

City of Chino ❖ Hall of Fame

presented on May 16, 2023 honoring

Dorothy Wolfert Grier

Dorothy Wolfert Grier was a long-time Chino resident, teacher and administrator for the Chino Valley Unified School District, and known for her civic engagement and preservation of Chino's history.

Dorothy was born March 10, 1927, in Stanton, CA. Dorothy graduated from the University of Redlands, where she met her husband Richard Grier, longtime Chino resident. They were married in 1949, and moved to Chino in 1950. They had two children: son, David, and daughter, Julie. Richard died at the young age of 35 in 1962, and left Dorothy widowed with two young children.

Dorothy was an educator with the Chino Valley Unified School District for 31 years. She began as a teacher, promoted to vice principal, and then to principal. She served at Newman Elementary, Glenmeade Elementary, Doris Dickson Elementary, Anna Borba Elementary, and Briggs Fundamental. She retired in 1985. After retirement, Dorothy continued to serve the District. She created and presented curriculum on Chino's history for 3rd and 4th grade students.

Dorothy became very involved in her children's activities. She was Cub Scout Den Mother, Brownies Aide, and National Little League volunteer. Dorothy had a passion to serve the community, especially children. Her mission was to keep track and promote Chino's vast history. She gathered oral histories from Chino's pioneers, which have been preserved on tape. Dorothy felt local history was too important to be ignored. The Historical Society and 4H programs were also causes dear to her heart. For the City of Chino's Centennial Celebration in 1987, Dorothy researched Chino's Founder, Richard Gird. Dorothy discovered Gird had family living in New York, Gird's great nephew. She arranged for the family to come to California and attend the City's Centennial Celebration.

Dorothy was one of three founders of the Chino Valley Historical Society formed in 1971. Five years later, the Historical Society became an official non-profit organization. They acquired the Old Schoolhouse Museum from the Eastside Thimble Club. During this time, she volunteered and was a docent at the Old Schoolhouse Museum and Yorba Slaughter Adobe. She was instrumental in the restoration and seismic retrofitting of the Yorba Slaughter Adobe. She served on the Chino Valley Pioneer Association for 30 years as an Administrator. Dorothy was a key organizer of the annual Pioneer Picnic.

Dorothy served as the president of the Chino Friends of Library. She was a Reading Specialist Club member for the State of California. She was a member of the Soroptimist Club of Chino.

Dorothy loved agriculture and was a member of the Chino Busy Farmers, the largest 4H Club in San Bernardino County, and a member of Women in Agriculture. She served the Los Angeles County Fair as a volunteer, board member, docent, and duty administrator. She was also part of the Los Angeles County Fair Youth in Action Program. She served as a board member for the Chino Fair Association.

During her lifespan, Dorothy received recognition for her involvement in many service groups. In 1984, she was the recipient of the Parent Council's Service Award. In the same year, she received the Chino City Council's Commendation for Service and Support to the students in 4H programs, Junior Fair, and Chino's Museums. In 2000, she was recognized with the Ambassador District Agriculture Association Award. In 2001, she received the Edwin Rhodes Community Service Award. In 2005, she received a certificate of recognition from the State of California for service and support to the Chino Branch Library.

Dorothy died on July 30, 2008, in the City of Chino.