Western’s Director Field and wife honored for dedication to the Riverside community

RIVERSIDE, CA – Nov. 3, 2011 – He’s been involved in the Riverside community for a few more years than she has, but only because he’s lived here longer. She’s been intertwined with causes for more than 40 years. And Tuesday both Charlie and Virginia Field were honored for their community involvement by Mayor Ron Loveridge and the Mayor’s Commission on Aging, who presented the couple with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The annual award, now in its fourth year, was created by the Mayor to recognize seniors who have dedicated their lives to serving the Riverside community.

In a formal announcement about the Fields, it was indicated that they were selected because “of your tireless community involvement and your significant contributions to the quality of life in our City of Riverside.”

Charlie, a retired judge, has a deep appreciation for art with many classics, as well as local artists, featured on the walls of his historic downtown Riverside home. He dedicates much of his volunteer time to the arts and the University of California, Riverside. “I’ve always had a strong feeling about universities. My Dad was a professor at Stanford,” he said while relaxing in his living room where he pointed out one of his favorite paintings by Jules Cherêt. Serving on the Board at Western takes up some of his time, but it appears to have not hampered his ability or passion for giving to the community.

Quality of life is truly what motivates Virginia Field, who said during the recent interview from her home, “When we first moved to Riverside, I discovered a thing called smog. It got me involved.” Virginia has dedicated much of her volunteer time since 1969 to the clean air cause and earned the Clean Air Now Award in 1989 from South Coast Air Quality Management. “Those who know Virginia understand that her involvement is lasting,” her husband of 27 years explained.

“Director Field’s dedication to his community is exemplified in his service on the Board at Western Municipal Water District,” said Western General Manager John V. Rossi, adding, “It’s his love for the community, however, that truly adds the colors to the finished piece of his volunteerism.”

The Fields, who have a combined family of five grown children – Vicki Broach, Cristi Hendry, Stephen Broach, John Field and Rob Field – have accumulated numerous awards for the spirit of volunteerism and have several displayed on their piano.

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“They’ve built a legacy of public service. I wouldn’t have been inspired to do all that I do if it weren’t for my Dad,” said Rob, Executive Director of the Riverside County EDA, who commented at the ceremony how proud he is of the honor for Charlie and Virginia.

Some of the agencies that have had the Fields in their volunteer ranks or on their boards include:


*Virginia* – Clean Air Now, Coalition for Clean Air, American Lung Association, League of Women Voters, Riverside Public Library Foundation, South Coast Air Quality Management and Riverside County Parks and the Open Space Advisory Commission.

“We live in a community. If we don’t contribute, we won’t have a worthwhile community,” Virginia explained. When asked who spends more time volunteering, they both appropriately and simultaneously pointed to each other and then chuckled.

*Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.*

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