



City of Arts & Innovation

# News Release

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## **City of Riverside Honors Henry W. Coil Jr. with 2016 City Spirit Award**

*Longtime leader in business, civic life and philanthropy honored by Riverside City Council*

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Henry W. Coil Jr., a lifelong Riverside resident whose success in business has been matched only by his devotion to his community, is the recipient of the City of Riverside’s 2016 City Spirit Award.

Mayor Rusty Bailey and the Riverside City Council presented the award at a City Council meeting Tuesday (3/28) evening. The City Spirit Award recognizes local residents for extraordinary deeds, community spirit, citizenship and dedication to enhancing the quality of life in Riverside.

“Henry Coil Jr. epitomizes what it means to be a Riversider,” Mayor Bailey said. “From his days at Poly High School to his leadership in both local government and the business community to his philanthropy, Henry has given back to Riverside every step of the way.”

Coil grew up in Riverside and earned an engineering degree from UC Berkeley before serving in the U.S. Navy. He earned a law degree from Western State University, but is best known as president of one of Southern California’s most successful construction management companies, Tilden-Coil Constructors.

Coil joined the construction company Marshall Tilden in 1971, growing it from a builder of residential homes into a company capable of undertaking major commercial, industrial and institutional projects. Some of those projects include the University of Redlands Center for the Arts, the UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center, and the Pechanga Hotel and Casino in Temecula.

Coil has made a lasting impression on his hometown, leading the historic renovations of the 1903 Riverside County Courthouse and Riverside Museum of Art. His firm also built the aquatics center at Riverside City College and retrofitted the historic gymnasium. Coil retired as president of Tilden-Coil in 1998, but continued to work for years as “past president.”

Coil's civic and community service is extensive. He has served as a member of the Riverside City Council and held leadership positions on the boards of numerous institutions in Inland Southern California, including the Riverside Community College District Foundation, La Sierra University, University of Redlands and the UC Riverside Foundation. He served on the boards of the Mission Inn Foundation and the Riverside Arts Foundation and worked extensively with the Historic Evergreen Cemetery and the Riverside Sports Hall of Fame.

Coil received the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award in 2001 and the Jacques S. Yeager, Sr. Leadership Award from the Monday Morning Group of Western Riverside County in 2014. Coil received the Distinguished Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America, was named Distinguished Citizen of Riverside County, and was honored with the Roy Hord Volunteer of the Year Award by the Riverside Downtown Partnership.

In 2010, Riverside Community College District announced that Coil would donate \$5 million to fund programs at a new school for the arts to be named in honor of his parents. The gift, described as by far the largest in the district's history, pays for school programs and endowed professorships. RCCD officials said at the time that Coil's gift "makes the School of the Arts a reality."

The \$60 million Henry W. and Alice Edna Coil School for the Arts at University Avenue and Market Street has transformed that part of downtown Riverside into a home for Riverside City College's arts and music programs. The facility includes a world-class music hall and students in the RCC music program receive instruction from music professionals from all over the region.

"Henry W. Coil Jr. represents the best of Riverside, and he has set the standard for future business leaders and philanthropists," Mayor Pro Tem Mike Gardner said. "His service to his hometown is unmatched, and his devotion to his community runs deep. Riverside is very fortunate to have him."