

# City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on May 17, 2022 honoring

## *Allen P. McCombs*

Allen (Al) McCombs was the Chino Champion owner/publisher, civic leader, respected community leader, and Chino historian. He was born on August 8, 1929, in Oakland, California, growing up in Berkley. He received his bachelor's degree in journalism from Stanford University in 1951, and master's degree in business administration from Harvard University in 1953. He served in the Navy Supply Corps. from 1953-1956.

Al married Gretchen Deckelman on July 11, 1953. They had one son, Bill in 1957. In 1956, Al and Gretchen purchased the Chino Champion and moved to Chino to start their new life. After 60 years of owning and publishing the Chino Champion, Al sold the newspaper, but continued to write his Rolltop Roundup column.

Al's service to the community began soon after he came to Chino. He was a dedicated member of the Chino Rotary Club from 1957-2021. He was a Chino Valley Unified School Board member for 10 years, serving as president multiple times. He served as a Chino Planning Commissioner, was a member and past president of the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce and Chino Valley YMCA. Al was an active member of the Chino Cultural Foundation and Chino Valley Historical Society, and served on both executive boards. He also contributed to the community by serving on the Chino Valley Medical Center Board of Trustees.

Al took the lead on the SR 60 Freeway Committee in the 1960s, helping to negotiate Chino's portion of the freeway be designed below street level to keep the expanding community from being divided.

As an active member of the Chino community, he received many awards. On June 9, 2014, he received the Spirit of Achievement Award, which honors outstanding citizens for their remarkable contributions to the City; Edwin Rhodes Community Service Award; community PTA Honorary Service Award; and Chino Valley Fire District's Community Service Award. In 1976, he was named Chino's Citizen of the Year; and in 1998, he was recognized as Chino Valley Small Business Person of the Year. Following his passing, Al was inducted into the California Press Foundation's Hall of Fame.

Promoting education was very import to Al. He was involved with the organization that implemented the Head Start program in the City of Chino in the 1960s. It gave him pleasure to assist with the selection and presentation of the Edwin Rhodes Community Service Award and the PTA Honorary Service Award, which is presented to new teachers each year.

Al died on March 12, 2021. His contributions to the Chino community are many and this list of allocates is just the tip of the iceberg. He loved his city and the people in it, and was dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for the entire community. As the owner/publisher/editor of the Chino Champion, Al chronicled daily life in Chino for more than 60 years. With his deep unparalleled knowledge of Chino and Chino's history, he provided insight through his weekly Rolltop Roundup column, where he enlightened us, entertained us, and taught us to appreciate Chino's rich history.