

The Herbert G. Klein Award for Exemplary Leadership

Awarded to member of the Impact San Diego class who, in emulation of the man this award honors, has contributed to our community through diversity of service, leadership and commitment to our region.



Each generation has outstanding individuals who make a true mark on their community. Herbert G. Klein, the distinguished retired vice president and editor-in-chief of the Copley Newspapers, was someone whose impact and contribution to the San Diego community is almost unparalleled.

Herb Klein, who was a longtime aide to Richard M. Nixon and served as White House communications director during much of the Watergate era, died July 2 at his home in La Jolla, Calif., after a heart attack. He was 91.

San Diegans will miss Klein's nearly unparalleled contributions of leadership, dedication, and service to community. The impact of his work has touched innumerable civic, social and non-profit organizations throughout our region and across the country. LEAD San Diego is especially grateful that he was able to join us on May 21st for LEAD's annual event.

At the *2009 Visionary Awards*, LEAD San Diego's annual event saluting business and public leaders who have demonstrated visionary leadership, LEAD - along with Mr. Klein - presented **Bob Benson**, from the University of California San Diego Extension, with the **2009 Herbert G. Klein Visionary Award**. The award was inaugurated three years ago to honor a future leader. It is awarded to member of the *Impact San Diego* class who, in emulation of the man this award honors, has contributed to our community through diversity of service, leadership and commitment to our region.

Nominations were made by members of the LEAD class and a committee of recent graduates determined the top five candidates. The five finalists sat at a VIP table at *The Visionary Awards*, courtesy of San Diego National Bank, where the winner was presented along with Visionary Awards in six other categories.

"This award represents exactly how LEAD serves as a catalyst for leadership in our region," said Kristy Gregg, LEAD San Diego Board Chair and Vice President, Marketing, San Diego National Bank. "It provides a unique opportunity to recognize a future civic leader while honoring a true visionary leader, Herb Klein, who has contributed so much to help establish San Diego as America's Finest City."

Award-winner Bob Benson, a resident of Carlsbad, has a proven track record of civic leadership in the San Diego region. He serves as the director of the Service & Civic Leadership department at UC San Diego Extension, and, with more than 10 years of international program management experience, he also manages the Center for Global Volunteer Service, which provides resources for those interested in international volunteerism and service learning opportunities.

Among his many community service efforts, he serves on the UCSD International Council, the Carlsbad Library Board of Trustees, the Carlsbad Library & Arts Foundation, and the Carlsbad Community Activity Grants Committee, and is a graduate of the City of Carlsbad Citizens' Academy.