

AL MÉRITO AWARD RECIPIENTS



Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

50 years ago, the Arizona Historical Society established the Al Mérito Award to recognize those who have contributed significantly to preserving and promoting Arizona history. Named for the nineteenth-century award bestowed by a newly independent government of Mexico for meritorious service to the Republic, al mérito literally translates to for merit. Today, the Arizona Historical Society's highest honor acknowledges meritorious service for those who preserve and celebrate Arizona history.

- 2023**
Dr. Michael M. Brescia
Frank Barrios
Arizona Barrio Stories
Navajo County Historical Society
- 2022**
Arizona Contractor
& Community Magazine
Cindy Hayostek
Dr. Bruce Dinges
- 2021**
Tom Foster
- 2020**
Delia Muñoz
Superstition Mountain
Historical Society
- 2019**
Janeen Trevillyan
Desert Caballeros
Western Museum
- 2018**
Vernelda J. Grant
Dr. James Klein
- 2017**
James E. Babbitt
Sulphur Springs Valley
Historical Society
- 2016**
Charles Flynn
- 2015**
Shaw Kinsley
- 2014**
Patrick Foley
Dr. Bernard "Bunny" Fontana
Dr. James "Big Jim" Griffith
- 2013**
Arizona Military Museum
- 2012**
Dan Messersmith
George Dvorak and the
Fort Verde Volunteers
- 2011**
Marshall Trimble
- 2010**
Malcolm Mackey
- 2009**
John C. Lacy
- 2008**
William (Bill) Porter
- 2007**
Daniel J. (Jim) Patterson
- 2006**
Victor M. Linoff
- 2005**
Melvin Van Vorst
Melissa Ruffner
- 2004**
Carol Cribbet-Bell
Hazel "Billie" Thiesen
- 2003**
Betty Grounds
Edith Denton
- 2002**
Nan and Harry Ames
- 2001**
Della Meadows
Mary L. Hunt
- 2000**
Fred W. Jones
- 1999**
H. Tom Thompson
Pine-Strawberry Archaeological
and Historical Society
- 1998**
Dr. Wilbur A. Haak
- 1997**
Mary Kukal
- 1996**
Barry M. Goldwater
- 1995**
Marguerite Noble
- 1994**
Karin Goudy
- 1993**
Donald H. Bufkin
- 1992**
Billy Earley
- 1991**
Howard P. Henlin
- 1990**
City of Yuma
- 1989**
Jerome Historical Society
- 1988**
Carrillo School
Pat Callahan
- 1987**
Las Senoras de Socorro
Robert Werley
Arizona Humanities Council
Dr. C.L. Sonnichsen
- 1985**
John W. and Helen Murphey
Herb and Dorothy McLaughlin
Clay P. Bedford
Dr. Arthur Woodward
- 1984**
Madeline Ferrin Paré
Arthur J. (Jim) and Mary Faul
Elizabeth F. Ruffner
Elizabeth Garretson
- 1983**
Garnett Franklin
William E. Negus
Eleanor B. Sloan
Dr. John (Jack) Alexander Carroll
- 1982**
Tucson Festival Society
Constance Wynn Altshuler
Joe and Vada C. Rodriguez
- 1981**
Dr. Emil W. Haury
Tubac Historical Society
Pine-Strawberry Historical Society
- 1980**
Library Learning Center,
Arizona Western College
Paul V. Long
Pimeria Alta Historical Society
- 1979**
Billy and Lynn Earley
Prescott Courier
Al Hubbard
- 1978**
Southwest Studies Institute,
Maricopa County Community
College District
Elizabeth Brownell
Colonel Eugene Murphy
5th Calvary Memorial Regiment
- 1977**
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society
Elaine Fontein Saba
Dorothy Hall
Daughters of Mojave County Pioneers
- 1976**
Ruth Adams
Platt Cline
Bert M. Fireman
Junior League of Tucson, Inc.
Lester W. Ruffner
- 1975**
Kelley Rollings
Otis Chidester
Doris K. Seibold
Harry Montgomery
Tempe Historical Society
- 1974**
George and Mary Alice Bradt
Dewey Farr
Northland Press
Elizabeth S. Oldaker
Edward Soza
- 1973**
John D. Driggs
First National Bank of Arizona
George W. Chambers
Ann-Eve Mansfeld Johnson
Sunnyside High School
Associated Press, Arizona Bureau
Roscoe G. Willson
Thelma Keickhefer
Sharlot Hall Historical Society
Yuma County Historical Society
Gail Irwin Gardner
Eleazar Dias Herreras
Tucson Daily Citizen