



9 New Arizona Historymakers™ Announced in 2023

2023 Arizona Historymakers - On October 14, 2023, the Historical League will honor 9 living Arizona Historymakers at a recognition event. Guests will have an opportunity to meet the Historymakers and the program will showcase highlights from their extraordinary lives.

Arizona Historymakers is the signature program for the Historical League. Since 1992 the League has preserved Arizona history by collecting the oral histories of the people who made it. To date more than 90 Historymakers have been honored for their impact on the state. Their videos and transcribed oral histories are archived on the League's website, giving free access to their powerful stories to scholars, media and the general public. Past honorees include Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Bil Keane, Senator Barry Goldwater, the Navajo Code Talkers, Dr. Warren Stewart, Alberto Rios and Honorable Barbara Barrett.

The 2023 Arizona Historymakers honorees include:

Frank M. Barrios

The past and the present flow seamlessly through the story of Frank Barrios. Renowned as a master storyteller dedicated to preserving the past, preserving water--the lifeblood of the desert--was his life's work as a civil engineer. He was born in Phoenix in 1942. The family was well off but that did not prevent Mr. Barrios from suffering from racial discrimination. His stories focus on the contribution of Mexican Americans to Phoenix's early development and into today. He graduated from ASU with a degree in civil engineering and over a 30-year career, he worked on flood control, CAP, and held policy-making positions on the Arizona Department of Water Resources, and after retirement served three years on the Central Arizona Project Board of Directors. He also became instrumental in social issues involving Mexican Americans and the homeless through St. Vincent de Paul. He has been honored with the Hon-Kachina Award for Volunteer Service and named an Arizona Culture Keeper.

Michael M. Crow, Ph.D.

Michael M. Crow is an educator, knowledge enterprise architect, science and technology policy scholar and higher education leader. He became the sixteenth president of Arizona State University in July 2002 and has spearheaded ASU's rapid and groundbreaking transformative evolution into one of the world's best public metropolitan research universities. As a model "New American University," ASU simultaneously demonstrates comprehensive excellence, inclusivity representative of the ethnic and socioeconomic diversity of the United States, and consequential societal impact.

Angel Delgadillo

He is truly a “living legend.” Songwriters, movie makers and writers have all been inspired by his story. On September 22, 1978, US 40 opened and Route 66 was bypassed. Instantly Seligman, Arizona, lost most of its economy. Longtime Seligman barber Angel Delgadillo decided to do something about it. Over the years he doggedly built support from local businesses, counties and the state to make Route 66 a historic road. In 1987 he founded the Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona; and in 1988, 159 miles of the “Mother Road” was dedicated as historic. Interest in Route 66 blossomed, with visitors from around the world coming to enjoy Seligman and the nostalgic old road. Mr. Delgadillo, himself, is an attraction for the visitors, who learn the story of one man who never gave up in the face of nearly unsurmountable challenges. Mr. Delgadillo finally retired from his barbershop in 2022 at the age of 95.

Dolan Ellis

Dolan Ellis has penned more than 300 songs and ballads about Arizona, its history, and its people, earning him the honor of “Arizona’s Official State Balladeer” for more than 55 years. His 12-string guitar and his rich baritone voice led him to be an original member of the nationally famous ‘60s folk singing group, “The New Christy Minstrels.” While with the group, they earned gold records and a Grammy award. But Dolan was drawn back home by his love for Arizona and its natural beauties, and has extensively covered the state in his famous Jeeps, on foot, by horseback and in the air. His desire to gather and preserve the songs and stories of Arizona prompted him to establish the “Arizona Folklore Preserve” in Southern Arizona’s Ramsey Canyon, where Arizona’s songs and stories have been presented and preserved for over 25 years. Dolan Ellis has been awarded many honors for his work as a singer/songwriter and as a preservationist of Arizona’s history and folk heritage. He personifies these wonderful historical aspects of Arizona.

