



Mitch Brown Class of 2012

Mitch Brown came to Oroville in the 1980's to eradicate drugs and motorcycle gangs, and over the years has made extraordinary contributions to the citizens of Oroville, especially to seniors and the youth of our community.

When asked to give up his job as Assistant Chief of the California Department of Justice to fill the position of Chief of Police in Oroville, he did so with great enthusiasm. He saw this as a golden opportunity to not only be in town for his family, but to personally and professionally serve his community.

Mitch is a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is a Vietnam Veteran. His professional career in law enforcement spanned thirty-seven years and his achievements and awards were numerous at both the local and state levels.

Mitch's record of public service in Oroville is exemplary and endless! He started the Identi-A-Child program, enhanced the Shoes that Fit program, initialed "Safe from the Start", a program to reduce children's exposure to violence, and assigned a school resource officer to Oroville High School. As the police chief, he was always in uniform, directed traffic in the rain, caught unlicensed dogs, took groceries to abandoned families, and once caught a fleeing drug dealer, even though he was three times the perpetrator's age.

Other community involvement includes being strong supporter of the Oroville Rescue Mission. He is often there to serve meals, help deliver meals to needy families, assist displaced families in times of need, and generally be on call. He is also involved with the "Father's House Church," and life recovery ministries, where he assists in fundraising efforts for persons in recovery. He strongly supports the work they do, which largely goes unknown.

His dedication to youth is further evidenced by his serving on the Oroville Union High School Board of Trustees for four years, supervising teen dances for the Live Spot, and being a member of the Oroville High School Parent Club. He also found time to teach a criminal justice class at Las Plumas High School.

Over the years Mitch served on numerous state and local committees, including Fight Crime Invest in Kids, Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee, Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Community Health Alliance of Oroville, Oroville Homeless Coalition, Butte-Glenn Violence Prevention, Butte College Administration of Justice Advisory committee and others that are focused on safety for family and youth.

Mitch was named Butte County Peace Officer of the Year in 1987, and was a nominee for the California Narcotic Officer of the Year Award in 1989. In 2002, he was recognized as the Person of the Year by the Butte County Department of Behavioral Health. He has twice been awarded the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Oroville Hmong Community.

Reverend Steve Terry, Director of the Oroville Rescue Mission, states in a letter of support, Mitch is one of those people in our community that I hold in the "Highest Regard." He is a man who possesses the highest standards of ethics and integrity, and an incredible work ethic, and a man who dearly loves his community."

Mitch is currently the chairman of board of the Northwest SPCA, past president of the Oroville Noon Rotary Club, where most of his projects were focused on children. He also serves as Training Director for the Statewide Drug Endangered Children Training and Advocacy Center here in Oroville and serves as a reserve police officer.

Mitch Brown is inducted into the OUHSD Hall of Fame for his Distinguished Service to OUHSD and the Oroville community.