Richard W. Amero (1924-2012)

Richard W. Amero was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts in 1924 and graduated from Gloucester High School in 1942. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II and obtained the rank of corporal while acting as a clerk and courier for the Headquarters Commandant, Chanor Base Section, European Theater of Operations. The Section was in charge of the famous Red Ball Highway that sent supplies to the front and maintained discipline in areas behind front lines. At the conclusion of the war, while waiting to return to the United States, Amero attended Biarritz American University in Biarritz, France.

After his discharge from the Army, Amero worked part time on the wharves of Gloucester, Massachusetts, where fishing is the dominant industry, and worked as a laborer for his carpenter/contractor father. Money from these jobs helped to defray costs at Black Mountain College, North Carolina, and Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York. Amero graduated in 1950 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, with a major in English and a minor in history. His attendance at college would not have been possible without the aid of the G. I. bill and generous grants-in-aid from the educational institutions he attended.

Amero moved to San Diego in 1956 and worked at Consolidated Vultee Aircraft (Convair), which later became General Dynamics. He recalled that he went into the Employment Office, announced that he had just graduated from college, and was hired immediately with no questions being asked. Such was the nature of wartime employment in San Diego during World War II and the subsequent Korean and Vietnam conflicts. From Convair, Amero went on to Solar Aircraft
for about six months. Upon hearing that San Diego Gas & Electric Company was hiring workers, Amero transferred there, where he worked for 40 years.


Amero’s publications include a biography of Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, a Gold-Star Mother, famous contralto, and former San Diego resident, published in the *Southern California Quarterly* and re-published in *Women in the Life of Southern California*.


In 1992, the year of his retirement from San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Amero gave the San Diego Historical Society the “Richard Amero Collection,” a compilation of over 250 binders of material on subjects pertaining to San Diego and California history. These included copies of correspondence by famous people associated with San Diego gleaned from archives throughout the country. A full description of the collection is available on the San Diego History Center website.

The Committee of One Hundred honored Richard Amero with the Gertrude Gilbert Award in 2010. His writings on Balboa Park history and a range of other topics are showcased on his website, which will be maintained by The Committee of One Hundred.

J. Michael Kelly, President
Committee of One Hundred