. He has been inducted to every Motorsports Hall of Fame. His trademarks were high heeled boots and a cowboy hat.

Joe Bogdanovich, Business  1930

Joe Bogdanovich was the founder and owner of Star-Kist Tuna, taking the San Pedro based company to become in 1955 the largest cannery in the world. Today it is still one of the largest in the world and the largest in the United States.

Misty Copeland, Ballet  (9/10/1982)

Misty Copeland is an African American ballet dancer for the American Ballet Theater, one of the premier ballet companies in the United States. She attended Point Fermin Elementary and Dana Middle School and was home schooled in the 10th grade and then attended San Pedro High School.
She took up dance as a teenager. She won a Los Angeles Music Center award for dance in 1997 and by 2007 was a soloist for the American Ballet Theater and today is the first African-American principal ballerina for the American Ballet Company. Her memoir, *Life in Motion*, chronicles her unlikely path to stardom in ballet.

**Anna Lee Tingle Fisher, Astronaut**  
(8/24/1949)  1967

Anna Lee Tingle Fisher (née Sims) became the first mother in space in 1984 as a crew member of Space Shuttle Discovery. She has participated in the shuttle missions, the international station program and the Orion Project.

Anna Fisher graduated San Pedro School and then earned her undergraduate degree and medical degree from UCLA. She then became an astronaut in 1979. She has numerous awards for her work at NASA including UCLA Alumnus of the Year.

**Willie Naulls, Basketball**  
(10/7/1934)  1952

William Dean Naulls graduated from San Pedro having been named in 1952, California High School, “Mr. Basketball.” He was then an All American at UCLA in 1956. He then played for ten years in the NBA from 1956 to 1966. He played most of his career with the New York Knicks. His last three years were with the Boston Celtics where he won three NBA Championships.

After retiring, Willie Naulls became a successful auto dealer, contractor and agent for professional athletes. He then became an ordained minister and established the Willie Naulls' Ministries.

**Maralin Niska, Opera**  
(11/16/1926)  1945

Maralin Niska was a soprano with the New York Metropolitan Opera. She began her career in the 1950’s performing for the Los Angeles Opera and the UCLA and USC Operas. She sang for the first time with the New York City Opera in 1967 and with the Metropolitan Opera in 1970.

Maralin Niska attended Dana Junior High School and while attending San Pedro High School, she sang in the operetta, *The Three Twins*. 

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John Main Olguin, Director of the Cabrillo Museum  (2/18/1921 – 1/1/2011)  
1941

John Main Olguin was the Director of the Cabrillo Marine Museum from 1949 to 1987. He was also a founding member of the American Cetacean Society and the “father of recreational whale watching.”

He began his love of the ocean in 1937 when he was a lifeguard in San Pedro before graduating from San Pedro High School in 1941. His enthusiasm for the sea was always evident as he educated generations of San Pedro public school students about marine life.

Art Pepper, Jazz Saxophonist  (9/1/1925 – 6/15/1982)  
1943

Arthur Edward Pepper, Jr began playing the clarinet at age nine and by fifteen was playing with Lee Young’s band on Central Avenue. He was a cool jazz and West coast jazz artist, alto saxophonist and clarinet player. He then played with Stan Kenton during the 1940’s. Art Pepper formed his own quartet in 1952 and over the next thirty years produced over 70 albums.

Miguel Jontel Pimentel, Vocalist  (10/23/1985)  
2003

Miguel Pimentel became interested in music in the 9th grade at San Pedro High School and signed a recording contract right after graduation. He has numerous award nominations, including BET Award for Best Collaboration for Lotus Flower in 2012 and Best Male R&B Artist in 2013. He won a Grammy in 2013 for Best R&B song, Adorn. He has seven other Grammy nominations. He has also won Soul Train Music Awards and multiple nominations from BET, Soul Train, MTV and NAACP Image Awards.
Manuel Lawrence Real, Federal Judge  (1/27/1924)  1941

Manuel Real graduated from San Pedro High School, earned his BS from USC and his law degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles. After earning his law degree, he served as a U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California between 1952 and 1966, and was then appointed to the U.S. Federal District Court for Central California in 1966 where he still serves.

Vincent Thomas, State Assemblyman  (4/16/1907 - 1/1980)  1928

Vincent Tomasevich-Thomas represented San Pedro in the California State Assembly for 38 years from 1941 to 1979. He graduated San Pedro High School in 1928, attended Santa Clara University and obtained his law degree from Loyola University. He then worked at Bogdanovich’s StarKist tuna cannery before entering politics. In the Assembly, he was an advocate for the fishing industry and recreational facilities, education and veteran’s affairs.

The Vincent Thomas Bridge connecting San Pedro to Long Beach is named in his honor.
Marty Feldman, Football  (9/12/1922)  1950

Martin "Marty" Feldman was the head football coach for the Oakland Raiders in 1962. He had a 2 and 15 record. He played football for Stanford University and is in the Stanford Sports Hall of Fame.

Dave Lopez, Journalist  1966

Dave Lopez has covered every major story in Los Angeles for Channel 2 and 9 News for the past 40 years. These local and national news stories included the 1987 and 1994 Los Angeles earthquakes, numerous wild fires, the 1992 Rodney King riots, the 1994 O.J. Simpson trial, the “Hillside Strangler,” the Nightstalker, and countless other major breaking news stories.

He has won eleven Emmys, eight Golden Mikes, three Associated Press Awards, and the Los Angeles Press Club’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He is currently the longest tenured newscaster in Los Angeles.
Sergio Checo Alonso  1975

Sergio Checo Alonso received his Bachelor degree in Ethnomusicology and Masters from UCLA in 1999. He is one of the most recognized Mexican folk harpists in the United States as a member of the world-renowned, *Mariachi Los Camperos de Nati Cano*. During his professional career, he has performed in the most prestigious performing arts venues in the United States and Mexico, including The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Teatro Degollado in Guadalajara. He has performed with numerous Latin music recording artists. He currently teaches multicultural music at San Fernando High School and serves as a Cultural Arts Commissioner for the City of San Fernando.

Scott Borchetta, President/CEO and Founder, Big Machine Records  
(7/3/1962)

Scott Borchetta graduated Sylmar and then College of the Canyons. He worked with his father in his father’s record promotion company in Nashville. He then started his own band and beginning in 1985 worked with MTM productions, MCA, Dream Works Nashville and Universal Music Nashville. In 2005, he founded his own music production company, Big Machine Records. Taylor Swift was his first artist signed in 2005. Together they won a Grammy for Best Album, *Fearless*, in 2010 and with his label, she became the first artist to earn three consecutive million selling albums, *Speak Now*, *Red* and *1989*. Today, he produces some of the major country stars including Taylor Swift, Reba, Tim McGraw, Florida Georgia Line, The Band Perry, and Rascal Flatts.

Brandon Browner, Football  
(8/2/1984)

Chuy Bravo, Actor  (12/7/1959)


He is best known for his television work on Chelsea Lately, a syndicated talk show that has run for eight years.

Paul Hefner, Communications  (3/18/1962)  1980

Paul Hefner graduated from Sylmar High School. He was a reporter for the Los Angeles Daily News for ten years from 1986 to 1996. He served as Communications Director for the California State Legislature from 1998 to 2005 and then as Director of Communications from 2011 to 2014.

Marv Montgomery, Football  (2/8/1948)  1966

Marvin Montgomery attended San Fernando Junior High School and Sylmar High School and then the University of Southern California where he played offensive tackle. He was a first-round draft pick of the Denver Broncos in 1971. He then played seven years in the NFL from 1971 to 1978.

Wayne A. McDuffy, Deputy Executive Director, Department of State

Wayne McDuffy graduated Sylmar High School and earned his B.A. in Government from Harvard University. He received his M.A. in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College. Following six years in the private sector, Wayne McDuffy in 1994 became a Foreign Service Officer for the Department of State where he served at posts in the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Latin America until 2009. From 2009 to 2010 he served at the U.S. Mission in Afghanistan. In 2010 he became Executive Director at the Department of State in Washington and then Counselor for Management Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Poland. He is currently the Deputy Executive Director for the Bureau of European Affairs in Washington D.C.
Jeff Scott Soto, Musician, Songwriter  (11/4/1965)

Jeff Scott Soto is a graduate of Sylmar High School. He is a hard rock and heavy metal singer. From the beginning of his career in the early 1980’s he has performed with a wide range of hard rock artists, as well as releasing several solo albums. Beginning in 1990 to 2007 he was the lead vocalist for the group Talisman. From 2006 to 2007 he was the lead vocalist for Journey. He has released several new albums including Evolution, Damage Control and SOTO.

Dan Taguchi, Music Educator

Dan Taguchi graduated Sylmar High School and earned his B.A. and teaching credential from UCLA. He began his teaching career at Granada Hills High School where for four years his band won the LAUSD Band and Drill Team Championship three times. At Carson High School his marching band won the 4A Division of the LAUSD Band and Drill Team Championships. He then taught for fifteen years at the Hamilton High School Music Academy earning numerous awards for his senior band and jazz ensemble. He also served as conductor and musical director for the Academy of Music musical productions.

During his career he was the recipient of numerous honors and recognitions including Music Center Spotlight Award, K-Jazz FM Educator of the Year Award, and the National Life Group Lifechanger of the Year Award. He also volunteers as the musical director for the Union Church of Los Angeles.

Johnny Whitaker, Actor  (12/13/1959)

Johnny Whitaker graduated Sylmar High School. He starred as a child actor in the television series Family Affair which ran from 1966 to 1971. He also appeared on General Hospital, Tom Sawyer and several other television shows and films. He later graduated from Brigham Young University. He has received a Child Actor, Lifetime Achievement Award from the Young Artist Foundation.
Sasha Alexander, Actress  (5/17/1973)

Sasha Alexander graduated Taft High School and then the University of Southern California in Cinema. She is best known for her role as Maura Isles on the hit television series Rizzoli and Isles. She has also had roles in Dawson’s Creek and NCIS.

Steve Bartek, Guitarist and Composer  (1/30/1952)

Steve Bartek wrote songs and played with Strawberry Alarm Clock while still a student at Taft High School. After graduating Taft in 1969 and UCLA, he joined the rock group Oingo Boingo. In the 1990’s he turned to television and movie compositions, orchestrating over 50 major films including Tales from the Crypt, Amazing Stories, Spider-Man, Good Will Hunting, and Guilty as Charged.

Craig Buck, Olympian  (8/24/1958)  1976

Craig Werner Buck was a volleyball middle blocker who won team Gold Medals in volleyball in the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games. He played collegiate volleyball at Pepperdine University.

