



The Legacy of Gary H. Bosworth

June 14, 1954 – July 14, 2006

Eleven years ago, the Riverside County Democratic Party named its biennial awards celebrations in honor of Gary H. Bosworth, a devoted Democratic activist. Gary's volunteerism and empathy encompassed not only politics, but extended well beyond to championing social justice and humanitarianism in various spheres.

For years, he was in the midst of the fight for Civil Rights, including being an early champion in bringing the needs of Americans with disabilities to public and political awareness. Ironically, he was denied entry to the actual signing of the ADA (American Disabilities Act) at the White House because his arrest record at the Washington DC protest had not been erased.

Gary was the first person with a disability to become elected to the Desert Hot Springs City Council and to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Additionally, Gary was known for his computer analysis of voter registration data, availing our candidates of that important information, and for being an early advocate of Vote-by-Mail.

An inspiration, friend and mentor to so many during his lifetime, he helped others become aware of injustices needing correction. Even with his many involvements and accomplishments, Gary found time to send that birthday card to a constituent; mentor youth interested in politics; or just be a good friend.

One of Gary's early heroes, John F. Kennedy, invited Americans in his famous inaugural address to ask not what our country could do for us, but, rather, to ask what we could do for our country. Gary H. Bosworth was the standard of doing for his country (and state, county, city) with grace and dignity.

The RCDP is proud to recognize at our 2017 (our seventh) Bosworth Luncheon those individuals in Riverside County who walk today with similar dogged Democratic determination as did Gary.

---By Suji Fox

*[Individuals, clubs and other organizations may well be inspired by viewing the PBS documentary **Lives Worth Living**, which details much of Gary's and others' battles for justice.]*