

# THE GRATITUDE CIRCLE

The Gratitude Circle is a partnership between the Conejo Recreation & Park District and Play Conejo. Annually, the CRPD Board of Directors celebrates and honors individuals who have made a significant contribution of time, effort, or energy to recreation and parks in the Conejo Valley.

The Gratitude Circle is also a place where people can honor loved ones and support CRPD's parks and programs through charitable giving.

## PAST HONOREES

**2024**

Beverly Brune  
Joe Edmiston

**2018**

Richard F. Newman

**2017**

Doris Granholm

**2016**

Frances Prince  
Rorie Skei

**2022**

Cecilia Laufenberg  
Wyatt McCrea  
Mary Power

**2015**

Dennis Gillette  
Mike Berger  
Barbara Kloster

**2021**

Jim Gilmore  
Karen Lindsey  
Steve Wiley

**2014**

Tex Ward  
Mark Jacobsen

**2019**

Tim Hagel  
Elayne Haggan  
Bruce Stanton



The Conejo Recreation & Park District is an independent special district serving the Conejo Valley since 1963. Its mission is to enrich the quality of life for our community by preserving and enhancing recreational opportunities, parks, and open space.



Play Conejo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 2012 to provide volunteer, charitable, and financial support for public park facilities and recreation programs which benefit Conejo Valley residents. Play Conejo is raising funds to help the District maintain quality parks and offer diverse and affordable recreation programs.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Doug Nickles, *Chair*  
Nellie Cusworth, *Vice Chair*  
Chuck Huffer, *Director*  
Marissa Buss, *Director*  
Ashley Orozco, *Director*  
Jim Freidl, *General Manager*



# THE GRATITUDE CIRCLE

INDUCTION CELEBRATION

*honoring*

# ED JONES GEORGE LANGE

*for their Dedication to the People of Conejo Valley  
through Recreation, Parks, and Open Space*



**Monday, May 5, 2025 • 5:30pm**  
Conejo Creek North Park



## ED JONES

Ed Jones was first elected to the CRPD Board in 2010. He served for eight years and, following his departure from the CRPD Board, he was elected to the Thousand Oaks City Council, where he served from 2018 to 2022. Ed also served on the COSCA Board for ten years, from 2013 to 2022. Of his time on the CRPD Board, Ed said, "It has truly been a great and rewarding experience; I don't believe there is a finer Rec and Park District in the country."

His dedication to public service began well before his time on the CRPD Board, having served on both the Thousand Oaks City Council in the 1970s and early 80s and on the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors. During Ed's tenure at CRPD, the McCrea Ranch Visitor Center was opened, Del Prado Playfield was completed, six dedicated pickleball courts were opened at Rancho Conejo Playfield, the Rotary Dreamcatcher Playground was opened, and the District celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Ed was known for his "pavement pounding" approach to campaigning, which enabled him to meet with, and listen to, thousands of the constituents he ended up serving while at CRPD. In his own words, Ed said, "I like to see government work... I don't have any magic powers of persuasion. I'm just persistent." Throughout his life, Ed's persistence served the people of the Conejo Valley, and its local government institutions, very well. Ed is survived by his wife JoAnn, five children, three stepchildren, and many, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Thank you, Ed!

*The Board of Directors of the Conejo Recreation and Park District are grateful to Ed & George for their positive impact. The quality of life in the Conejo Valley is due, in no small part, to their unflagging dedication and passion for recreation, parks, and open space.*

## GEORGE LANGE

George Lange, former member of the CRPD Board of Directors, was first elected to the Board in 1990. Before his retirement in 2024, he was reelected for eight terms and was Chair of the Board eight times. During his 34 years of service to CRPD, fifteen new parks were opened, and numerous improvements and added features were made to existing parks and facilities.



He played a key role in the District's largest projects and collaborations, including McCrea Ranch, Chumash Indian Museum, Hillcrest Center for the Arts, Rancho Potrero Community Equestrian Center, and Safe Passage Youth Foundation. In addition to his service on the CRPD Board, George also represented CRPD on the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's Governing Board and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Advisory Committee, protecting more than 85,000 acres of open space.

Described as a "paragon of civic virtue" and a "prince of open space," George exemplifies dedication and service. In a life defined by stewardship, George's commitment to the District and the community never wavered. His tireless advocacy for the community leaves a legacy that will endure for many years to come.