Sheila Marie Cornell-Douty, Softball  (2/26/1962)

Sheila Marie Cornell-Douty attended UCLA after graduating Taft High School. At UCLA she was a two-time NCAA Softball Champion and a member of the PAC10 All Decade Team. She won two Gold Medals in the 1996 and the 2000 Olympic Games in softball. She has also won Gold Medals in the Pan Am Games and the ISF World Championships. She has been inducted into the National and International Softball Halls of Fame. She is also the author of You Can Be a Woman Softball Player.
Larry Dierker, Baseball  (9/22/1946)  1964

Lawrence Edward Dierker made his major league debut at seventeen and then played thirteen years of professional baseball mostly with the Houston Astros as a pitcher. He was a two-time All Star. He was also a baseball manager from 1997 to 2001 and was the National League Manager of the Year in 1998.

Larry Dierker also worked as a color commentator for the Astros for almost twenty years and as their community outreach coordinator. He wrote a book about his career as a pitcher entitled It Ain’t Brain Surgery. He was an All-League Basketball and Baseball player at Taft High School.


Jeffrey Michael Fisher played football at Taft High School where he was a High School All-American receiver. He then starred at the University of Southern California. He played professional football for four years with the Chicago Bears from 1981 to 1985. He was then an assistant coach in the NFL for eleven years before becoming the head coach of the Tennessee Titans in 1994 and then St Louis Rams in 2012. He was a Super Bowl XX Champion and an NFC and AFC Champion.

Sue Gossick, Olympian  (11/12/1947)  1965

Susanne "Sue" Gossick won the Springboard Diving Olympic Gold Medal at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. She has been inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.


O’Shea Jackson formed his first rap group C.I.A. after graduating Taft High School and then joined N.W.A. in 1986 along with Dr. Dre. In 1998, he wrote half of the songs in the rap classic album Straight Outta Compton for N.W.A. He left the group in 1989 and became a soloist. Since then, he has sold over thirty-eight million records in the U.S. and 55 million world-wide.
He has since become a television and movie actor and film producer. His film roles included *Barbershop*, *Boyz in the Hood*, *Friday*, *Are We There Yet*, and *All about the Benjamins*. He is currently working on a film version of *Welcome Back Kotter* and a documentary about LeBron James. He recently released a new film, *Straight Outta Compton*.

**Brad Kearns, Triathlete**  (2/4/1965)

Brad Kearns won thirty-one international triathlete events from 1986 to 1995. He defeated most of the greatest triathletes of this generation.

**Dave Koz, Jazz Saxophonist**  (3/27/1963)

Dave Koz graduated Taft High School in 1982. After graduating from UCLA in 1986, he became a professional jazz saxophonist. He toured and did session work before going solo in 1990. His initial albums were *Lucky Man*, *The Dance* and *Saxophonist* which earned him a Grammy nomination. While continuing to record, he also has hosted a morning radio show, and a syndicated afternoon “Cool Jazz” show. He also hosts regular Jazz cruises and tours.

**Lisa Kudrow, Actress**  (7/30/1963)  1981

Lisa Valerie Kudrow attended Portola Junior High School, Taft High School and received her B.A. from Vassar College. After working for her father, she began an acting career working with a variety of comedy groups in Los Angeles. Her first hit series was *Friends* which ran for ten years from 1994 to 2004. She won an Emmy and two Screen Actor Guild Awards for her role in *Friends*. She went on to act in numerous films such as *Analyze That*, *Dr. Doolittle*, *Hotel for Dogs*, and *Romy and Michelle’s High School Reunion*.

Lisa Kudrow has received nine Emmy nominations, a Golden Globe Nomination and twelve nominations from the Screen Actors Guild.
Dale Launer, Screenwriter  (1952)

Dale Launer attended Sutter and Portola Junior High Schools and Taft High School. At Taft he enrolled in all of the auto shop classes offered. He later became a comedy screenwriter known for *Ruthless People, My Cousin Vinny, Love Potion Number 9, Blind Date* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. He was a Cannes Film Festival Award winner for *My Cousin Vinny*.

Malcolm Smith, Football  (7/5/1989)

Malcolm Smith graduated Taft High School, played for the University of Southern California and became a professional football player in 2011. Playing for the Seattle Seahawks, he became the Most Valuable Player in Super Bowl XLVIII.

Steven Smith, Football  (5/6/1985)

Steven Smith played football at Taft High School leading them to two consecutive City 4A Championships and setting California reception and yardage records. He attended the University of Southern California where in 2006 he was a First Team All-Pac 10 and All American selection. He then played six seasons in the NFL, three of which were with the New York Giants. In 2009 he was a pro Bowl selection and a Super Bowl XLII Champion.

Jeff Stork, Olympian, Volleyball  (7/8/1960)  1978

Jeffrey Malcolm "Jeff" Stork won an Olympic Gold Medal in Volleyball at the 1988 Olympics. He also participated in the 1992 Olympics. He won Gold medals in the Pan Am Games and the World Championships.

A graduate of Taft High School, he later became a three-time All American at Pepperdine University. He then became the women’s volleyball coach in 2002 for the Cal State Northridge Matadors.
Kathryn Sullivan, Astronaut  (10/3/1951)  1969

Kathryn Dwyer Sullivan in 1978 was one of six women selected to be astronauts by NASA. She is the first woman to walk in space. She flew three space missions including the deployment of the Hubble telescope.

Kathryn Sullivan has served on the National Science Board, and been the President and CEO of the Center of Science and Industry in Ohio. She was also the Director of the Center for Mathematics and Science Education at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at Ohio State University. She has recently been confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

Duffy Waldorf, Golf  (8/20/1962)

Duffy Waldorf graduated Taft High School in 1980 and in the early 1980’s was a two-time All-American golfer at UCLA and Collegiate Golf Player of the Year. As a professional he has won four PGA events.

Quincy Watts, Olympian  (6/19/1970)

Quincy Watts began running track at Sutter Middle School and then at Taft High School. At Taft in 1987, he set the L.A. City section record for the 100 meters and won the 200 meter CIF Championship. He then attended the University of Southern California where he became a record setting 400 meter runner. In 1992, he won Olympic Gold Medals in the 400 meters and the 4x400 meter relay. In 1993, he was part of the U.S. team world record setting 4x400 meter relay, a record that still stands today. He is currently the assistant track coach at Harvard Westlake School in Los Angeles.

Robin Wright, Actress  (4/8/1966)

Robin Wright received three Daytime Emmy Awards for the soap opera, Santa Barbara in the late 1980’s. She then turned to film and earned a Golden globe nomination for Forrest Gump and had roles in Princess Bride, Moneyball, Woman with the Golden Tattoo and Message in a Bottle.

Recently she has starred in House of Cards for which she received two Prime Time Emmy Award nominations and a Golden Globe for best Actress.
Robin Yount spent twenty years in professional baseball from 1974 to 1993 playing for the Milwaukee Brewers. He was a two-time All Star, a two-time American League Most Valuable Player, and a Golden Glove Award winner, and a three-time Silver Slugger. He has 3000 hits in his major league career. In 1999, Robin Yount was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
Jeff Bridges, Actor  (12/4/1949)  1967

Jeffrey Leon Bridges was nominated for an Academy Award in *Brave Heart*, *The Last Picture Show*, *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*, and *Starman*. He won an Academy Award for Best Actor in the film *Crazy Heart*. He has also made numerous other hit films during his career that has spanned fifty years.

He graduated from University High School in 1967 and began acting on Broadway soon afterwards. He is also a singer, author and amateur photographer. He started the “End Hunger Network” targeting childhood hunger.

James Brolin, Actor  (7/18/1940)

Craig Kenneth Bruderlin began his acting career in the early 1960’s on a variety of television series including *Bus Stop*, *Margie* and *Love American Style*. He began appearing in films during the 1970’s including *Westworld*, *Skyjacked* and *The Amityville Horror*. In 1969, he began his best known role as a Dr. Steven Kiley on *Marcus Welby M.D.* which ran for eight seasons. He won an Emmy and two Golden Globe Awards for Best Supporting Actor for that role. In 1983, he starred in the television series *Hotel* which would earn him two Golden Globe nominations for Best Actor. He also won an Emmy and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor in the Prime Time television movie *The Reagans*.

Robert Collins, Educator

Robert Collins graduated University High School and earned his B.A. in political science and teaching credential from UCLA. He received his M.E.D. from Loyola Marymount University. He began his teaching career at Locke High School in 1967. After serving also at Monroe and Fremont High Schools, he became principal at Grant High for ten years from 1983 to 1993. He then served as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment as well as being the Chief Labor Negotiator for the LAUSD. He became District C Superintendent in 2000 and then Regional 1 Superintendent. In 2005 he became LAUSD Chief Instructional Officer. He left the LAUSD in 2007 to become the Superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District. He has received numerous City, District, County and State awards including being California State Superintendent of Schools in 1989, Cal State University Educator of the Year in 2002 and Armenian Man of the Year in 2003.
Following his retirement Bob Collins became Chief Academic Officer of two international companies and began his own private consulting company. He is currently the Chairman of the Board of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University.

Faye Dancer, Baseball  (4/24/1925)

Faye Katherine Dancer played professional baseball for the All American Girls Baseball League from 1945 to 1950.

A strong athlete, she broke records in baseball, fast-walking and the obstacle course in high school. She signed to play professional baseball soon after her high school graduation. The movie, A League of Their Own, chronicled the history of women’s professional baseball. Faye Dancer has been inducted into the Women’s Professional Baseball Hall of Fame. Her glove and spikes are on permanent display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown.


Alexandra Zuck – Sandra Dee graduated from University High School in 1958. A year later in 1959, she was and the Bachelor, Gidget, and a Summer Place.

Larry Diamond, Political Sociologist  (10/2/1951)

Larry Diamond is a political sociologist at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute. He is also a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies where he serves as the Director of the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law.

Larry Diamond has also served as an advisor to a variety of government agencies and departments both nationally and internationally.
Craig Kline Dixon began his running career at Fairburn Elementary School and continued at Emerson Junior High School before graduating from University High School in 1944. He was a high hurdler in high school and led Unihi to its first Los Angeles City Championship in his senior year. At UCLA, he dominated the low and high hurdles, holding very record in both the high and low hurdles in every UCLA dual meet, and held every record in the high hurdles in every relay invitational meet as well. He was the first person to run the 120 yard high hurdles under 14 seconds, and he tied Jesse Owens’ world record of 22.5 seconds in the 220 yard low hurdles. He also ran at all of UCLA’s dual meets and relay invitational meets. During the summer of 1948, after completing his junior year at UCLA, he competed in the 1948 Summer Olympics in London in the 110 meter hurdles where he won the bronze medal.

