



## Gordon Andoe Class of 2023

Gordon graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1956. He played football in his freshman and sophomore years and was a Block O member for four years. He was on the Tiger Tales newspaper staff as a junior and senior. While a student, he worked for the Oroville Mercury-Register as a paper boy.

Following OHS, he worked for Currier Brothers and then had a 13-year stint as an Engineering Aid and Right of Way Agent for the Department of Water Resources during the construction of the Oroville Dam. He then went into business for himself establishing Northern Appraisal Services, a highly successful business, that he operated for over 30 years.

Born and raised in Oroville, Gordon's lifelong ambition was to make his hometown a better place for his family and friends to live. His service to Oroville was extensive and continues to this day. He served as City mayor for seven years and headed major projects including funding for the Oroville Centennial Plaza, working with the NWSPCA for a new Oroville Animal Control Facility, leading the development of the annual Sam Norris Lifetime Achievement Award, Applied Solar arrays to all City facilities enabling Oroville to be the first "Solar City USA" in the nation, and establishing the State Theatre celebration.

While a Board member for the Sewage Commission Oroville Region Board (SCOR), the nation's first Solar Powered Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed saving customers over \$300,000 annually. This model system went online in 2002 and served as a springboard to many local agencies.

Bringing the Northwest Lineman College (NLC) to Oroville may have been one of his most notable achievements as Mayor. Through a relative, Gordon contacted the owner of the college and pleaded his case to have the college locate to Oroville. The owner did indeed visit the community, went on a successful fishing trip with Gordon's son and the deal was sealed. Today the college annually graduates over 500 students. In 2019, Quanta Services acquired NLC and is the leading specialty contractor with the largest work force in North America. Originally NLC trained students for the electric power industry, but this acquisition enabled it to train students for natural gas distribution and communications as well.

Gordon served as Chairman of South Feather Water and Power, formerly Oroville Wyandotte Irrigation District and as chairman, oversaw the re-building the Miners Ranch Treatment Plant with a million-gallon concrete storage tank that provided water to thousands of area customers.

He serves as chairman of the Oroville Economic Development Commission (OEDCO), a group of local businessmen who focused on bringing businesses to town. He won the Big Fish Award at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fundraising event.

Another chairmanship saw him run the Oroville Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), a relicensing committee that negotiated the agreement with the State Water Contractors to relicense the Oroville Dam with funding for Riverbend Park and a settlement agreement that could exceed sixty million in investments to Oroville over the term of the license.

For four years, Gordon served as chairman of the Butte County Association of Governments, representing the City of Oroville. The association established Highway 99 as the preferred route from Chico to Sacramento for a four-lane highway. This plan also included the expansion of highways 149 and 70.

One of Gordon's proudest contributions was serving as president of the Oroville Area Sports Initiative Supporters (OASIS), formed in 2010 to make improvements on Harrison Stadium. He spearheaded the passing of measure G that raised 12 million towards the improvements. OASIS has continued to function as a non-profit, raising money to help maintain the stadium. They have raised over \$75,000 to help keep the facility in top condition. He serves as OASIS president to this day.

In addition to his many community projects, Gordon found time to support his sons' involvement in sports, as president of Oroville Little League (OLL). As a dad, he coached his sons and served as Deacon in his father's church. He also created the OLL pancake breakfast, hired his daughter-in-law to manage it and the snack bar, and as a result, both became profitable.

Gordon married his OHS sweetheart Jill and they raised two sons, Todd and Eric. After 64 years of marriage, they continue to reside in their hometown. Jill says of Gordon, *"He poured 110% into every endeavor, from being a paper boy, to serving as Mayor."*