

**Santa Ana Communication Linkage Forum  
(Com-Link) presents the  
2018 William E. Branch III Humanitarian Spirit Award**



COMMUNICATION LINKAGE FORUM  
Santa Ana, California

2018

*William Edward Branch III*  
HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT  
AWARD



Awarded Posthumously to Exemplify a  
Generous Heart and Giving Spirit

In 2016, the Board of the Santa Ana Communication Linkage Forum (Com-Link) established a special recognition, the William Edward Branch III Humanitarian Spirit Award, as an opportunity to celebrate and posthumously honor a member of the community for their legacy, service, and dedication to improving the quality of life in their neighborhood and the greater Santa Ana community.

### **2018 Honoree: Rene D. Guzman**

The late Rene D. Guzman can be best described as a patriot; community leader; concerned citizen working with seniors, young people, the disabled; and truly, a great American hero.

Rene spent 33 years in the United States Air Force serving nine presidents. As a member of the Air Force One crew, he served as a personal driver and aide to Lyndon Johnson, while he served as President, Vice-President, and U.S. Senator. Rene shared many of his extraordinary life experiences, including on November 22, 1963, when he was driving the fifth car in the motorcade when President Kennedy was assassinated.

When Rene retired from the Air Force he dedicated many years to volunteering with the Santa Ana Police West-End Community Oriented Policing (COP) organization. He taught tennis to young people, served on the Senior Center board helping our senior citizens and served as a proud member of the Com-Link Board. From his humble beginnings as a young Texas boy, to his last days serving Santa Ana's neighborhoods on the Com-Link Board, Rene truly leaves behind a legacy of community advocacy and strength.

### **2017 Honoree: Steve McGuigan**

Our dearly missed friend, the late Steve McGuigan, was the son of former Santa Ana City Councilwoman Pat McGuigan and longtime resident and supporter of the City of Santa Ana.

Steve willingly lent himself to the many events and issues that took place throughout the City of Santa Ana, including community concerns regarding illicit activity along Harbor Blvd., graffiti removal, code enforcement of blighted areas and playground equipment for neglected community parks.

As a Board Member for the Friends of Santa Ana Zoo, Steve was also instrumental in the growth of the Sunsets at the Zoo events and provided DJ services at many events. May all of the great community accomplishments of our genuine friend Steve McGuigan, serve as a source of inspiration for us to continue forward in our commitment to providing positive leadership in developing community unity and pride for Santa Ana.

### **2016 and First Honoree for whom the Humanitarian Spirit Award is named: William Edward "Ed" Branch III**

Ed Branch enjoyed a life-long love of the outdoors, cars, camping, boating, projects and barbequing. One of his great passions was to gather neighbors, family and friends for an annual July 4th Neighborhood Block Party. We remember Ed most for his generous heart and giving spirit toward his family and his neighborhood through the annual food and toy drives, community cleanup days, and much more.

Ed excelled at bringing people together for a great cause. He was instrumental in forming and obtaining recognition by the City Council for establishing the 64<sup>th</sup> neighborhood association, the Young Square Neighborhood Association. Through this, Ed helped formalize and bridge the relationship between neighbors in Young Square and staff from the different City agencies, ranging from Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Community Development, Planning and Building, the Santa Ana Police Department and the City Manager's Office.

Although Ed Branch is greatly missed by his family, lifelong friends, and neighbors, it is Ed's humanitarian spirit for bringing community together from all walks of life that remains as his legacy for the Young Square neighborhood and the greater Santa Ana community.