Honorable Terry Goddard

Terry Goddard has spent his life in public service, working to increase citizen participation in government, enhancing consumer protection and making government more transparent. A native of Tucson, he has served as Phoenix mayor, Arizona Attorney General, Arizona State Director of HUD, and President of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District. Most recently, he spearheaded the Arizona voter approval of Prop. 211, the Stop Dark Money initiative in the fall of 2022. The initiative will require public disclosure of major donations used in campaign media spending. Among his other accomplishments, he led the effort to change the City of Phoenix elections to a district system, which led to more minority representation; opened the city planning process to more citizen involvement; and as attorney general focused on predatory lending, deceptive advertising and fighting transnational money laundering. The son of former Governor Sam Goddard, he is a graduate of Harvard and a Navy veteran.

Denise D. Resnik

When Denise Resnik's 2-year-old son was diagnosed with autism in 1993, she and her husband were advised to “love, accept and plan to institutionalize” their child. Ms. Resnik committed then that she was going to find another way. And 25 years later, she did! The native Phoenician applied her business background, communications skills and energies toward co-founding the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center, now a nationally renowned nonprofit serving children and adults in 1998. Sister organization First Place® AZ and its Global Leadership Institute, founded by Ms. Resnik in 2012, are spearheading a new generation of housing and community options for adults with autism and other neurodiversities. Its flagship property, First Place–Phoenix, opened in 2018, and today provides residents

with supports for honing essential life skills that lead to more independent living. Her vision and leadership have inspired PBS NewsHour to recognize Phoenix as “the most autism-friendly city in the world.” First Place was also featured in the award-winning 2022 documentary on the history of autism titled “In a Different Key.” As Founder & President/CEO of First Place, Ms. Resnik also proudly mentions both her children when she includes “Matt & Ally’s Mom” in her signature.

Jeffrey M. Trent, Ph.D.

Dr. Jeffrey M. Trent is the visionary founder of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen), part of City of Hope. TGen helped revolutionize the field of precision medicine, a medical approach that takes into account an individual's genomic makeup when diagnosing and treating diseases. The native Phoenician's illustrious career includes serving as the founding director of the Division of Intramural Research (DIR) at the National Human Genome Research Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. entity that led the international effort to map the human genome; and faculty leadership positions at the University of Michigan and the University of Arizona. In addition to a number of awards and honors received over his 40-plus-year distinguished career, he has authored more than 400 manuscripts in the scientific literature, numerous book chapters, invited reviews and invited lectures. Along with his role as president and research director of TGen, he maintains an active research lab that focuses primarily on cancer, including seminal work in skin, prostate and ovarian cancer.

Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D.

Dr. Daniel Von Hoff, founding Physician-in-Chief of the Phoenix non-profit TGen has devoted much of his life to laboratory and clinical development of new anti-cancer agents. He and his colleagues were involved in the beginning of the development of many new therapies now used routinely for treatment of patients with leukemias, breast, prostate, lung, colon, gallbladder, ovarian, skin and multiple other types of cancer. In addition, Dr. Von Hoff led the clinical trials for FDA approval of 3 of the 4 new therapies that improve survival for patients with advanced pancreatic cancer. His TGen team is currently concentrating on early detection of pancreatic cancer through blood and unique imaging technologies, as well as training the next generation of physician investigators. In addition to his many scientific accolades and prestigious affiliations, Dr. Von Hoff is known as a compassionate doctor who carefully listens to his patients. In a commencement address to his alma mater, Carroll College, he described his philosophy: "To cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always."

Mrs. Elizabeth J. White

Mrs. Elizabeth J. White, who turned 100 February 20th, is the owner of one of Phoenix's “oldest and longest” owned and operated African-American establishments, The Golden Rule Cafe. Affectionately referred to as “Mrs. White's,” the business has stood the test of time. Through perseverance, hard work, and dedication to her craft, she has weathered many storms.... including, discrimination against African-Americans and women. A divorced mother of five, she and the four youngest children moved to Phoenix in 1963 to help her brother Floyd Jimmerson in his restaurant and the church. She took over the restaurant after her brother moved. Bank loans for African Americans were difficult and for a Black woman in business (impossible) in those days. Local activists Dr. Lincoln and Eleanor Ragsdale loaned her \$500 through their loan company. Over the years the hearty soul food cooking attracted such legends as Sen. John McCain, Jesse Jackson, Alvan Adams, and Charles Barkley. She believes in feeding the body and the spirit and is an ordained pastor of Jesus, the Church of the Living God. She has mentored many with difficult pasts over the years. In her words, she says “We try to be good because that is what the Golden Rule means.”