

# AL MÉRITO AWARD RECIPIENTS



Connecting people through the power of Arizona's history.

Over 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.

- 2025**  
Amy Hartmann-Gordon  
David Leighton  
Jeron Velasco  
Southern Arizona Transportation Museum  
Glendale Arizona Historical Society  
Cox Media (Tucson)
- 2024**  
Cave Creek Museum (Kathy Dwyer)  
Catherine H. Ellis  
Pioneers' Cemetery Association  
Raul and Gloria Jean Ramirez  
Shannon Rossiter
- 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*