



# The Escondido History Center

With the Generous Sponsorship of

Jack Raymond

2020 ESCONDIDO LEGENDS APPLICATION



## **GEORGE CORDRY AWARD** **NEWS REPORTER AND COMMUNITY LEADER**

**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 active involvement in media production and/or a demonstrated interest in school sports. Commitment to attend the Honorarium presentation, when arranged, is required.

**Applications are available at [www.escondidohistory.org](http://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](mailto: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 HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE INVOLVING MEDIA PRODUCTION
5. DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL SPORTS
6. TELL US ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED
7. DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY WORK AND SERVICE
8. DESCRIBE YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
9. SUBMIT YOUR PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE, AND INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE OF YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

## George Collins Cordry

George Cordry, a tireless supporter of all things Escondido, is best known for his love of sports, especially those at Escondido High School.

George, an only child, was born in 1934 in Charleston, West Virginia. The family moved to Chicago and then to Sierra Madre before making Escondido their home in 1948. He started Escondido High School as a freshman and graduated in 1952. George demonstrated a love of sports by playing basketball for four years and being selected Captain and All-Metro League his junior year. He also played tennis for four years. With a “wicked” knuckle curve, George was best known for baseball and earned MVP honors his junior year. His co-curricular participation at Escondido High also included Key Club, Cougar Knights, Student Council, Junior Statesman, Public Speaking Club and Drama Club.

After briefly attending San Diego State, George transferred to Palomar College and continued his success in athletics as a member of Palomar’s basketball team and as a pitcher on the baseball team, earning All-Conference honors for two years. In 1955 George earned an A.A. Degree.

Because of his interest, love and success in sports, George wanted to be a coach, but was offered a job being a freelance sports reporter. His focus changed to journalism, where he found success and a new passion, and was hired as a sports reporter for the Times-Advocate in 1955. Except for two years in the Army, he worked at the Times-Advocate until 1984 as a reporter, sports editor, City Hall reporter, City editor, Columnist and Managing Editor. After George left the Times-Advocate, he and Ron Kenney started a weekly local newspaper called The Reporter. Leaving the newspaper business, George served as Public Information Director, Executive Director of the Palomar College Foundation and Chair of the Alumni Association. In 1986 he became the first Director of Development for the Palomar-Pomerado Health System.

The love George felt toward Escondido High School is legendary. He led the campaign to replace the stadium lights, to have the football field named for Coach Chick Embrey, to help found the Cougar Athletic Booster Club, and was inducted into the Cougar Hall of Fame in 2005. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of all players, teams, coaches, and records of Escondido athletics, and was always willing and eager to share this information.

Beyond his love for Escondido High School, George loved this community and “could never say no when it came to helping Escondido”. He belonged to the Jaycees, the Escondido History Center and was also instrumental in the formation of Escondido High’s 50+ Reunions. George was selected Grape Day King with his wife Shirley as the Queen.

George Cordry was always exuberant and passionate when he talked about sports or Escondido. He and his wife Shirley raised two children, Pam and Mike. George Cordry is remembered as Mr. Escondido High School but should also be remembered as Mr. Escondido and now is a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOREVER LEGEND.