In his senior year at UCLA he ranked number one in the world. In 1949, the Los Angeles Times honored him as the most outstanding athlete in the country. In 1981, Craig Dixon received the Los Angeles Bicentennial Sports Achievement Award as one of 200 outstanding athletes to hail from Los Angeles. In 1985, he was voted into the UCLA Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Doors

John Paul Densmore played the drums in the marching band at University High School. He later attended Santa Monica City College and Cal State Northridge. He was a member of the Doors from 1965 until their dissolution in 1973. John Densmore has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Robert Alan "Robby" Krieger went to Paul Revere Junior High School and attended University High School and then was sent to Menlo Boarding School. He was a guitarist and song writer for The Doors. As a songwriter, he wrote Light My Fire, Love Me Two Times and Love Her Madly.

Rolling Stone Magazine ranks him 91st on the 100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time. He has also been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Jane Harman, U.S. Congresswoman (6/28/1945) 1953

Jane Margaret Lakes was a United States Congresswoman from 1993 to 1999 and from 2001 to 2011. She is currently the CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. She graduated from University High School in 1962 and attended Smith College and received her Law Degree from Harvard.

Jan and Dean

Dean Torrence, Vocalist (3/10/1940) 1958

Dean Ormsby Torrence attended Emerson Jr. High where he met William Jan Berry who would become his partner in the iconic vocal group of the 1970’s, Jan and Dean. They both attended University High School and played on the football team. They put together their first vocal group, The Barons, at University High School in order to enter a talent contest. They graduated Unihi in the Vagabond Class of 1958.

They hit the charts with number one hits in 1963 with Surf City, The Little Old Lady from Pasadena, Drag City and Dead Man’s Curve in 1964. In 1964, they hosted the T.A.M.I. Show bringing together a variety of groups in what became the first rock film and video. In 1966, Jan Berry was involved in a serious automobile accident at Sunset Blvd. and Whittier Drive, also known as Dead Man’s Curve.

Jack Jones, Vocalist (1/14/1938)

John Allan Jones became popular in the 1960’s with songs such as Wives and Lovers, Lollipops and Roses and The Impossible Dream. He won a Grammy for Wives and Lovers and another for Lollipops and Roses. Jack Jones recorded over fifty albums during his career and still appears in concerts and Las Vegas.
David Lang, Composer  (1/8/1957)  1974

David Lang graduated University High School in 1974, attended Stanford University and did his graduate work at the University of Iowa. He won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for his composition, The Little Match Girl Passion, based on the Hans Christian Anderson fairy tale The Little Match Girl. His first major recognition came in 1981 with the BMI Student Music Awards. He has also composed operas including The Difficulty of Crossing a Field and The Carbon Copy Building.

His work is a combination of genres including minimalism, rock and modernism. He has won an Obie, Musical America’s Composer of the Year, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is also the founder of New York’s “Bang on a Can,” a music collective.


Roderick Andrew Anthony Jude "Roddy" McDowall graduated University High School in 1946, while being in the Fox Studio School for Actors from 1940 to 1946. His most famous child actor roles were How Green Was My Valley, Lassie Come Home and My Friend Flicka. His adult roles included four of the Planet of the Apes films.

He won an Emmy in 1961 for NBC’s Sunday Showcase and a Tony Award for The Fighting Cock. He made numerous television appearances throughout his career. During his sixty year career, he made over 150 feature films and appeared in over fifteen Broadway stage productions.

Marilyn Monroe, Actress  (6/1/1926 - 8/5/1962)

Norma Jean Mortenson (Baker) is one of the most famous movie stars of all time and an American icon. T.V. Guide named her the number one film sex symbol of all time. The American Film institute named her the number six female actress of all time.

She attended different schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District almost every year, moving from foster home to foster home. She attended two junior high schools, Van Nuys High and then University High School. She left in her junior year at University High to avoid going back to an orphanage.

Her early films in the 1950’s included Asphalt Jungle, Niagara, Don’t Bother to Knock and All About Eve. There were three films, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, the Seven Year Itch, and How to Marry a Millionaire in 1953 that brought her to stardom. She quickly followed these films with a Golden Globe nomination for
Best Actress in *Bus Stop* in 1956 and a Golden Globe Award for her performance in *Some Like It Hot* in 1959. Her last film was the *Misfits* in 1961 with Clark Gable.

**Jim Mora, Football (5/24/1935) 1953**

James Ernest Mora coached for sixteen years at the collegiate level including Occidental College, Colorado, UCLA, Stanford and the University of Washington. He then coached for twenty-one years in the NFL with the Seattle Seahawks, New Orleans Saints, New England Patriots and the Indianapolis Colts.

**Dennis Murphy, Sports Entrepreneur (1927)**

Dennis Murphy is a major sports entrepreneur who co-founded the World Hockey Association and the American Basketball Association, the World Team Tennis and Roller Hockey International. He has been inducted into the World Hockey Association Hall of Fame.

**Randy Newman, Composer and Songwriter (11/28/1943)**

Randall Stuart "Randy" Newman graduated from University High School and then studied music at UCLA. He began his recording career in 1968 with his first albums, *Randy Newman, 12 Songs* and *Randy Newman Live*. His songs have been covered by some of the biggest recording artists.

He is mainly known for his film scores which have earned him twenty Academy Award nominations and two Oscars for *We Belong Together* from *Toy Story 3* in 2011 and in 2002 *If I Don’t Have You* from *Monster Inc*. He has also won six Grammys and two Emmys for his compositions. He has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Ryan O’Neal, Actor  (4/20/1941)

Charles Patrick Ryan O’Neal attended University and graduated from the American High School in Munich. His first major acting role was on television’s Peyton Place in 1964. In 1970, he starred in Love Story earning him an Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Actor catapulting him to stardom. He made numerous hit films throughout the 1970’s including A Bridge Too Far, and Oliver’s Story. He won another Golden Globe for Best Actor for Paper Moon in 1973.


Warren Overpeck attended Emerson Junior High School and graduated from University High School in 1943. He then earned his B.A. at UCLA and then graduated from the University of Southern California, School of Architecture. He is responsible for the design of numerous Southern California landmarks including the Gowland, Kahsee, Sproule, Zukin and Willis residences, the Jonathan Beach Club, the Balboa Bay Club, the Marina City Club in Marina Del Rey, and numerous health care facilities throughout California.

Mel Patton, Olympian  (11/16/1924 – 5/19/2014  1943)

Melvin Emery "Mel" Patton won two Gold Medals in the 1948 Olympics in the 200 meters and the 4x100 relay.

After graduating from University High School in 1943, he attended USC where he was the NCAA 100 yard dash Champion in 1947, 1948 and 1949. At the same time, he set the world record in the 100 yard dash. In 1949, he broke Jesse Owens world record in the 220 yard dash. Mel Patton has been inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and the USC Sports Hall of Fame.
Herb Ritts, Photographer  (8/13/52 – 12/26/2002)

Herb Ritts was a major international fashion photographer. He worked often in black and white and in portraits. In 1981, his first major shoot was with Brooke Shield for the cover of Elle. He then shot Olivia Newton John for her album, Physical. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's, he continued to photograph the most famous celebrities and models for every major fashion magazine. He also published photographic books for most major designers. There is hardly a celebrity that has not posed for Herb Ritts during his or her career. His celebrity portraits are part of major private and museum collections.

Herb Ritts was a Charter Member of the Elton John HIV Research Project. The Herb Ritts Foundation continues that work and also has a focus on photographic education.

Steve Smith, Football  (5/12/1979)  1997

Stevonne Latrall Smith played football and ran track at University High School and was recognized as All California Interscholastic Federation football selection at wide receiver and defensive back. He later played for the University of Utah and was then drafted by the Carolina Panthers in 2001 where he played for thirteen seasons. He played for the Baltimore Ravens in 2014.

During his career, he was a five-time Pro Bowl selection and a three-time All Pro. In 2005, he led the NFL in receiving yards, receiving touchdowns and receptions.


Elizabeth Rosemond "Liz" Taylor attended school at MGM and received her high school diploma from University High School in 1950. She is one of the most important and celebrated actresses of the past 50 years. Her first film was National Velvet in 1944. For the next three decades she starred in film classics such as Suddenly Last Summer, Giant, Father of the Bride, A Place in the Sun and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. She won an Academy Award for Best Actress for Butterfield 8 in 1960. She then played the title role in Cleopatra in 1963. In 1966, she won an Academy Award for Best Actress for Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf.

Elizabeth Taylor was a strong supporter of HIV-AIDS research and founded American Foundation for AIDS Research in 1985 and the Elizabeth AIDS Research Foundation in 1991. For her humanitarian work, she has received the Presidential Citizens Medal, and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award. She also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Film Institute that also named her number seven on its list of Screen Legends.

Peter Viertel attended Dartmouth and the University of California. His first novel was *The Canyon*, written when he was nineteen years old. He was the author of nine novels and 11 feature films. His best known novel is *White Hunter Black Heart* that reflected his work on the film, *African Queen*.

Ray Watt  (2/26/1919)  

Ray Watt is credited with major innovations in the building industry in the 1950’s and 1960’s that include strip malls, condominiums, time-shares and communities with shared recreational facilities. He was the builder responsible for much of the modern look of Los Angeles today including Century City Towers and fifty shopping malls and multiple housing developments. In over six decades, he built over 100,000 single family homes in the San Fernando Valley, Westside and South Bay.

He is a graduate of University High School and UCLA. He was named Builder of the Year in 1968 and was a USC Trustee in 1967.


Howard Eliot Wolpe III graduated University High School. He was a Democrat elected to Congress in 1978 representing southwestern Michigan. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee he played a key role in the passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. He retired from Congress in 1992.
Paula Abdul, Dancer and Actress  (6/19/1962)  1980

Paula Julie Abdul graduated Van Nuys High School in 1980. At eighteen she became a Los Angeles Laker Cheerleader, and was discovered by The Jacksons at a Laker game. She became a choreographer for The Jacksons’ music videos and their Victory Tour. She then choreographed Janet Jacksons work.

She has also produced workout videos and has made appearances in a variety of films and television shows. In 1987 and 1988 she made an album that reached number one on the charts, Forever Your Girl. The album contained four number one singles, Forever Your Girl, Cold hearted, Opposites Attract, and Straight Up. She won her first Grammy for Straight Up. In 1991, her album Spellbound had another number one hit, Rush, Rush. She continued with top ten hits with Blowing Kisses in the Wind. Through the 1990’s, she continued to produce hit albums and songs. From 2002 to 2009 she was a judge on the hit television talent show America Idol.

