Almost 50 years ago, the Arizona Historical Society established the Al Merito 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, almerito literally translates to *for merit*. Today, the Arizona Historical Society’s highest honor acknowledges meritorious service for those who preserve and celebrate Arizona history.

**2022**
Arizona Contractor & Community Magazine  
Cindy Hayostek  
Bruce Dinges

**2021**
Tom Foster

**2020**
Della Muñoz  
Superstition Mountain Historical Society

**2019**
Janeen Trevillyan  
Desert Caballeros Western Museum

**2018**
Vernelda J. Grant  
James Klein

**2017**
James Babbitt  
Southwestern Historical Society

**2016**
Charles Flynn

**2015**
Shaw Kinsley, Tubac

**2014**
Patrick Foley, Kingman  
Dr. Bernard “Bunny” Fontana, Tucson  
Dr. James “Big Jim” Griffith, Tucson

**2013**
Arizona Military Museum

**2012**
Dan Messersmith, Kingman  
George Dvorak and the Fort Verde Volunteers, Camp Verde

**2011**
Marshall Trimble, Scottsdale

**2010**
Malcolm Mackey, Flagstaff

**2009**
John C. Lacy, Tucson

**2008**
Bill Porter, Kingman

**2007**
Jim Patterson, Chandler

**2006**
Victor Linoff, Tempe

**2005**
Melvin Van Vorst, Pine  
Melissa Ruffner, Prescott

**2004**
Carol Cribbet-Bell, Tucson  
Hazel "Billie" Thiesen, Quartzsite

**2003**
Betty Grounds, Kingman  
Edith Denton, Sedona

**2002**
Nan and Harry Ames, Douglas

**2001**
Della Meadows, Florence  
Mary L. Hunt, Pine

**2000**
Fred W. Jones

**1999**
Pine-Strawberry Historical Society

**1998**
Dr. Wilbur A. Haak

**1997**
Mary Kuкал

**1996**
The Honorable Barry M. Goldwater

**1995**
Marguerite Noble

**1994**
Karin Goudy

**1993**
Donald H. Bulkin

**1992**
Mrs. Billy Earley

**1991**
Howard P. Henlin

**1990**
City of Yuma

**1989**
Jerome Historical Society

**1988**
Carrillo School  
Pat Callahan

**1987**
Las Señoras de Socorro  
Robert Hurley  
Arizona Humanities Council  
C. L. Sonnichsen

**1985**
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Murphey  
Mr. and Mrs. Herb McLaughlin  
Mr. Clap P. Bedord  
Dr. Arthur Woodward

**1984**
Madeline Ferrin Paré  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur  
Jim and Mary Faul  
Elizabeth F. Ruffner  
Elizabeth Garretson

**1983**
Mrs. Gamette Franklin  
Mr. William E. Negus  
Mrs. Eleanor B. Sloan  
Dr. John (Jack) Alexander Carroll, Troy State University

**1982**
Tucson Festival Society  
Constance Wynn Altschuler  
Joe and Vada C. Rodriguez

**1981**
Dr. Emil W. Haury  
Tubac Historical Society  
Pine-Strawberry Historical Society

**1980**
Library Learning Center, Arizona Western College, Yuma  
Mr. 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 Cavalry Memorial Regiment

**1977**
Casa Grande Valley Historical Society  
Mrs. Joseph Saba  
Mrs. Dorothy Hall  
Daughters of the Mojave County Pioneers

**1976**
The Honorable Ruth Adams  
Platt Cline  
Bert M. Fireman  
Junior League of Tucson, Inc.  
Lester W. Ruffner

**1975**
George and Mary Alice Bradt  
Dewey Farr  
Northland Press  
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Oldaker  
Edward Soza

**1974**
John D. Driggs  
First National Bank of Arizona Historical Society  
George W. Chambers  
Howard Henson  
Ernest Johannsen  
Mrs. Emery C. Johnson (Ann Eve)  
Sunnyside High School  
Associated Press, Arizona Bureau  
William A. Small, Jr.  
Roscoe G. Willson  
Mrs. John W. Keickhefer