

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on March 20, 2012 honoring

Eileen M. Carter

Eileen Mary Watson Carter was recognized as a person who made a major and lasting contribution to the development and progress of the Chino community during her lifetime. Every Committee, Commission, or Council on which she served, grew in substance and stature because of her effective leadership, dedication, and professionalism.

A native southern Californian, she was born in Burbank, California, on July 4, 1917, and grew up on her parents' dairy in the Agoura-Calabasas area. She married Ned Carter in 1939; and for two decades, held teaching positions in the Chino and Pomona school systems.

Mrs. Carter's passion for the environment and the beauty of Chino led her into planning, then a governing role in Chino. A fervent believer in good zoning and landscaping practices, she first stood up in the late 1950's as a citizen to protest degradation of the City's standards of living. She then served on the Planning Commission and City Council in roles which enhanced those standards. In recognition of her role in promoting the beautification of Chino, a grove of trees at Ruben S. Ayala Park was named in her honor.

She completed twelve years on the Planning Commission, nine as chairman, starting in 1957, playing a major role in the creation of a new City Master Plan. In 1974, she was elected to the first of two terms on the City Council and was Mayor Pro Tem for four years.

Early in her civic involvement, Mrs. Carter helped form a West San Bernardino County Chapter of the League of Women Voters. She headed the citizens' planning and campaign committees for the new civic center. Mrs. Carter was a charter member of the Chino Valley Historical Society, and instrumental in having the Old Schoolhouse building designated by the state as a San Bernardino County Point of Historical Interest. As a Council Member, she pushed for the beautification of Central Avenue and for new parks. She represented Chino on the San Bernardino Association of Governments Board, West Valley Planning Agency, and at the local and state levels of the Local Agency Formation Commission. She chaired the Citrus Belt Division of the League of California Cities and was the first chairman of the County Transportation Commission.

Mrs. Carter was named the 1973 Citizen of the Year by the Chino Rotary Club and was recognized as Woman of the Year by the area's daily newspaper. In 1999, she became the first recipient of the City's Edwin Rhodes Community Service Award.

Eileen M. Carter spent twenty years as a school teacher, plus twenty more in government. She had strict rules for herself and followed them to the letter. Above reproach, she made it extremely clear that, "I don't do lunch unless I pick up my own tab." Mrs. Carter died on May 20, 2009.