



The Escondido History Center

With the Generous Sponsorship of

Jack Raymond

2022 ESCONDIDO LEGENDS AWARDS



APPLICATION

LLOYD "LEFTY" MITCHELL AWARD COMMUNITY SERVANT

Explanation of award: The honorarium will be given to a senior 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. Additional consideration will be given for a pronounced interest in pursuing a career in public safety and/or government service. Also, additional consideration will be given for participation in varsity basketball or softball. Volunteering in the community is also important.

Commitment to attend the Honorarium presentation on **January 26, 2022 is required.**

Applications are also available 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 Friday, December 8, 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 AND YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S NAME
2. THE HIGH SCHOOL YOU ATTEND
3. SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
4. TELL US ABOUT YOUR PUBLIC SAFETY AND/OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE
5. DESCRIBE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN VARSITY BASEBALL OR SOFTBALL
6. DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY WORK AND SERVICE
7. DESCRIBE YOUR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Lloyd “Lefty” Mitchell

During his 21 years of community service as chief of Police and City Manager, Lloyd “Lefty” Mitchell established the foundation of Escondido and now is a 2022 Escondido Legend.

Lloyd McIntyre Mitchell was born in Oakley, Utah January 10, 1907. He was dubbed “Lefty” for his left-handed pitching in high school and at the University of Idaho where he received a degree in chemical engineering. After receiving additional training in electrical engineering in the early days of radio in Kansas City, MO, he and his wife, Dottie, made the big move to California in 1934. Prior to the Second World War, Lefty worked for the Mutual Broadcast System in both San Diego and Los Angeles.

During the war, he worked for Raytheon on board U. S. Naval ships, installing radar. After the war, he was able to rejoin his family on the ranch in his beloved Escondido. In 1946, Lefty joined the Escondido Police Department as a radio repairman.

After a scandal occurred in the police department, Lefty Mitchell was asked to take over the position of Chief of Police. During his tenure, the department was modernized and reorganized. Known as a proven administrator and able organizer, Lefty established training programs, a merit system for advancement, and formed the Mounted Police Posse and the Motorcycle Drill Team.

It was during his time as Chief of Police that he realized the need for an organization that provided healthy outlets for boys in Escondido. Out of this need, Lefty and other leaders of the community started the Escondido Boys Club (now known as the Boys and Girls Club of Greater San Diego).

Lloyd Mitchell, with his proven administrative record, was appointed City Manager in January 1956. Escondido benefited from his vision and guidance to keep pace with the population growth that was to follow. During his twelve years as City Manager, Lefty established the City’s public works, accounting, personnel and recreation departments. He oversaw the purchase of land for Kit Carson Park and planned the City’s sewer treatment plant.

During a period of drought in the late 1950s and 1960s, Lefty was aware that the existing climate conditions did not reflect the frequent flooding which had often occurred along the Escondido River and he knew that a planned flood control system was needed to protect the city from flooding and thereby ensure the City’s growth. Although the project was controversial, Lefty helped plan and push for a successful channel that was amusingly dubbed “Mitch’s Ditch” in order to pave the way for our city’s growth.

Lloyd “Lefty” Mitchell, acknowledged for his career and life of community service, had a Boys and Girls Club campus named for him as well as a conference room in the current Escondido City Hall. He was truly a “community treasure” and is now honored as a 2022 Escondido Legend.