



Wall of Recognition Recommendations (2021)

Original Thirteen Friends of the Library
Rocklin Friends of the Library

Describe the community service performed by the nominee that merits consideration of a Wall of Recognition award. If the nominee is a business, group, or organization, please also describe the main goal of the entity that is being nominated:

Original Thirteen Friends of the Library

(Known as the Terrible 13)

In 1976, a small group of library patrons started seeking funding for a new library for Rocklin. A group of 13 ladies, including the librarian Mary Emily Smith, were determined to get a larger library facility for the community. At the time, the Rocklin Library was located in the small 800 square foot building across from the old granite City Hall. It had a leaky roof, four parking spaces, and was not meeting the needs of the community.

This formidable group included: Louise Cullen, Mary Emily Smith, Lyn Sultzer, Sandy Bedwell, Pat Binley, Irene Rohde, Stacia Carr, Kay Baugh, Patty Mattfeld, Mickey Davies, Pat Steinhauer, Peggy Ruhkala, and Jean Greene.

These 13 ladies became known as the "Terrible 13." Their persistence and steadfastness in attending Rocklin City Council meetings and Placer County Board of Supervisors meetings gained these ladies this reputation. The City Council and the Board of Supervisors knew these ladies were determined. The Terrible 13 knew Placer County operated the libraries and the city had the land and they developed a plan to have the County build the library on land that the City donated in Johnson-Springview Park. They also got a Rocklin architect to donate the plans for the building at no cost.

In 1982, the nonprofit Rocklin Friends of the Library was created. These women put a lot of determination into fundraising to realize their new library facility dream. The ladies, plus volunteers, went door to door soliciting donations of \$2 for memberships to the Rocklin Friends of the Library to support the library cause. At that time, there were about 7,000 people in Rocklin. Other fundraising activities comprised of book sales, bake sales, flea markets, raffles, and publishing and selling the Rocklin history book. The final effort was the brick campaign, which would have your name on a brick for a \$100 or more donation in the Community Room of the new library.

Their persistence paid off when in 1985 the new 6,400 square feet library building was constructed with the Friends providing \$82,000 of the \$588,000 needed. Friends then provided extra funds for landscaping, furniture, and signage for an additional \$35,350.



As you can see, the “Terrible 13” were really a significant group that shaped the Rocklin library history. These Rocklin ladies wanted the new library facility for Rocklin and inspired others to help them reach that goal.

When did the community service take place?: N/A

Please include any other information about the nominee you feel is important: N/A

The Johnson Family

Please describe any association between the nominee and the City of Rocklin: "The Johnson family has had a tremendous impact on Rocklin. They and their ancestors lived and maintained the classic farmhouse at the corner of Rocklin Road and Fifth Street since 1919, built in 1886. Raymond and Florence Johnson lived there for decades and raised their family there. Raymond served on the City Council from 1944-1956, including terms as Mayor. Florence served on the Board of Trustees for the School. Florence's father, Anders Wickham, served on the Council for 22 years, including six years as Rocklin Mayor. Florence and Ray's son, Gene, was raised in Rocklin, left to pursue a career on the East Coast and then returned in the 1990s, moving back into his childhood home. He spent time renovating the house with his wife, Margaret, and became a key leader of the Rocklin Historical Society, spearheading efforts for the creation of the Rocklin History Museum, the preservation and move of St. Mary's Chapel, and the creation of a firehouse replica building. The contributions of the Johnson family certainly deserves recognition on the Wall. I came across this great obituary about Ray Johnson pasted below:

Ex-Mayor Guided Rocklin Improvements

Raymond H. Johnson had many visions for his south Placer County community, and as a member of the Rocklin City Council he helped usher in a number of civic improvements, albeit some better remembered than others. And he achieved a personal goal when he turned 100 years old on August 21. Mr. Johnson, a native of Kalamazoo, MI, died on Thanksgiving Day in an Auburn convalescent facility. The list of community improvements during Mr. Johnson's 1944-56 tenure on the City Council is long and wide-ranging. It includes the installation of natural gas and the start of garbage service, as well as the prohibition of outhouse toilets. "He was a committee of one to find a site for a baseball field; he was instigator of the first curfew ordinance; he introduced the resolution for electric windshield wipers on the police cars," recalled Marie Huson, Rocklin historian and former council member. Mr. Johnson and his wife, Florence, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary Sept. 20. In 1936 they had purchased her family's dairy farm in Rocklin, and from that year until 1949, he served as the town milkman, delivering dairy products and giving neighborhood children rides in the milk truck. He then served as a commercial dairy products distributor until his retirement in 1960. Mr. Johnson, a tall and lanky figure, served four one-year terms as Rocklin mayor, and was active as a volunteer fireman and with a number of service clubs. He and his wife were honored as Rocklin's Community Service Couple of the Year by the Rocklin Rotary Club in 1989. He was parade grand marshal in 1993 when the community marked 100 years of incorporation. "He was always an inspiration. He had a fantastic memory. He was a true servant of the people of Rocklin," Huson said. Roger Barkhurst of Rocklin recalled that, as a youth, he giggered frogs on a stream running through the Johnson property and sold the frog legs to Mr. Johnson. In later years, Mr. Johnson sold Barkhurst a home site, then showed up with his tractor to help level it. "He was a person of character," said Barkhurst, who served on the City Council from 1968 to 1981. Survivors include his wife, Florence, a son, Gene of Sunnyvale, and a brother, Kenneth of Flint, MI. A graveside memorial service will be held at 2 PM Saturday in the Rocklin Cemetery. [Sacramento Bee, Thursday, 12-5-1996. Submitted by Kathie Marynik.]"



Please list the dates of the nominee's city affiliations: Throughout the last 100 years plus

Describe the community service performed by the nominee that merits consideration of a Wall of Recognition award. If the nominee is a business, group, or organization, please also describe the main goal of the entity that is being nominated:

See above

When did the community service take place?: Throughout the last 100 years

Please include any other information about the nominee you feel is important: I know the Commission selected Gene Johnson for the Wall of Recognition last year. I am hopeful that expanding this recognition to Gene, Margaret and Gene's incredible parents would allow this to move forward this year.