



The Escondido History Center

With the Generous Sponsorship of

Jack Raymond



2020 ESCONDIDO LEGENDS APPLICATION

ROBERT FREEMAN AWARD **PROFESSIONAL LOCAL ARTIST**

Explanation of award: The honorarium will be given to a senior student attending a high school in Escondido who has participated in a variety of school activities and has demonstrated leadership throughout his or her high school years. Volunteerism in the community is also highly important.

Additional consideration will be given for participation in fine arts. Also, additional consideration will be given for participation in groups promoting human dignity. Commitment to attend the Honorarium presentation, when arranged, is required.

Applications are available at www.escondidohistory.org (click on Legends button on front page of website) or from your high school counselor.

Please complete: The Escondido Legends application information below and submit your typed responses to the Escondido History Center along with a copy of your current high school transcript no later than 4 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Please include your full name on all pages and deliver finished application:

- In person to the Escondido History Center, 321 N. Broadway or by U.S. mail, P.O. Box 263, Escondido, CA 92033 **OR**
- As an email PDF attachment to fox@escondidohistory.org .

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. YOUR NAME
2. YOUR HIGH SCHOOL WHICH YOU ATTEND
3. SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
4. TELL US ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED
5. TELL US ABOUT YOUR FINE ARTS EXPERIENCE AND/OR DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVMENT IN ACTIVITES PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY
6. DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY WORK AND SERVICE
7. TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
8. DESCRIBE YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
9. SUBMIT YOUR PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE, AND INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE OF YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Robert Lee Freeman

Internationally renowned and multi-talented artist, Robert Lee Freeman, shared his exceptional skills and compassion to benefit all of us and is a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOREVER LEGEND.

Robert was born on the Rincon Reservation in 1939, and except for a short stay in the Bay Area, he lived in the Escondido area. He attended Central School and Escondido High School. Robert loved all sports and played high school football. When he was 18, he enlisted in the Army and served for three years, the last year at the DMZ in South Korea. After he received his honorable discharge from the Army, he held many jobs to support himself, but always loved sketching and creating sculptures. With his natural, self-taught ability, Robert established a following for his drawings, oils, acrylics and wood carvings. In 1967 he decided to become a full-time artist. His murals, sculptures, etchings, designs and exhibits are legendary.

His murals may be viewed at Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church on the Rincon Reservation, Harrah's Casino, California State Museum in Lake Perris, and the Los Angeles Library in San Gabriel. His sculptures include "Tukwut," a life size bronze sculpture of a mountain lion at the entrance to California State University San Marcos, "The Journey" in Santa Fe Springs, California, and "Coronne" in San Juan Capistrano, honoring Native American women.

Robert also had exhibits of his art at the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park, Riverside County Art Museum and the University of Vermillion. His works traveled throughout the United States for four decades, Yokohama, Japan, and Germany. He created art for California Governor Jerry Brown and Tom Bradley, Mayor of Los Angeles.

As an author, Robert wrote and illustrated booklets including "War Hoops", "Jazz", "For Indians Only" and "Rubber Arrows." He graciously provided illustrations in Welda Johnson's, Brothers of the Earth (available in the gift shop at the Santa Fe Train Depot in Grape Day Park).

Robert's compassion led him to donate both his art and time to the Salvation Army, the Boys Club, Native American Women's Club, Heart Fund, Kidney Foundation and many others. He and Edwina, his wife, traveled for many years to a village 15 miles South of Tijuana to improve the living conditions of the impoverished citizens in that area. Education was also a calling. At Palomar College, Robert taught in the Art Department and Native American Studies for 16 years. He was also the Artist in Residence at the University of San Diego in 2003.

Because of his natural gifts in multiple forms of artistic expression and his compassion for others, Robert Freeman is a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOREVER LEGEND.