During her career she has won MTV Video Music Awards, American Music Awards, a Grammy and a Prime time Emmy. She also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Ed Begley Jr., Actor, Director, Writer  (9/16/1949)

Edward James Begley Jr. attended Van Nuys High School and graduated from Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks. His first major television series was St. Elsewhere for which he received six Emmy Nominations. His films included Pineapple Express, Whatever Works, A Mighty Wind, Best in Show, Batman Forever, The Accidental Tourist and The In-Laws. While he continues to act in film, he is also very active in writing and directing and appearing on stage.

He has produced an HBO movie, Muhammad Ali’s Greatest Fight as well as directing several television episodes for NYPD Blue. On stage, he recently appeared in the production of November at the Mark Taper Forum.
Vinton Gray "Vint" Cerf, Father of the Internet  (6/23/1943)

Vinton Cerf attended Fulton Junior High School and graduated Van Nuys High School in 1961. He met Steve Crocker in an 11th grade math class forming a friendship and partnership that would lead to the development of the internet. He then attended Stanford University and the University of California. After graduation from Stanford, he worked for IBM and MCI where his work was central to the transition of the ARPANET system, an early internet effort, to the current internet. He also designed in 1982 the MCI mail system that eventually became email.

He was also the manager of the U.S. government’s Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. He became a major figure in the development of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. He is recognized as one of the three “Fathers of the Internet.”

In 1992, he co-founded the Internet Society and became the Vice President of Goggle in 2005. He has been highly honored for his work including being UCLA Alumnus of the Year, The Turing Award, National Inventors Hall of Fame, The National Medal of Technology, the Marconi Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Internet Hall of Fame.

Stephen D. Crocker, Computer Scientist  (10/15/1944)

Stephen D. Crocker graduated from Van Nuys High School and then received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UCLA. He is the inventor of the Request for Comments Series and the Chairman of the Board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. At UCLA, he was part of the team along with Vint Cerf that helped develop the ARPANET, the forerunner of the Internet. Along with Vint Cerf, he worked for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. He has been inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame.


Donald Scott "Don" Drysdale played for thirteen years with the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1956 to 1969. He was a dominating pitcher who was a nine-time All-Star and three-time World Series Champion. He was the Cy Young Award winner in 1962. After retiring from baseball, he was a broadcaster and media analyst. He also began an oral history project, interviewing baseball players. He has been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown and his number 59 for the Dodgers has been retired.
**Tony Dow, Actor**  (4/13/1945)

Tony Lee Dow became a household name as Wally, the older brother on the television series, *Leave It to Beaver*. The series ran from 1957 to 1963. Afterwards Tony Dow had several television roles and several film roles. He is currently a highly recognized artist and sculptor.

**David Gerrold, Writer**  (1/24/1944)

David Gerrold graduated from Van Nuys High School, L.A. Valley College and CSUN. As a writer he became famous for his script for the popular original *Star Trek* episode *The Trouble with Tribbles*. He also wrote for the TV series *Land of the Lost*, and wrote the novelette *The Martian Child*, which won both Hugo and Nebula awards.


Edward Masry ran track and played football at Van Nuys High School and then attended Valley College. He earned his law degree from Loyola. He is the attorney best known for his $330 million verdict in 1997 against Pacific Gas and Electric for pollution. The popular 2000 film *Erin Brockovich* is based on this case. Julia Roberts won an Oscar for Best Actress for the film. Throughout his career he has regularly represented high profile individuals and cases from Pamela Anderson of Baywatch fame, to members of the Los Angeles Rams in an anti-trust case, to suits against some of the largest corporations in America.

**Ferdinand Mendenhall, Publisher**  (2/14/1981)  1931

Ferdinand Mendenhall was the publisher of the Valley News and Green Sheet owned by his father who purchased half interest in the Van Nuys News newspaper in 1920. Mendenhall sold that paper in 1973 to the Tribune Company and the paper was subsequently renamed The Daily News. He stayed on as Vice-President of the newspaper.

Mendenhall also served as Ronald Reagan’s Chief Protocol Officer while Reagan was California Governor.
Al Qöyawayma, Artist, Mechanical Engineer  (2/26/1938)

Alfred H. Qöyawayma is a Hopi potter and bronze sculptor. Qöyawayma is also a mechanical engineer who has worked in the development of inertial guidance systems and a co-founder of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. He was raised in the San Fernando Valley and attended Van Nuys High School. He then graduated from California Polytechnic State University in 1961. He earned a Master’s degree in engineering from the University of Southern California.

His artistic work incorporates "cross-cultural elements" and a "minimalist" style. Qöyawayma received a Fulbright fellowship to assist the Maori people of New Zealand rebuild their tradition of ceramic pottery making.


Jonathan Postel was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame because of his tremendous impact on developing protocols that make the internet work, including TCP/IP that determines the way data is moved through a network; SMTP that allows us to send emails; and DNS, the Domain Name Service. He was involved very early in the development of ARPANET, the precursor of the modern internet. He also played a major role in creating the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). He was also one of the founders of the Internet Society.

Don Prudhomme, Drag Racer  (4/6/1941)

Don “The Snake” Prudhomme was interested in cars at a very early age. While at Van Nuys High School, he worked at the Van Nuys Auto Body Shop on Van Nuys Blvd that was owned by his father. He left Van Nuys High School to devote full time to cars and racing. He won his first major drag race when he was twenty years old. He continued racing from the early 1960’s to 1994. He raced a Plymouth Barracuda and Plymouth Duster in the Funny Car Competition and a dragster. After his retirement from racing he became a team owner.

He has been inducted into the International Motorsports Hall of Fame, the Hotrod Magazine Hall of Fame and is ranked number three on the list of All-Time Drag Racers by the National Hotrod Association.
Robert Redford, Actor  (8/18/36) 1955

Charles Robert Redford graduated Van Nuys High School in 1955 and then attended the University of Colorado. He never finished college. He began acting in 1959 in television having minor roles in classic series such as *Perry Mason*, *Route 66*, *The Naked City*, *Alfred Hitchcock* and *The Twilight Zone*. At the same time, he was acting on Broadway. In 1965, he won a Golden Globe for Best New Actor for *Inside Daisy Clover*. He got bigger roles in the mid 1960’s including *The Chase* and *Barefoot in the Park*.

His first big film was in 1969, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. Following that success, he began to make high grossing films and critically acclaimed movies including in 1973, *The Way We Were*. In the same year he made *The Sting*, one of the highest grossing films, for which he won an Academy Award nomination. Through the 1970’s he was Hollywood’s biggest male star. He began directing in the late 1970’s winning an Academy Award and Golden Globe for *Ordinary People*.

Following the success of *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, Robert Redford bought property in Utah and named it Sundance. Each January it is the home to the Sundance Film Festival, the major film festival in the United States. In addition to his Academy Awards, he has received Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts. In addition to being one of the greatest actors of his generation, Robert Redford is also a philanthropist and environmentalist.


Ernestine Jane Geraldine Russell’s career began with stage production at Van Nuys High School. Her first major picture was *The Outlaw*, produced by Howard Hughes and released in 1946. She instantly became a major Hollywood star. She then played in several musicals including *The Paleface* and was then paired with Marilyn Monroe in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She continued to make films throughout the 1950’s. At the same time, Jane Russell formed a Gospel Choir in 1954, which continued performing and recording for the next 30 years.

John Singlaub, Military  (7/10/1921)

John Singlaub was a Major General in the U.S. Army. He graduated Van Nuys High School, then UCLA and became a Second Lieutenant in the Army in 1943. He fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. During his career he was an influential advisor to five American Presidents. Following his retirement, he formed the Western Goals Foundation, a conservative “think tank.”
David J. Skorton, Educator  (11/22/1949)

David Jan Skorton graduated from Van Nuys High School, while at the same time taking college classes at UCLA. He attended UCLA and transferred to Northwestern eventually earning a medical degree in cardiology. His career as an educator began at the University of Iowa in 1980 where he eventually became its President in 2003. In 2006, he became President of Cornell University. Beginning in 2015, David Skorton became the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.

Ron Tutor, Business

Ron Tutor worked for his father’s construction company, A.J. Tutor while a student at Van Nuys High School. After graduating from Van Nuys High School in 1963, he attended USC. He took over his father’s business which merged with Naseeb Saliba in 1972 to form Tutor-Saliba Construction. Under his leadership as CEO, Tutor Saliba grew into one of the largest construction companies in Los Angeles. Ron Tutor sold Tutor Saliba to Perini Construction in 2008 and continued as its CEO. Tutor-Perini is one of the largest construction companies in the world with projects that included the Los Angeles Red Line, major contract work in Iraq and the 13 million square foot Hudson Yards complex on New York’s Westside.

In 2011 Ron Tutor bought Miramax from Walt Disney. In 2013, he sold Miramax to the Qatar Investment Authority. He remains CEO and President of Tutor-Perini.


Bob Waterfield played football at Van Nuys High School and after graduation went to UCLA where he was an All-American quarterback. In 1944, he was drafted by the Cleveland Rams who later became the Los Angeles Rams. He played his entire career with the Rams from 1945 to 1952 and later coached them for two years, 1960 to 1962.

During his professional career he was a two-time Pro Bowl selection and three-time All Star and two-time NFL Champion. He was the NFL Player of the Year in 1945 and 1950. His Ram jersey number 7 was retired by the Rams and he has been inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
Alice Waters, Restauranteur, Activist  
(4/28/1944)

Alice Waters had been described as one of the most influential chefs in modern America and the most important influence in “organic cooking” and a pioneer of California Cuisine. She pioneered the concept of “market-fresh” cooking using local produce. Waters opened Chez Panisse in Berkeley in 197, which has since become one of the most recognized and celebrated restaurants in the world. She wrote The Art of Simple Food I and II, and 40 Years of Chez Panisse.

Natalie Wood, Actress  
(7/20/38 – 11/29/1981)  
1955

Natalia Nikolaevna Zacharenko’s first major film was in 1947 at the age of nine when she played in Miracle on 34th Street. She made twelve films in the 1940’s and 1950’s. She won an Academy Award nomination in 1955 for Rebel without a Cause. Her career continued with hit movies such as Splendor in the Grass, Gypsy and Westside Story. Natalie Wood died tragically in a boating accident in 1981 after making fifty-six films.
Linda Alvarez, Newscaster

Linda Alvarez graduated Venice High School and then UCLA in 1963. She began her broadcasting career in Chicago and Phoenix before becoming the first Hispanic female anchor and reporter at an English language station in Los Angeles at KNBC in 1985. She was then a frontline reporter and anchor for CBS news in Los Angeles beginning 1993. She had covered major stories in Los Angeles and was an embedded reporter in the Persian Gulf in 2003. During her career she won twelve Emmys and eight Golden Mikes.

