

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on May 20, 2025 honoring

Barry W. Johnson

Barry W. Johnson was a highly respected and well-known figure in the City of Chino. Barry was born in Nebraska on April 6, 1933. In 1939, following the passing of his mother and loss of the family farm, he moved to Chino with his two sisters. They were raised by their aunt, while their father worked for the California Aqueduct. Barry began his education at Gird Primary School and graduated from Chino High School in 1951. Barry married Earlene, and together they had three sons: Jeff, Phillip, and Brett.

From 1953-1955, Barry served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was granted top-secret FBI clearance and worked in the Intelligence Section at the Battalion Level.

He also served as a Lay Chaplain for his unit in the absence of an official Chaplain.

Barry began his career at Chino Grain and Milling in 1965, eventually becoming Manager until 1970. During these years, he became a well-known and trusted figure in the Chino dairy industry. When Ralston Purina offered him a position that required relocating out of state, Barry chose to remain in Chino, committed to raising his family and continuing his service to the community.

Barry was widely recognized for his dedication to the community through his business, Chino Lumber and Hardware, which he operated for over 40 years. To Barry, the business was more than just a livelihood, it was a means of serving the Chino community. Nearly every resident of Chino found themselves at his family-owned establishment at some point, seeking assistance for their needs. His priority was never profit, but rather the well-being of others. In times of financial difficulty, Barry even forwent his own salary to ensure that the community remained supported and his employees retained their jobs.

His contributions extended far beyond his business. Barry was an active member of the Chino Rotary Club for over 50 years, serving as President from 1975-1976 and embodying the Rotary motto, *Service Above Self*.

He also played significant roles in various organizations, including serving as a member of the Chino Valley Historical Society, Pomona Valley Community Concert Society, City of Chino Budget Committee, and California Youth Authority Advisory Committee. Furthermore, he donated material to Habitat for Humanity and Chino Boys Scouts, while leading fundraising efforts for the Chino Valley YMCA and Chino Little Leagues.

In recognition of his service, Barry was honored with the Edwin Rhodes Community Service Award in 2012, and Chino Lumber and Hardware was named Business of the Year by the Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce in the same year.

Although Barry accomplished much for the Chino community, he never sought recognition for his efforts. His greatest joy came from helping others in the City he proudly called home.

Barry passed away on May 29, 2018, in Chino.