



The Escondido History Center

With the Generous Sponsorship of

Jack Raymond

2020 ESCONDIDO LEGENDS APPLICATION



JACK PORT AWARD **MILITARY HERO AND ESCONDIDO BUSINESSMAN**

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 enrollment in JR. ROTC or an Armed Forces commitment. Also, additional consideration will be given for participation and interest in business education. 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 WITH A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
4. TELL US ABOUT YOUR ENROLLMENT IN JR. ROTC OR YOUR ARMED FORCES COMMITMENT
5. TELL US ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED
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

JACK PORT

Jack Port is a graduate of Escondido High School, a successful businessman, a dedicated educational and community leader. A look at his life begins with his family.

Jack and his father Charlie, mother Rena, and brother Marvin settled in Escondido in 1927 when he was five years old. Jack attended local elementary schools and Escondido High School where he played basketball for four years and was Senior Class Secretary-Treasurer. He also was in Hi-Y, Letterman's Club and on the Cougar newspaper staff. After graduating from high school in 1939 he attended UCLA.

World War II had started and Jack left UCLA to work at Consolidated Aircraft in San Diego and was deferred from the military draft. Jack had a strong urge to serve and enlisted in the Army and was sent to Camp Roberts for basic training. Unlike many local young men who were sent to the Pacific Theater, Jack was sent to England as a member of the 4th Infantry Division and stormed Utah Beach on D-Day. After establishing a beach head, the 4th Division spent more than six months of continuous contact with the enemy, advancing east across France. Jack was part of the battle Sainte-Mère-Église, through the Cotentin Peninsula to Cherbourg, ending in Paris in late August. Next, the 4th Division moved to Belgium against Siegfried Line, onto Luxembourg for the Battle of the Bulge and the counterattack in January of 1945. With heavy fighting they crossed the Rhine in late March. Continuing the push east through Bavaria, the 4th Division was finally put on occupation duty in May of 1945. Later, reflecting on his experience Jack said, "If every person...served 24 hours in combat duty as an Infantryman, there would be no more wars". As self-effacing as he is, Jack did his duty and is a hero. For his service, he has received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, declared an Honorary Citizen in three Normandy towns and in 2009 in Paris, inducted into the National Order of the Legion of Honor (France's highest Military Award), and ended his service with the rank of Sergeant Major. The citizens of Saint Pois, France, are so appreciative of Jack Port's service, they have named their High School after him.

Upon returning from the War, Jack purchased his father's clothing business and established the very successful Port's Men's and Boy's Wear on Grand Avenue in Escondido. Jack closed the business in 1975. In 1973, with other local businessmen, Jack started the North County Bank and served on the Board of Directors until the bank was purchased by Wells-Fargo National Bank.

Always a strong advocate of education, Jack served on the former Orange Glen School District Board and was appointed to the San Diego County Board of Education in 1963, and then was reelected six times, serving for thirty years until 1993. As a leader on the Board, Jack was instrumental in developing the Adopt-A-School program and was honored at the White House in 1983 for his leadership. Other Escondido and area organizations that benefitted from Jack's interest and expertise include: Escondido Chamber of Commerce, San Diego County United Way, San Diego Better Business Bureau, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Task Force (ADAPT), Escondido Boys and Girls Club and Hospice of Escondido.

Jack Port, an Escondido High School product, a successful local businessman, a dedicated leader in Education, a tireless community servant and an unassuming Hero of the Greatest Generation is a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOREVER LEGEND.