Prior to broadcasting she had been a teacher in Los Angeles and very involved in community projects throughout the City receiving many awards and recognitions.

Cliff Bourland, Olympian  (1/1/1921)

Clifford Frederick Bourland graduated Venice High School and then went to the University of Southern California where he was the NCAA 400 meter champion in 1942 and 1943. He then won an Olympic Gold Medal in the 1948 Summer Olympics in the 4X400 relay.

Craig Breedlove  (March 3/23/1937)  1955

Craig Breedlove was a race car driver and the holder of five land speed records during the 1960’s. He set his land speed records in a jet propelled car called the “Spirit of America.” At Venice High School, he excelled in drafting and machine shop. After graduating Venice High School, he worked for McDonald Douglas. There he learned aerodynamics and design skills that would become important in his later race car designs. In the late 1960’s, he joined AMC to design high performance cars. In addition to his five speed records, he has been inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America and the International Motorsports Hall of Fame.
**Beau Bridges, Actor**  (12/9/1941)  1960

Beau Bridges attended Venice High School and played basketball. He went to UCLA and also played basketball in his freshman year. In the early 1960's, he began appearing in television series and making films. In the 1970's, he played in *Heart Like a Wheel, Norma Rae* and *Greased Lightning*. His first critically acclaimed film was *The Fabulous Baker Boys* in 1989. He has appeared in over 90 feature films and television movies.

Beau Bridges has fourteen Emmy nominations and has won an Emmy for Best Actor in the *James Brady Story*. He also won an Emmy and Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor in *The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom*. He won his third Emmy for the television mini-series *The Second Civil War*. He also won a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album, *An Inconvenient Truth*.

**Russell Brines, War Correspondent**  (1911-1982)  1928

Russell Dean Brines graduated from Venice High School in Winter 1928 where he was the student body President. He then graduated from Pomona College.

He began his newspaper career at the Honolulu Advertiser and the Star Bulletin in 1935. He then joined Associated Press covering the search for Amelia Earhart in 1937. In 1937 he became the AP Bureau Chief for China and Japanese Affairs in 1937. In 1939 he became the AP Tokyo Bureau Chief. In 1941 while reporting the Japanese invasion of the Philippines he was arrested in Manila and interred at Camp Santo Tomas until the liberation of the Philippines in 1943. Following World War II, he became the AP Bureau Chief for Far Eastern Affairs and covered the Korean and Vietnam wars. He authored books regarding Japanese soldiers during World War II and the Indo-Pakistani Conflict. His papers are held at the University of Wyoming.

**Les Clark, Walt Disney Animator**  (11/17/1907- 9/12/1979)

Les Clark, while a student at Venice High School, met Walt Disney while working in an ice cream shop. Walt Disney hired him two days after he graduated in 1927. He then became a Disney animator for 48 years beginning in 1927. He became an original animator of *Mickey Mouse* and then *Pinocchio*. Les Clark became a member of the Disney animation board in 1940. He then went on to work on *Song of the South, Make Mine Music* and *Fancy Free*. He then worked on the animation of *Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp,*
Ichabod Crane, the 101 Dalmatians, and Mr. Toad. He is particularly recognized for his work on Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Dumbo and Cinderella.

Les Clark was the longest continuously serving Disney employee at the time of his retirement in 1975. He was also one the Disney “Nine Old Men,” the original Disney animators.

Leon Clarke, Football  (1/10/1933 – 10/5/2009)

Leon Clarke graduated Venice High School and then played at the University of Southern California. He played in the NFL from 1956 to 1963 for the Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota Vikings and Cleveland Browns. As a tight end, he played in two Pro Bowls in 1956 and 1957.

John Lee Clayton Jr., Bassist, Artistic Director, Educator, Arranger  
(8/20/1952)

John Clayton began his bass career in elementary school playing in strings class, junior orchestra, and the Venice High School jazz band, orchestra, and soul/R&B groups. He began studying the double bass at sixteen while a student at Venice High School. After graduation, he became the bassist for Henry Mancini at nineteen and then attended the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. He toured extensively with Count Basie, been principal bass for the Amsterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the founder of the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and the Clayton Brothers. He has also been the artistic director for the L.A. Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl, the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, and numerous other productions throughout the U.S.

John Clayton won a Grammy in 2007 for Instrumental Arrangement Accompanying Vocalist(s) for I’m Gonna Live Till I Die. In December 2009, Brother To Brother by The Clayton Brothers received a Grammy nomination in the Best Jazz Instrumental Album, Individual or Group category. He has composed and/or arranged for such notable artists as The Count Basie Orchestra, Diana Krall, Whitney Houston, Carmen McRae, Nancy Wilson, Natalie Cole, and The Tonight Show Band. John Clayton also teaches at the USC Thornton School of Music and has been President of the International Bassists Society.

Gary Collins, Actor  (4/30/1938 – 10/13/2012)

Gary Collins graduated from Venice High School and then attended Santa Monica College. He began his career in television in 1965 starring in the Sixth Sense, Born Free and The Iron Horse. Throughout the 1960’s he appeared in numerous television series and specials. In addition to several films, he hosted the television show Hour Magazine from 1980 to 1988. He was also the emcee of Miss America from 1982 to 1990. He has been nominated for an Emmy six times and won in 1983 for Best Talk Show. He has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Walter Cunningham, Astronaut  (3/16/1932)  1950

Ronnie Walter Cunningham graduated Venice High School in 1950 and joined the U.S. Navy where he trained to be a pilot. He earned his undergraduate degree and a Masters in Physics from UCLA and became a scientist at the Rand Corporation. In 1963, he was part of the third class of astronauts selected by NASA. He was the lunar module pilot for Apollo 7.

After leaving NASA, he received a business degree from Harvard. He has won numerous awards and recognitions for his service. He is in the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame and the International Space Hall of Fame.

Skip Engblom, Business  1/4/1948)

Skip Engblom graduated from Venice High School in 1956. He is one of the co-founders of the Jeff Ho Surfboards and Zephyr Productions Surf Shop in Santa Monica, California. He currently owns with his partner Tom McCartney and runs Santa Monica Airlines, a skateboard company.

Crispin Glover, Actor

Crispin Glover attended Venice High School in the tenth and eleventh grades before transferring to Beverly Hills High School. He began his acting career at age thirteen in television on Happy Days and Family Ties. His first major film role was in 1985 as George McFly in Back to the Future. Not being cast in the sequels to Back to the Future because of a contract dispute, the studio still used his likeness on the Back to the Future II posters, resulting in a law suit and clauses in actor contracts preventing that practice from continuing.

He continued to make films such as The Doors, Bartleyby, Charlies Angels, Alice in Wonderland and Willard. In addition to his acting career he began in 1989 a music career releasing an album entitled The Big Problem Does not Equal the Solution and wrote several other songs often sung in his films. He has also written more than fifteen books and worked as a director for films such as What Is It? and It Is Fine! Everything Is Fine. Both films debuted at the Sundance Film Festival.
Gogi Grant, Vocalist  (9/20/1924)

Myrtle Audrey Arinsberg had a top ten song in 1955, *Suddenly There’s A Valley*. In 1956, she hit the top of the Billboard charts with the recording of *The Wayward Wind*. She was named Billboard’s Most Popular Female Vocalist in 1956. In the next three years, she released five albums. She has performed as recently as 2013.

Donna Loren, Singer  (3/7/1947)

Donna Loren born Donna Zukor began her singing career while still at Venice High School, becoming the Dr. Pepper Spokesperson from 1963 to 1968. She was also a regular on the television series throughout the 1960’s such as *Shinding*, *The Monkees* and *The Danny Thomas Show* to name a few. She also appeared in the 1960’s “beach movies.” She retired in the late 1960’s. She has made several comebacks as recently as 2009.

Myrna Loy  (8-2-05 – 12/14/1993)  1923

Myrna Adele Williams first film was in 1925, *What Price Beauty*, but she is best remembered role was as Nora Charles in the 1930’s *Thin Man* series. She won Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center in 1988 and was awarded an Honorary Academy Award in 1991.

In 1921 Myrna Loy posed for a statue while she was a student at Venice High School. As she became a star, the statue grew in prominence.

Dana McLemore, Football  (7/1/1960)

Dana McLemore played football at Venice High School and then attended the University of Hawaii. He played five years in the NFL for the San Francisco 49’ers and the New Orleans Saints. He was a Super Bowl XIX Champion and NFC Champion in 1984.

Mary Christine Brockert graduated from Venice High School where she had the lead in the *Music Man*, the school spring musical. She then majored in English at Santa Monica City College in the mid 1970’s. Working with Motown, her debut album was entitled *Wild and Peaceful* with a hit single with Rick James, *I’m a Sucker for Your Love*. In 1980, her second album was *Lady T*, followed the same year with *Irons in the Fire*. In 1981 she released the album, *It Must Be Magic*, which reached #2 on the charts. She left Motown to sign with Columbia Records which led to her own production company. In 1984 she released her biggest selling album, *Starchild* with the hit single *Lovergirl* that reached #4 on the Billboard charts. She continued to record throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s.

Jeff Mitchum, Photographer  1977

Jeff Mitchum is an internationally renowned landscape photographer. His landscapes are known for their vibrant colors and are released in editions of 300 or less. With thirty years of experience, his work hangs in famous galleries throughout the world including the Smithsonian and the Getty. He has provided photographs to National Geographic. In 2014, his photograph, *Third Day* sold for $1.8 million. He recently opened a gallery at the Bellagio in Las Vegas.

Audrey O’Brien Griffin, Cowgirl Hall of Fame  (1936)

Audrey O’Brien was introduced to riding at the Sunset Ranch in Culver City. After high school and Attending Santa Monica College she became a part of a riding performance group for two years at nineteen named the Flying Valkyries, during which she dazzled audiences by driving entire teams of six horses around barrels and over jump. That ended in a severe accident during a performance in Chicago. She also joined the American Wild West Show and for six weeks performed in Belgium at the 1958 World’s Fair. After raising her family, she focused again on her ranching community and still team ropes, team pens and ropes at the committee calf branding at the Fiesta Rodeo in Santa Barbara.

