

1964 El Camino Yearbook

The Howard Mackey Gaucho Spirit Scholarship was established in Spring 2020 to help deserving students continue their education and develop a spirit of learning throughout their lives. This scholarship is named in honor of Mr. Mackey, one of our beloved graduates and a former teacher. He was a dedicated, talented, and gifted educator who wanted to see all students succeed.

Throughout Howard Mackey's life he exemplified what it means to be a Gaucho, and as a member of the first graduating class in February 1944, he was involved with the school from the beginning. Born in San Diego, the family moved in the 1930's to El Cerrito where he grew up on C Street near Harding School and became a lifelong resident of El Cerrito. He and his classmates helped establish many ECHS traditions, including the school colors, mascot name, and fight songs. He was the very first student body president, quarterback of the football team, and was chosen the "Most Outstanding Scholar Athlete" on the 1943 team.

Mr. Mackey worked in the Richmond shipyards after school hours and after completing high school he joined the U.S. Army. He served in Germany and France. At the end of World War II, he went on to college, graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1950. He met his future wife, Barbara, at the University of California, Berkeley and they married in 1951. They built their house in El Cerrito and in 1953 he returned to ECHS to become a math and history teacher before only teaching math where he was the department chair. He and Barbara had three sons, Kevin, Patrick, and Bruce. He was active in the Richmond Federation of Teachers Union and was president of the union when they organized the first teacher's strike in California in 1966. He taught at ECHS until he retired in 1987.

In 2005, just before the original school buildings were torn down, Mr. Mackey became involved in the ECHS Archiving Project. He helped go through the old buildings to save artifacts representing the school's history. He also participated for 12 years on the scholarship committee. He found it challenging to make a decision on who would become a scholarship recipient, as he thought all the students were deserving. Mr. Mackey passed away at the age of 95 years old.

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