



## William Cheff Class of 2010

William “Bill” Cheff is a 1949 graduate of Oroville High School who, after serving four years in the US Navy, became a highly successful civil engineer for Butte County Public Works, rising to the position of Assistant Director of Public Works. Upon retirement, the Butte County Board of Supervisors appointed him as the County Director of Public Works. He is also known for his participation in community service projects through the Oroville Rotary Club and a supporter of Oroville youth and high school sports.

After graduating from Oroville High School in 1949, Bill served in the US Navy during the Korean War and was promoted to Petty Officer Second Class (PO2). After receiving an honorable discharge from the Navy, he enrolled in California State University, Chico and graduated in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

In 1961, The Butte County Department of Public Works hired Bill as a road-design engineer. His skill as an engineer earned him promotions over his 33-year career to the highest responsibility: bridge engineer, design and construction engineer, assistant director, and in 1984, appointment as director of public works. As director, he managed 130 employees and a variable budget of six to eight million dollars. He was responsible for the maintenance of over 1,400 miles of county roads, design and construction of various road and bridge projects. He was also responsible for the operation of the Neal Road Landfill and the Butte County Transit System. Furthermore, he supervised land development including subdivisions and various other assignments. An example of his superior ability as a civil engineer is the East Gridley Highway Bridge that connects sweeping roadway curves to a sturdy, flood-tested crossing of the Feather River.

As a 27-year member of the Oroville Rotary Club, Bill was involved in many community service projects, such as the Lott Home improvements, YMCA building, Rotary Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and the Riverbend Park projects.

Bill has supported the youth of Oroville by managing an Oroville Little League team for twelve years and assisting in youth football as a timekeeper for twelve years. He gave presentations on the engineering professions during career days at Oroville High School and Las Plumas High School. Bill also served on various Butte College engineering committees and served as a statistician for radio station broadcasts of Oroville Union High School District and Butte College games.

Bill received his Professional Engineer License from the State of California. He is a life member of the County Engineer Association of California (CEAC) and the National Association of County Engineers (NACE).