In 2008 she was inducted into the Cowgirl Museum and Hall Fame, recognizing her seventy-year commitment to riding and horsemanship.
Wally O’Connor, Olympian  (8/25/1903 – 10/11/1950)  1921

James Wallace O’Connor competed in four Olympic Games including 1924, 1928, 1932 and Berlin in 1936. He won a Gold Medal in the 4x20 meter relay in 1924 and participated in water polo in each of the other Olympics winning three Bronze Medals. He was also the American Flag Bearer at the Opening Ceremonies of the 1936 Berlin Olympics. He graduated from Venice High School in 1921.

Steven Okazaki, Filmmaker  (3/12/1952)

Steven Toll Okazaki is an Academy Award winner for the documentary, Days of Waiting. He has also received three other Academy Award nominations. He has won a Peabody Award for The Mushroom Club. He has produced eighteen films between 1976 and 2008 including Unfinished Business, Living on Tokyo Time, and White Light, Black Rain.

At Venice High School in the late 1960’s, Stephen Okazaki had to hire an ACLU attorney to force the school administration to let him graduate with long hair.

Peggy Oki, Skateboarder  (1959-60)

She went to Venice High School and studied environmental biology and received a Bachelor of Arts in painting from the College of Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. is an American skateboarder and surfer, as well as an artist and environmental activist.

She was on the original Zephyr Competition Team also known Z-Boys. She skated with the Z-Boys in the 1970s. She appeared in the film Dogtown and Z-Boys. She took first place in Women’s Freestyle at the Del Mar Nationals skateboarding competition, held in California in March 1975.

She is also an environmental activist and artist. Her paintings deal with nature and include landscapes and seascapes. In spring 2004, she founded the Origami Whales Project to raise awareness about commercial whaling in Japan, Norway and Iceland. Currently, Peggy Oki is an art instructor at Santa Barbara City College, Continuing Education and youth art programs through the Carpinteria Valley Arts Council.
Stacy Peralta, Business, Director, Professional Skateboarder  (10/15/1957)

Stacy Peralta formed a skate group called the Z-Boys while a student at Venice High School. He graduated from Venice High School in 1975 and at nineteen became the top ranked skateboarder in the world. He then began producing and directing skating films for skating stars such as Tony Hawk. In 1992 he became a full-time producer and director. His first film, a documentary, *Dogtown and Z-Boys* reflected his love of skating. His next film, *Riding Giants* received a Sundance Director’s Award. His next films were documentaries and included *Crips and Bloods: Made in America*, *Lords of Dogtown* and *Bones Brigade*. He has also produced commercials and video games with a skating theme.

Don Perry, Rope Climbing

Don Perry was considered the fastest man alive vertically setting World Records in the 25 foot rope climb at 2.8 seconds. He began his career at Venice High School, never being beaten in high school. After graduating from Venice he entered the military and then attended UCLA. He was a two-time NCAA Champion in 1953 and 1954, a four-time National AAU Champion and a Gold Medalist in the Pan Am Games.

Jimmy Wayne Phipps, Congressional Medal of Honor  

Jimmy Phipps graduated from Venice High School and left Venice to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1968. He completed recruit training with the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California on March 14, 1968. Transferred to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, he underwent individual combat training with Company L, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Training Regiment, followed by basic infantry training which he completed in May 1968. In December 1968, he was transferred to the Republic of Vietnam.

On May 4, 1969 Jimmy Phipps was serving as a combat engineer with Company B in connection with combat operations against the enemy. Pfc. Phipps was a member of a 2-man combat engineer demolition team assigned to locate and destroy enemy artillery ordnance and concealed firing devices. After he had expended all of his explosives and blasting caps, Pfc. Phipps discovered a 175mm high explosive artillery round in a rice paddy. Suspecting that the enemy had attached the artillery round to a secondary explosive device, he warned other marines in the area to move to covered positions and prepared to destroy the round with a hand grenade. As he was attaching the hand grenade to a stake beside the artillery round, the fuse of the enemy’s secondary explosive device ignited. Realizing that his assistant and the platoon
commander were both within a few meters of him and that the imminent explosion could kill all 3 men, Pfc. Phipps grasped the hand grenade to his chest and dived forward to cover the enemy's explosive and the artillery round with his body, thereby shielding his companions from the detonation while absorbing the full and tremendous impact with his body. Jimmy Phipps was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for Gallantry in 1969.

Robert D. Reed, Military (3/8/1920) 1938

Robert Reed graduated from Venice High School in 1938. He joined the U.S. Navy and fought in World War II as a Lieutenant and flew carrier based Navy Dive Bombers aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise.

He was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in operations against units of the Japanese Fleet in waters west of the Central Philippine Islands during the Battle for Leyte Gulf on 24 October 1944. Flying as wingman on a search and attack mission when an enemy task force was sighted and his division was assigned the Japanese battleship MUSASHI as a target, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Reed defied the withering barrages of antiaircraft fire to dive low over the hostile warship and release his bombs at perilously low altitude to score direct hits which started fires and contributed materially to the infliction of extensive damage on the Japanese vessel.

Harry Snyder, Business (9/9/1913 – 12/14/1976)

Harry Snyder is the founder of the In and Out Hamburger Chain in 1948 and the developer of the drive thru concept in fast food. The first In and Out was opened in Baldwin Park, California and expanded to eighteen stores by the time of his death in 1976.

Joanie Sommers, Singer (2/24/1941)

Joanie Sommers born Joan Drost attended Venice High School and then Santa Monica College. She was a recognized singer at Venice with the Venice High School band. Her break came at the Braemar Country Club when she appeared with Tommy Oliver who helped her sign a contract with Warner Brothers. At Warner in 1960, she recorded Am I Blue and was paired with Edd Byrnes with Kookie’s Love Song and then had her first hit single, One Boy, which stayed on the Billboard Charts for three weeks. In 1962, she recorded Johnny Get Angry which reached number 7 on Billboard. She continued recording and making numerous television appearances throughout the 1960’s.

Larry Stevenson graduated from Venice High School and then served with the Navy in Korea. He then attended Santa Monica College and USC where he was an All-American in swimming.

In the 1960’s he then founded MAKAH skateboards, being credited as the first manufacturer of high quality skateboards. In 1963 he formed the first skate team and published two magazines, Surfguide and Power Edge. In 1969 he patented the “double Kicktail” allowing skateboarders to do many new tricks and difficult maneuvers. Larry Stevenson is recognized as one of the “Fathers of Skateboarding.”

Tony Vazquez, Mayor

Tony is a graduate of Venice High School and Santa Monica City College and continued his education at the University of Southern California where he received his degree. Upon graduation, he joined USC’s Department of Teacher Education as Master Teacher/Recruiter responsible for the department’s Outreach Recruitment activities.

Mayor Tony Vazquez was first elected to Santa Monica City Council in 1990, where he served for four years and was elected again in 2012. He served as Mayor Pro Tempore in 2015.

Tony strongly believes in promoting a quality education to the children of our community. He was a member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District’s Strategic Planning Committee, and most recently served on the School District’s Feasibility Committee. He has played an active role in every local school board campaign for over twenty years.


Sam Whipple was an actor, known for The Rock (1996), Seven Days (1998) and The Doors (1991). His credits also include Airheads and This Is Spinal Tap. He also appeared in television shows such as Open All Night, The Larry Sanders Show, Seinfeld, and Home Improvement.
Dr. Susan Ashley, Psychologist

Dr. Susan Ashley is a Verdugo Hills High School graduate and then a graduate of UCLA and the California School of Professional Psychology. She is a two-time author with best-selling books in child psychology: *The ADD & ADHD Answer Book: The Top 275 Questions Parents Ask* and *The Asperger's Answer Book: The Top 300 Questions Parents Ask*. She has been featured in numerous radio shows and magazines. Dr. Susan Ashley is the founder and director of Ashley Children's Psychology Center.

Jan Brewer, Governor of Arizona (8/26/1944) 1962

Janice Kay "Jan" Brewer (née Drinkwine) graduated Verdugo Hills High School in 1962. She served as an Arizona legislator from 1983 to 1996. She then was elected Arizona Secretary of State in 2002. She became Governor when Janet Napolitano, the Governor of Arizona became Secretary of Homeland Security. She served as Governor of Arizona from 2009 to 2014. She is known for signing into law Senate Bill 2010, which made it illegal for undocumented immigrants not to have documentation and requiring police to question their immigration status. Most of the aspects of the law were struck down by the Supreme Court.

Chris Burns, Journalism 1976

Chris Burns earned his B.A. from U.C. Berkeley in Political Economy and French. During his twenty-five year journalism career he reported from the U.S., Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Afghanistan. He has worked for Bloomberg News, CNN and the Associated Press. In 2001 he was CNN’s Frankfurt Bureau Chief and was previously the CNN Berlin Bureau Chief. He has covered some of the major stories of our time including Afghanistan following the 9/11 attacks and the 10th anniversaries of the Berlin Wall fall and German reunification. Chris Burns is currently a journalist and media consultant for Euronews.
John Houston Ingle, Actor and Teacher  
(5/7/1928 - 9/16/2012)  
1946

John Ingle graduated Verdugo Hills High School in 1946. He attended Occidental College and then began a teaching career at Hollywood and Beverly Hills High Schools teaching English and theater arts. During his thirty year teaching career from 1955 to 1985 he trained some of the greatest stars in Hollywood including Nicholas Cage, Barbara Hershey, Richard Dreyfuss and countless more.

Retiring from teaching, John Ingle began a new career as an actor starring in General Hospital from 1993 to 2003. He then had a major role in Days of our Lives and the Hanna Barbera animated series Paw, Paw. In 2006 he returned to General Hospital.

Howard McKeon, U.S. Congressman  
(9/9/1938)  
1957

Buck McKeon graduated Verdugo Hills High School, and then spent two years as a Mormon Missionary before enrolling at Brigham Young University. He then served as a United States Congressman from 1993 to 2015. He was the former Chairman of the Armed Services Committee from 2011 to 2015.

Molly Murphy MacGregor  
1964

Molly Murphy MacGregor was voted "Most Pep and Spirit" by her fellow classmates at Verdugo Hills High School. She was also the editor of the school newspaper, the La Yuca, as well as being on the Drill Team. After graduating from Verdugo Hills High School, she became the first of nine children in her immediate family to graduate from college. She went on to a teaching career and, in 1972, taught one of the first classes on women's history at the high school level.

