



# AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: May 15, 2018

Agenda Item 1-I

**Approvals:**

City Manager [Signature]

Dept. Head [Signature]

Attorney [Signature]

Finance [Signature]

**Department:** Beaches, Parks and Recreation  
**Prepared By:** Samantha Thomas, Recreation Manager [Signature]

**Subject:** **2018 WALL OF RECOGNITION HONOREE**

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Summary:** The Wall of Recognition Committee recommends that City Council approve and honor the selection for the 2018 honoree, Lou Leto.

**Background:** In 1994, City Council approved the creation of the Wall of Recognition designed to honor individuals who have dedicated their time to improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors of the City of San Clemente. The "Wall of Recognition" is located in the lobby at the Community Center with a plaque adjacent to the names of past recipients, which describes the reasons for creation of the Wall of Recognition. The plaque reads as follows:

*This "Wall of Recognition" is dedicated to those individuals who, through their contributions and selfless efforts, have made the City of San Clemente, our community, a better place to live, work and play. These individuals have been selected by their fellow citizens as individuals who have gone the extra mile for San Clemente, their community.*

Currently, there are 37 individuals named to the Wall. They include Dick Arons, Max Berg, Wilma Bloom, Leo F. Fessenden, Anthony R. "Tony" DiGiovanni, Dorothy Fuller, Ralph Klaasen, R. Stan Manning, Don R. McCanne, M.D., William A. "Mac" McGilligan, Jan Sener, Richard Thomas Steed, Lee Steelman, Woodrow (Woody) Chesney Stingley, Peggy Stroud, Arlie Waterman, Eleanor Yutzi, Jim Johnson, Julie DiGiovanni, Richard "Rod" Rodriguez, Agnes Nesbitt, Pete McKenzie, Jim Holbert, Rex Tyner, Ann Hansen and Don Hansen, Bertha Henry Taylor, Joe Anderson, Mary Anna Anderson, Dr. William "Bill" Thomas, Tony Carbonara, Ruth DeNault, Betty Limberg, Jim Nielsen, Robert "Bob" Hayden, Dr. Gus Gialamas, MD, and Peggy Vance.

Recently, residents and community-based service organizations submitted nominations for the 2018 Wall of Recognition selection process.

The Wall of Recognition Committee is now composed of a representative from City Council, Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission, Human Affairs Committee, and past recipients of this prestigious award. The 2018 Wall of Recognition Committee members are Councilmember Chris Hamm, Commissioner John Dorey, Committee

Member Kay Childs, Recreation Manager Samantha Thomas, and former recipients Joe Anderson, Don Hansen, Rod Rodriguez, Jan Sener, Dr. William Thomas, Ruth DeNault, Jim Nielsen, Robert Hayden, Dr. Gus Gialamas, MD, and Peggy Vance.

**Discussion:** Committee Members submitted votes by mail for the candidates, and on, March 28, 2018, members of the Wall of Recognition Committee met and reviewed the information submitted by the sponsor for each nominee. The Committee based their selection on criteria that included lifetime achievements, areas of contributions, multi-dimensional and long term benefits that include more than one project, and community involvement.

Based on this information, the Committee selected Lou Leto as the 2018 honoree. Attached is background information on the honoree as submitted by the nominators that describes his many outstanding contributions to the community.

Upon City Council approval, the Wall of Recognition Committee would request the Mayor to honor Lou Leto with a certificate of recognition. A plaque will then be mounted permanently on the "Wall" at the Community Center.

Based on direction by past Wall of Recognition Committees, staff will notify only the nominators of the nominees that were not selected, thereby, leaving notification to the discretion of the nominators to notify those that were not selected for this honor.

**Recommended**

**Action:** WALL OF RECOGNITION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council 1) approve the selection for the 2018 recipient, Lou Leto to be honored on the Wall of Recognition; and 2) direct the Mayor to present Lou Leto with a certificate of recognition.

**Attachments:**

1. Background information on selected recipient
2. Wall of Recognition Honorees
3. Wall of Recognition Summary Policy

**Notification:** Wall of Recognition Committee  
Lou Leto  
Casa Romantica Cultural Center

**1. Nominee Information:**

**Name of Nominee:** Lou Leto  
**Nominee Age:** 68  
**Length of time nominee has resided in San Clemente:** 10 years

**2. Sponsor Type:**

(o) Non-Profit Organization

**3. Sponsor Information:**

**If sponsor is Non-Profit Organization, organization name:** Casa Romantica Cultural Center

**If sponsor is consensus, name of sponsoring individuals (minimum of 10) whose primary residences are in the City of San Clemente:**

Casa Romantica, 415 Avenida Granada

**4. Service to the Community:**

**Services provided by the nominee that benefited the community and length of time they were provided. Estimate the number of hours the nominee spent in the provision of these services.**

Casa Romantica would like to nominate Lou Leto for Citizen of the Year. Lou has been a active volunteer for Casa Romantica for the past 4 years. He volunteers as a tour docent, as condierge at our many events, willingly passes out flyers and posters for our events, seeks donations for our fundraisers, and is a member of our Volunteer Advisory Council (a leadership board). He volunteers over 200 hours per year to Casa Romantica and is a vocal advocate for Casa Romantica in the community, encouraging people to visit and join Casa Romantica. He was the unanimous selection for our 2017 Volunteer of the Year.

In addition to volunteering his time at Casa Romantica, Lou is a member of the Retired Sheriff Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) for the past 3 years and can often be seen around San Clemente in uniform assisting our local Sheriff Department with traffic and crowd control, vehicle code and parking enforcement and vacation home checks. He is the PACT House Community Ambassador at the pier. He is a co-founder of the San Clemente Alliance for Law Enforcement and coordinates their appreciation dinner for our local Deputies.

