



Kathleen Kuilanoff - South Coast
Neighborhood Association

Kathleen stepped up after the former neighborhood leader left. She helped reconstruct the neighborhood's contact list after it was lost by the exit of the previous leader. For all her dedication to the neighborhood, we are honored to have her as South Coast's neighborhood hero.

Daryl Sadakane - Thornton Park
Neighborhood Association

Daryl has maintained a webpage that is a memorial to Nisei (Japanese) soldiers who served World War II. His father and his father's friend began the webpage decades ago. Daryl is not only a local hero but a historical archivist.



Valerie Boulter - Washington Square
Neighborhood Association

Valerie improved the quality of Washington Square shortly after moving into the neighborhood. She is always the first to volunteer and very easy to work with. For that we are fortunate to have her as our neighborhood hero!

Eddie Quillares Jr. - West Floral Park
Neighborhood Association

Eddie has been instrumental in organizing key neighborhood outreach events and helping to promote cultural pride and community unity on a broader scale. Eddie's ongoing leadership and commitment have significantly improved the appearance, safety, and unity of West Floral Park



Mira Dukes - Wilshire Square
Neighborhood Association

Mira has been an ardent supporter and volunteer of Wilshire Square. She has served on the board, contributed countless hours of service, and design work. She is a shining star and we are so grateful to have her.



William Edward Branch III
Humanitarian Spirit Award

David Ream

David Ream, was employed by the city of Santa Ana from 1976 to 2011. He headed the city's redevelopment agency before being appointed City Manager in 1986.

During his tenure as City Manager he accomplished many things for the City - the Bristol Street widening project, winning for Santa Ana the Ronald Reagan Federal Building and Courthouse which he called "the nicest building in Orange County", redeveloping Orange County's first mall, the old Fashion Square, into Main Place, the construction of the city's showpiece police building, and providing land that enabled Santa Ana Unified School District to build much-needed schools.

When Neighborhood activist groups sprung up to fight the city's redevelopment plans, Mr. Ream worked with City staff to reach out and help such groups organize. His thought was that "it's so much better if we have a group to work with than just individuals on individual issues," and from that thought, Santa Ana began recognizing individual neighborhoods and in 1989, Com-Link was formed. He fought for the City and its neighborhoods and its residents and left a lasting legacy that we celebrate tonight.

SANTA ANA COMMUNICATION LINKAGE FORUM (COM-LINK)

Established in 1989, Com-Link provides opportunities for information exchange and presentations on policy issues that are of general interest or concern to the city's neighborhoods. Com-Link meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month and we welcome and encourage all to attend Com-Link meetings. For more information, please visit the Com-Link webpage at <https://www.santa-ana.org/com-link/>



Communication Linkage Forum Presents Santa Ana's 2025

Neighborhood Heroes and
William Edward Branch III
Humanitarian Spirit Award

**Thursday, June 26, 2025
6:00 PM - Bowers Museum
2002 N. Main Street**



2025 Neighborhood Hero Awards

The “Neighborhood Hero Award,” proudly established by the Santa Ana Communication Linkage Forum Board, honors those individuals who have shown commitment and enthusiasm in strengthening the quality of life in their neighborhoods. This year, we have selected nineteen Neighborhood Hero Winners and one William Edward Branch III Humanitarian Spirit honorees because each has demonstrated their leadership, commitment, generosity, and the selflessness needed to enhance their neighborhood and the greater Santa Ana community. Please join us in honoring and congratulating these outstanding community leaders!



Letty Plascencia - Artesia Pilar Neighborhood Association

Letty's efforts have significantly improved the lives of her neighbors. She provides crucial support to families navigating housing challenges in our neighborhood. Her personal guidance and connection to resources offer invaluable assistance during difficult times.

Yezenia Marrujo - Cornerstone Village Neighborhood Association



Yezenia has demonstrated her leadership through GREEN-MPNA by helping to educate community members. She has helped with many community air monitoring days, and attended many workshops to learn about air pollution and its health effects.



Les Hall - Fisher Park Neighborhood Association

Les has pioneered neighborhood improvements and is the point person in the neighborhood. He works with the City when there is any issue and creates a sense of community in Fisher Park.



Claire Lavoie - Morrison Park Neighborhood Association

Claire joined the Morrison Park Neighborhood Association board and was the first to volunteer in the beautification committee. She has a strong presence and is knowledgeable with what is happening in the neighborhood and park.

Tay Aston - Mabury Park Neighborhood Association

Tay has volunteered as the neighborhood association leader because she cares about her neighbors and Mabury Park community. She listens to all issues and works with City staff so neighbors are heard. Tay is definitely a Hero in Mabury Park.

Selica Díaz - Pacific Park Neighborhood Association



Selica has always pushed for improvements in the neighborhood such as green spaces and street toppers. Her teamwork and inclusive attitude has motivated many neighbors to get involved. She is the definition of being involved and engaged.



Yolanda Lopez and Maria De Los Angeles Santos - Saddleback View Neighborhood Association

Yolanda and Maria walk through the neighborhood and they diligently report a variety of issues, they also volunteered their time to monitor the trash dumpsters during the annual Clean-Up event, and they take the initiative to distribute meeting announcements door-to-door. Their contributions play a meaningful role in enhancing the quality of life and safety throughout the Saddleback View Neighborhood.

Ana Gallardo - Riverview Neighborhood Association



Ana has volunteered her time for decades to the Riverview Neighborhood Association. She has led many efforts to engage neighbors and improve the quality of life. Her tireless efforts to the neighborhood has been incredible.



Beverly Cagle - Republic Homes Neighborhood Association

Beverly is the Republic Homes monitor for all kinds of issues. She has helped for over 40 years to bring attention to issues in the neighborhood. She is using the mySantaAna app and reports any problems that arise. We are so grateful for her proactiveness.

Sharon Ayala - Santa Anita Neighborhood Association

Sharon is an advocate for all residents and animals in the neighborhood. When an animal is in need of rescue she steps in and helps find it an adoptive home. She is diligent in ensuring the neighborhood is adequately maintained and calls the appropriate City department. She is always there to lend a hand and serves Santa Anita with pride.



Jose Verduzco, Maryjane Lopez, and Jocelyn Rubio-Melendrez - Santa Ana Memorial Park Neighborhood Association

Jose regularly assists residents during community cleanup events and plays a key role in organizing the annual trunk or treat event. Maryjane has demonstrated commitment by participating in community outreach by distributing flyers and engaging with residents and youth about events and resources. Jocelyn has been very supportive with very pertinent input in the decision making, her knowledge has been very beneficial. All their efforts have made a big impact in the neighborhood.