In 1980, she founded the National Women's History Project. Today, the NWHP is known nationally as the only clearinghouse providing information and training in multicultural women’s history for educators, community organizations, and parents. NWHP provides information for anyone wanting to expand their understanding of women’s contributions to U.S. Through the efforts of NWHP in petitioning and lobbying Congress, March was designated as Women’s History Month in the United States. Since 1996, she has been a professor at the University of Montana. She also has published extensively.
Scott Manzo, Three Dog Night, Bass Guitarist

Scott Manzo was the Bass Guitarist for Three Dog Night from 1985 to 1988 and credits his music teacher Sal Lombardo for his success. He graduated in 1977 from Verdugo Hills High School and in addition to his time with Three Dog Night, he owns a recording studio in Santa Clarita.

Jaye P. Morgan, Singer (12/3/1931)

Mary Margaret “Jaye P. Morgan was the Class Treasurer at Verdugo Hills High School as well as a regular performer in school assemblies. Following graduation in 1950 she made her first record, Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries which the Top 10 of the Billboard Chart. Her next major hit for RCA records was That’s All I Want from You, which reached number 3 on the Charts. Also in 1956 she had her own television show, The Jaye P. Morgan Show. She continued to record and perform into the 1980’s.

Robert Nakasone 1966

Robert Nakasone was the Student Body President at Verdugo Hills High School and graduated in 1966. He is the former CEO of Toys R Us from 1998 to 1999. He held a variety of positions at Toys R Us beginning in 1989. Since 2000, he has been the CEO of NAK Enterprises, an investment consulting company.

Frank Piersol, Assistant Chief, LAPD

Frank Piersol was the LAPD Assistant Chief and retired in 1998. Prior to becoming Assistant Chief, he was the department’s liaison to the Los Angeles Police Commission. He was also the head of the LAPD Office of Administrative Services. He played a key role in safety for the 1984 Summer Olympics and the handling of the 1992 Rodney King riots.

He is currently using those skills teaching Tools for Tolerance for Law Enforcement at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in West Los Angeles.
David G. Simpson graduated Verdugo Hills High School in 1978 and then the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982. He is the Vice Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency. He leads a worldwide organization of military and civilian personnel responsible for planning, developing, and providing interoperable, global net-centric solutions that serve the needs of the President, Secretary of Defense, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the combatant commanders, and other Department of Defense components.

Simpson’s personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legion of Merits, Defense Joint Meritorious Service Medal, six Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and two Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Copernicus Award.

Tom and Dick Smothers attended Mount Gleason Junior High School and then attended Verdugo Hills High School, transferring the Redondo Beach High School in Tom Smothers senior year. They began their entertainment career as folk singers in San Francisco’s Purple Onion and making numerous appearances on television variety shows in the 1960’s. They landed their own television variety show in 1965, The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour. The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour highlighted the greatest comedians, actors, musicians and bands of the generation. The show was eventually cancelled in 1969 because of their controversial political stands.

The Smothers Brothers are Emmy Award winners and have been inducted into the Television Hall of Fame.
Brian Bridgewater, Track and Field  (9/7/1970)

Brian Bridgewater attended Washington Preparatory High School and California State University, Los Angeles. As a collegian he won the 100 meters and 200 meters at the 1993 NCAA Division II Championships. He currently holds the Division II record in the 200 meters. Also in 2000, he won gold medals in the 200 meters and 4x100 meter relay at the World University Games. He was also part of the American team that won at the 1992 IAAF World Cup.

Garland Ellis Burrell  (1947)  1965

Garland Burrell was a track star at Washington High School. After graduation he attended Cal State L.A. and got his law degree from California Western School of Law. He began his career as a prosecutor in Sacramento. He became a Federal District judge for Eastern California in 1992. He became Chief Judge from 2007 to 2008. He was the first African American Federal Judge for the Eastern District of California. His most famous case was as judge for the Unabomber, Ted Kaczynski case.

Dick Dale, Guitarist  (5/4/1937)

Richard Anthony Monsour “Dick Dale” graduated from Washington High School while at the same time learning to surf. He began his musical career learning to play Lebanese ethnic instruments and then the guitar. His staccato, percussive style of playing introduced “fast scales” and “reverb” to mimic the sound of the surf. To achieve the sound of the surf he pushed his equipment which included using heavier strings and working with Leo Fender and J.B. Lansing to increase the amp volume scale from 4 to 10. Dick Dale’s efforts in changing the amp volume earned him the title, “Father of Heavy Metal.”

In 1961, Dick Dale and his band the Del Tones at the Rendezvous Ballroom in Balboa, created the surf music craze. They wrote the first song Let’s Go Tripping and the first surf album, Surfer’s Choice. Dick Dale became the “King of the Surf Guitar.” Dick Dale has been inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum, and the Surfing Walk of Fame.
Clarence Davis, Football  (6/28/1949)

Clarence Davis graduated Washington High School and then attended USC where he played running back for the Trojans. Clarence Davis graduated from USC and was drafted by the Oakland Raiders where he played from 1971 to 1978. He was an All American at USC. He was Super Bowl XI Champion with the Oakland Raiders rushing for 137 yards in the Super Bowl.

Mark Anthony Fields, Football  (11/9/1972)

Mark Fields graduated from Washington High School, and then attended Southwest College and Compton College before attending Washington State University. He was drafted by the New Orleans Saints in the 1995 NFL Draft. He played six years with New Orleans and then with the St. Louis Rams and Carolina Panthers. He was selected to the 2005 Pro Bowl.

Following his retirement from football because a return of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma he became a partner in a Real Estate firm in Arizona.

Gil Garcetti, Los Angeles County District Attorney  (8/5/1941)  1969

Gilbert Salvadore Iberri Garcetti graduated Washington High School and the University of Southern California. He was the Los Angeles County District Attorney from 1992 to 2000. He was District Attorney during the O.J. Simpson trial and the Rodney King trials in Los Angeles. Gil Garcetti is also an accomplished photographer.

Oliver Goodall, Tuskegee Airmen  (May 28, 1922 – October 30, 2010)

Oliver Goodall attended the University of Detroit and joined the Tuskegee Airmen training at Selfridge Field outside of Detroit. He was assigned to the 477th bomber group. Assigned to Freeman Field, he and fifty-nine other black officers protested being provided inferior equipment, having a racist commander.
and assigned segregated facilities. He led a march into the “white” only officers club leading to the arrest of the protestors. Known as the Freeman Field Mutiny, the airmen were eventually exonerated fifty years later in 1995.

Teresa Graves, Actress  (1/10/1947 – 10/10/2002)

Teresa Graves began her acting career appearing in roles in the late 1960’s such as Rowan and Martin’s Laugh In. in 1974 she starred in a made for television movie, Get Christie Love! The television movie became a television series and Teresa Graves became the first African American actress to star in her own one-hour series, Get Christie Love! Retiring from show business she devoted the rest of her life to her religion, Jehovah’s Witnesses.

Robert Illes, Comedy Writer

Robert Illes graduated Washington High School and then the University of Southern California, studying journalism and telecommunications. He was a reporter for the Daily Trojan. He began his media career with the Stein and Illes Show on an underground FM station in Los Angeles. That turned into a partnership with James Stein that lasted twenty-five years. In 1971, Michael Ovitz became Robert Illes mentor and he then became a comedy writer for the Smothers Brothers, Bill Cosby, and Steve Martin. He earned an Emmy for his work with the Lily Tomlin Show.

Illes and Stein then turned their attention to writing for comedy shows such as Sanford and Son, Love Boat and other television series and specials. Robert Illes earned his second Emmy for the Carol Burnett Show. He then worked for the Mary Tyler Moore Show, Flo and Silver Spoons. In the mid-1990’s Robert Illes worked solo for the series Sister, Sister, Family Matters and other sitcoms.

Robert Illes has been involved in a variety of liberal and Democratic causes in Los Angeles as a writer. He has also been involved with the World Championships of Performing Arts, and a mentor for the Writers Guild of America. He has also developed a television writing course, and written a book on T.V. writing.

Richard Kampmann, Educator, Track and Field

Richard Kampmann was the Track and Field Coach for University High School for twenty-six years. During that period of time his teams won eighty-nine league titles. His track teams won 36 Western League Championships and had an overall dual meet record of 483 wins and 134 losses. In cross-country his teams won 53 Western League championships and seven city championships. He had a dual meet record of 584 wins and 88 losses.
Art Laboe, D.J.  (8/7/1925)

Arthur Egnoian “Art Laboe” graduated Washington High School at sixteen. He began broadcasting in the 1950’s just as rock and roll was beginning to take hold in America. He was a dynamic radio personality who was a rock and roll radio pioneer. He would often take his radio show out of the studio to teenage hangouts throughout Los Angeles. He is also known for compiling the first Oldies but Goodies albums. He was a concert promoter throughout the 1950’s and 1960’s. He is still on the radio after 75 years behind the mike.

Art Laboe has been inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame and has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

James Lofton, Football  (7/5/1956)  1974

James David Lofton played fifteen seasons in the NFL as a wide receiver mostly with the Green Bay Packers. He was an eight-time Pro Bowl selection and a four-time All Pro selection. He was named to the 1980’s All Decade Team. He has been inducted into the Green Bay Packers Hall of Fame and the NFL Hall of Fame.

Hugh McElhenney, Football  (12/31/1928)  1948

Hugh Edward McElhenny graduated from Washington High School and then attended the University of Washington where he was an All-American selection. He then played twelve seasons with the San Francisco 49ers. As a professional he was a six-time Pro Bowl selection and a five-time All Pro. He was named to the NFL’s All 1950’s Decade Team.

His number 39 jersey has been retired by the 49ers. He has also been inducted into the Collegiate and NFL Halls of Fame.
Cecil W. Rhambo, Jr., Assistant Sheriff

Cecil Rhambo received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Humboldt State University and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Woodbury College. He joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1981 and became Sergeant in 1989. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1996, Captain in 2001 and Commander in 2005. He became Chief in 2008 responsible for Division II covering South Los Angeles, Compton, Carson, Marina Del Rey and West Hollywood.

He was appointed to Assistant Chief in June of 2011 and oversees the leadership of the Sheriff’s Department’s Divisions of Custody, Correctional, Court, Technical Services, and Leadership and Training.

Wendy Raquel Robinson  (7/25/1967)

Wendy Robinson attended Washington Preparatory High School and then graduated from Howard University with a B.A. in Fine Arts in drama. She made her acting debut in the early 1990's in television. Her first continuing role was with The Steve Harvey Show in 1996, running for 6 seasons. In 2006, she had a role in the comedy The Game for three seasons. She made several additional appearances in television.

Wendy Robinson co-founded in 1996 the Amazing Grace Conservatory, a school that predominately serves children from 8 to 18 years old from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds in the fields of the arts and media production. She has served as the school's Executive Director since its inception. The school has provided a safe heaven and training for thousands of young people.