He is a Professional Services Responder for the Orange County Sheriff's Department Community Programs Unit, performing community relations for Drug Abuse is Life Abuse program with various schools, events and parades throughout Orange County.

He has volunteered with the Ocean Festival for the past 10 years, helping with set-up and working in the T-shirt booth. He assists with two fundraisers for Friends of San Clemente and is a member of the Public Safety Task Force for the City of San Clemente advising on strategic direction.

Lou has a passion for cars, which has led him to volunteer as an advisor to the San Clemente High School Auto Academy, obtaining training equipment donations and helping with fundraising. Most Saturday mornings, Lou volunteers at the Outlet Mall's South Orange County Cars and Coffee.

**A description of why the services provided by the nominee were of value to the community and why the sponsor considers the nominee to be ideal for the Wall of Recognition. The sponsor shall be responsible to verify the accuracy of the information provided.**

Lou's advocacy for Casa Romantica has been a great asset to our Cultural Center. He brings in new members and promotes the History of San Clemente through his tours and outreach. This alone makes him a good candidate for Citizen of the year, but he does so much more. His untiring efforts supporting the Sheriff's Department help protect the safety of our citizens and visitors in San Clemente, not only in the tasks he does but in relieving our deputy sheriffs from dealing with minor issues like code & parking enforcement, but in allowing the Sheriff Deputies to focus on more important issues. As an executive producer for Around the Town video segments related to RSVP and Safety he is responsible for getting the word out to many citizens about various safety regulations, tips and habits. He has attended the Beachside Chats most weeks where he is a strong advocate for the organizations he volunteers. Volunteering is a full time job for Lou and he makes our community a better and safer place for all of us.

**5. Additional Comments (optional):**

Lou is generous with his time and is a role model for all of us at the Casa and around San Clemente.

Currently, there are 37 individuals named to the Wall. They include:

1995	Max Berg Leo F. Fessenden Anthony R. "Tony" DiGiovanni William A. "Mac" McGilligan Richard Thomas Steed Arlie Waterman
1996	Don R. McCanne, M.D. Lee Steelman
1997	Dorothy Fuller
1998	Jan Sener
1999	R. Stan Manning Eleanor Yutzi
2000	Dick Arons Peggy Stroud
2001	Ralph Klaasen
2002	Woodrow "Woody" Chesney Stingley
2003	Wilma Bloom
2004	Jim Johnson
2005	Julie DiGiovanni
2006	Richard "Rod" Rodriguez Agnes Nesbitt
2007	Pete McKenzie Jim Holbert
2008	Rex Tyner
2009	Ann Hansen and Don Hansen
2010	Bertha Henry Taylor
2011	Joe Anderson & Mary Anna Anderson
2012	Dr. William "Bill" Thomas
2013	Tony Carbonara
2014	Ruth DeNault
2015	Betty Limberg Jim Nielsen
2016	Robert "Bob" Hayden
2017	Gus Gialamas, MD Peggy Vance



## **CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE WALL OF RECOGNITION**

(Summary of Policy)

In recognition of the outstanding efforts of individuals who dedicate time and effort to the betterment of the community, the City of San Clemente has established a Wall of Recognition, located in the lobby of the Community Center, 100 North Calle Seville. The contributions and selfless efforts of these individuals have made the City of San Clemente a more productive and enjoyable place to live, work and play.

In February of each year, the City accepts nominations, from non-profit organizations or groups consisting of 10 or more individuals, of any person who meets the qualifications, as listed below, to be recognized on the Wall of Recognition. A review committee, comprised of a representative of the City Council, the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission, the Human Affairs Committee, City staff, and past recipients of the award reviews the applications and makes a recommendation to City Council. The recipient chosen is permanently honored on the Wall with a plaque describing the contributions of the individual.

### Guidelines for Sponsorship

In order for a nominee to be considered for the Wall of Recognition, he/she must be sponsored by a group in the following manner:

- a. **Non-Profit Organization:** The nominee is sponsored by an organization registered with the State of California as a not-for-profit community organization, exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; or
- b. **Consensus:** The nominee is sponsored by a minimum of 10 individuals whose primary residences are in the City of San Clemente.

### Qualifications of the Nominee to be Recognized on the Wall of Recognition

- a. The nominee must be a resident (primary residence) of the City of San Clemente for a minimum of 10 years.
- b. Service to the community must have been performed in the City or can be adequately shown to have directly benefited the City.

## Wall of Recognition Policy

### Submittal Requirements

The following items shall be included in the request to recognize a nominee on the Wall of Recognition. The request shall be limited to one (1) single-sided 8 1/2" by 11" typewritten page.

- a. Name, address and age of individual nominated.
- b. Name and address of the sponsor(s) and the name and address of the contact person who will represent the sponsor. Only one individual shall be listed as the contact person. For nominees being sponsored by a consensus group, the list of sponsoring individuals can be submitted on a separate sheet of paper.
- c. Length of time the nominee has resided in the City (primary residence).
- d. Services provided by the nominee that benefited the community and length of time they were provided. Estimate the number of hours the nominee spent in the provision of these services.
- e. A description of why the services provided by the nominee were of value to the community and why the sponsor considers the nominee to be ideal for the Wall of Recognition. The sponsor shall be responsible to verify the accuracy of the information provided.

### Application Deadline

Written nominations may be submitted to the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Department, 100 N. Calle Seville, San Clemente, CA 92672. The deadline for submittals is 5:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of February each year. Submittals received after the deadline will be returned to the sponsor unopened.

Should you need further clarification regarding qualification and submittal requirements, please call the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Department at (949) 361-8237.