

La Mesa Walk of Fame Recipients

Elmer Drew

Elmer Drew moved to La Mesa with his family in 1912. He started working as a young man in an automobile repair shop. He later acquired that shop and continued to expand his experience and customer base. The Ford Motor Company subsequently approached Elmer in 1934 to open a dealership. The Drew Ford dealership has become one of La Mesa's oldest and most successful businesses. Elmer Drew was admitted to the City of La Mesa Walk of Fame on April 28, 1998.

Dr. Ellen Ochoa

At the age of six months, Dr. Ellen Ochoa and her family moved to La Mesa. Dr. Ochoa is a graduate of Grossmont High School and San Diego State University, where she was her graduating class Valedictorian. She then went on to Stanford University where she earned her Master and Doctorate degrees. Selected by NASA in 1990, Dr. Ochoa became the world's first Hispanic female astronaut in 1991 as a member of the STS-56 Space Shuttle "Endeavor." Dr. Ellen Ochoa was added to the City of La Mesa Walk of Fame on April 28, 1998.

Sarah A. "Nan" Coutts

Sarah A. Coutts was one of the key historic figures in the San Diego region. She dedicated 40 years to the service of others during her longtime residency in La Mesa. She was a founding force behind the construction of Grossmont Hospital and the La Mesa Youth Center at MacArthur Park. Sarah A. Coutts was added to the City of La Mesa's Walk of Fame on April 28, 1998.

Bill Walton

Bill Walton graduated from Helix High School and was a three-time recipient of the N.C.A.A. player of the year award. He earned two championship N.B.A. titles and was inducted into the basketball hall of fame. He is also the recipient of two Emmy awards for his efforts in broadcasting and filmmaking. Bill Walton was added to the City of La Mesa's Walk of Fame on September 9, 2003.

Ed Burr

Ed and Sandra Burr founded EDCO Disposal Corporation in 1954 in La Mesa. EDCO has grown into the largest family-owned and -operated waste collection and recycling firm in the United States. EDCO has served as La Mesa's franchise waste collection hauler since 1967, assisting with La Mesa's waste diversion efforts and those of many counties within Southern California. As a prominent businessman in La Mesa, Mr. Burr has made both personal and financial commitments to our City. Ed Burr was added to the City of La Mesa's Walk of Fame on September 9, 2003.

Sandra Burr

Ed and Sandra Burr founded EDCO Disposal Corporation in 1954 in La Mesa. EDCO has grown into the largest family-owned and -operated waste collection and recycling firm in the United States. Mrs. Burr represents EDCO's numerous charitable interests and continues to contribute to the vitality of the San Diego region. Sandra Burr was added to the City of La Mesa's Walk of Fame on September 9, 2003.

J.O. Orsborn

J.O. Orsborn resided in La Mesa his entire life and was a well-known member of the community. At the age of 15, in 1941, he began his career as a volunteer fireman with the La Mesa Fire Department. He was appointed Fire Chief in 1981. Chief Orsborn retired in 1990 after 46 years of service. He served with the California Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Training Officer's Division, and Pioneer Hook & Ladder Museum in San Diego. J.O. also was active with San Diego Boy Scouts, serving in various capacities and was awarded the Silver Beaver Medal for his long service. J. O. Orsborn was added to the City of La Mesa Walk of Fame on May 22, 2007.

James (Jim) Culbert

James Culbert was known worldwide in sprint car racing circles as a builder, seller and driver of sprint and super-modified cars. In the late 1940s, he founded Culbert Automotive Engineering (CAE) that evolved into an auto racing superstore. James was also the record holder for speed in sprint and modified roadsters, and in 1957 he was the first driver to exceed 200 mph in a sprint car. Shortly before his death in 2004, Mr. Culbert was inducted into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame in Knoxville, Iowa. James Culbert was added to the City of La Mesa Walk of Fame on June 12, 2007.