Ernest "Ernie" Shelton, Track and Field and Artist  (10/28/1932)

Ernie Shelton competed in the high jump at Washington High School and after graduation attended USC. He was the USA Outdoor Track and Field High Jump Champion in 1954 and 1955. He won a Gold Medal in the Pan Am Games in the high jump in 1955. Ernie Shelton then became a highly recognized sculptor and has done special effects for films such as RoboCop, Total Recall and Legend and other motion pictures.
Joel Wachs, Los Angeles City Councilman  (3/1/1939)  1957

Joel Wachs attended Horace Mann, Washington High School and then UCLA. At thirty-three, he was then the youngest City Councilman in 1972. He served thirty years on the Los Angeles City Council. During that time he developed the concept of Neighborhood Councils, was a tireless supporter of the arts, supported rent control and was a powerful advocate for gay rights. His list of achievements for the City of Los Angeles is remarkable.

Joel Wachs is currently the President of the Andy Warhol Museum for the Visual Arts in New York City.

Esther Williams, Actress  (8/8/21 – 6/6/2013)  1940

Esther Jane Williams graduated Washington High School where she was Student Body Vice President and then President. She set multiple U.S. records as an amateur swimmer in the late 1930’s and early 1940’s. She is best known for the “aqua-musicals’ of the late 1940’s emphasizing synchronized swimming. The films were all box office hits.

Retiring from a film career, Esther Williams was a very successful business woman.

Roderick Wright, California State Assemblyman  (7/3/1952)  1970

Roderick Devon "Rod" Wright was a California State Assemblyman from 2002 to 2008 and a California State Senator from 2008 to 2014.
Larry Colton, Author  (6/8/1942)  1960

Larry Colton graduated Westchester High School in 1960 and UC Berkeley in 1964. After a six-year professional baseball career, he became a teacher and then a writer with articles appearing in the New Yorker, Sports Illustrated and Esquire. He is also an author of five books including *Idol Time, Counting Coup, No Ordinary Jones, Southern League* and *Goat Brothers*. His books earned him a Book of the Month Club Selection, E Book of the Year Award, and a Pulitzer nomination.

He also founded a Community of Writers as part of the Oregon school effort at improving writing and he is the founder of *Wordstock*, the Oregon Book Festival.


Phil Hartman became part of the Saturday Night Live cast in the 1980’s winning an Emmy for his performance in 1989. He appeared in numerous films and television series being awarded a star on the Canadian and Hollywood Walks of Fame.

Michael Josephson, Ethicist  (12/10/1942)

Michael Josephson is an ethicist and the founder of the Josephson Institute for Ethics. He is also the founder of the largest character program in public education, *Character Counts*, which has been adopted by schools and school districts nationwide to teach the foundations of character to students.

Michael Josephson is also an advisor to major corporations, the NBA and the United States Olympic Committee, helping athletes and business to understand the importance of character as they pursue their careers. He also conducts a nationally recognized survey of high school students regarding their attitudes and behaviors with regards to ethics.
Regina King, Actress and Director  (1/15/1971)

Regina King is an actress and director receiving recognition on the television series *Southland* with two Dramatic Critics Award nominations for Best Supporting Actress. She also has played in the *Big Bang Theory* and has appeared in numerous other television series and dramas. She also had roles in *Boyz in the Hood* and *Ray*. She began her directing career with BET’s *Being Mary Jane*.

Jill Kinmont, Skiing, Author  (2/16/1936 - 2/9/2012)

Jill Kinmont graduated Westchester High School in 1953. She was the U.S. National Slalom Ski Champion and appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated in 1955. During the Olympic trials at Alta, Utah she crashed and broke her neck leaving her paralyzed and ending her skiing career. She became a symbol of hope and courage however as she graduated UCLA with degrees in German and English. She later got her teaching credential at the University of Washington and taught in the Beverly Hills School District. Her life story was the subject of the film, *The Other Side of the Mountain* and a book, *A Long Way Up, the Jill Kinmont Story*.

Nia Long, Actress  (10/30/1970)  1989

Nia Long has a varied acting career including film roles such as *Boyz in the Hood*, *Soul Food*, *Big Momma’s House* and *Friday*. Her television roles included *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*. She has won three NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actress and one Black Reel Award for Best Actress.


Kenneth Howard "Ken" Norton, Jr. played running back at Westchester High School and then converted to linebacker at UCLA. In 1987, he was an All-American at UCLA and the winner of the Butkus Award for Outstanding College Defensive Player. He then played twelve seasons in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys.
and the San Francisco 49ers. In the NFL, he was a three-time Pro Bowl selection, a two-time All Star and a three-time Super Bowl Champion. He is currently a coach with the Seattle Seahawks.

Kim Ruddins, Volleyball

Kim Ruddins graduated from Westchester High School in 1981. He was an All City selection in Volleyball 1978-1980 and then an All American in Volleyball at USC in 1984 and 1985. He was a member of the US National Team in 1983-84 and 1987-88. He won a Silver Medal in Volleyball in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

Trisha Stafford Odom, Basketball

Trisha Stafford-Odom graduated from Westchester High School and then became a star basketball player at the University of California, Berkeley. At Cal she ranked sixth on their all-time scoring list and ninth as a rebounder. She was selected to the Cal All Decade Team. She was named an honorable mention All-American in 1991-92. She earned first-team All-Pac-10 honors in '91-92 and '90-91. She then played professionally in the WNBA. She coached basketball at Westchester High school and then joined the UCLA women’s basketball staff.

Al Scates, Volleyball  (6/9/1939) 1957

Al Scates retired from coaching UCLA Volleyball in 2012 after what many consider to be the greatest coaching record in the history of collegiate sports. Beginning in 1970, during his forty-two year career at UCLA he won 19 NCAA Volleyball Championships. He won three successive titles three times and had a four championship streak from 1981 to 1985. He was named Coach of the Year six times. His .812 winning percentage is one of the best in the history of collegiate sports. Al Scates has been inducted into the American Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the UCLA Sports Hall of Fame.
Roy Smalley, Baseball  (10/25/1952)  1970

Roy Smalley graduated Westchester High School and then played baseball for USC being a two-time College World Series Champion and an All American. He played twelve years of professional baseball from 1975 to 1987 mostly with the Minnesota Twins. He was an All Star in 1979 and a World Series Champion in 1987. He has been inducted into the USC Sports Hall of Fame.

Tim Story, Producer and Director  (3/13/1970)  1975

Tim Story was making silent films at the age of twelve using an 8mm camera. He began a brief career as a rapper at Westchester High School and was as the senior class president in his senior year. After graduation he attended USC Film School. He began his film career with his own film company, producing two films. His major breakthrough came in 2002 when he directed Barbershop, followed by Taxi and The Fantastic Four.

The Turtles

Howard Kaylan, Vocalist  (6/22/1947)

Howard Kaylan was the Westchester High School Valedictorian and the co-founder of the 1960’s rock group, The Turtles.

Mark Volman, Vocalist  (4/19/1947)  1965

Mark Volman is a co-founder of the Turtles along with Howard Kayland. He attended Orville Wright Junior High School and then graduated from Westchester High School. The major hits of the Turtles included It Ain’t Me Babe, Elenore, and Happy Together.
Karyn White was the first female singer to have her first three solo songs hit number one on the Billboard Charts. Her hit singles included *The Way You Love Me*, *Secret Rendezvous*, and *Love Saw It*. *Romantic* was another number one single on Billboard. She also received two Grammy nominations.
Vic Cuccia was the Wilson High School football coach for twenty-two years, 1956 to 1977. During that period he had a 151-42-6 record. He won City Section 3A Championships in 1976 and 1977 setting national records for total offense. Vic Cuccia taught at Wilson High School for forty-four years. The Wilson High School Football stadium is named in his honor.

Benjamin Earl Franklin "Ben" Davidson, Jr. played basketball at Wilson High School and not football because he was 6’8” tall. He played football for the University of Washington and then had a thirteen year pro career from 1961 to 1973. He was a three-time American Football League All Star with the Oakland Raiders playing defensive end. He also played for Green Bay’s National Football League Champion in 1961 and the Oakland Raider’s American League Champion in 1967.

He was famous for his size and handle bar mustache, which led to several movie opportunities after his retirement football.

Eugene Spiritus is a Board Certified Pulmonologist and founding member of Pulmonary Consultant and Primary Care Physicians of Orange County. He was also the Chief Medical Officer at the University of California at the Irvine Medical Center. He is now the Chief Medical Officer of VGo Communications, Inc. He is also the President of the Board of Directors of Hillel Foundation of Orange County.
Armando Vega, Gymnast  (10/24/1935)

Armando Vega was a gymnast who won twenty-nine National AAU Championship medals, including twelve gold medals. Competing for Penn State he won six NCAA Championships and was a two-time Olympian. After his competitive career he became an NCAA coach being twice named NCAA Gymnastics Coach of the Year. He was also an Olympic gymnastics judge.

Kerkor "Kirk" Kerkorian was expelled from Foshay Junior High School and sent to Riis in the 8th grade. He dropped out of Riis to become a boxer. When World War II broke out, he became a pilot and continued to fly after the war as a commercial pilot. He began flying gamblers to Las Vegas in his Cessna, and then increased his fleet of planes in the late 1940's. He then bought Trans International Airlines for $60,000 in 1947 and later sold it to TransAmerica for $104 million in 1968.

In 1967, he began buying property on the Las Vegas Strip. Cesar’s Palace was built on his property. He then built the International Hotel and bought the Flamingo, which he later sold to Hilton Hotels. He then purchased the MGM movie studio 1969, and built the MGM Grand Hotel. His company owned The Bellagio, The Mirage, Mandalay Bay, Luxor, Excalibur and New York, New York.

In 1981, he purchased United Artists and sold MGM to Sony pictures. He had minority and majority shares in a variety of companies from automobiles and motion pictures. He is regarded as the father of the Las Vegas mega-resort and the modern Las Vegas. He is listed as the 41st richest person in the world with a net worth of over $16 billion.

Chalky Wright, Boxing (2/1/1912 – 8/12/1957)

Albert "Chalky" Wright boxed for twenty years from 1928 to 1948 winning 220 fights, 83 by knockout. However, it wasn't until 1941 and his 139th fight that he finally got a shot at the Featherweight title, which he won. Mae West, the movie star, was also a boxing fan and financed a good portion of his boxing career.

Chalky Wright has been inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame, the Ring Magazine Hall of Fame and the California Sports Hall of Fame.