



## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Cottonwood Awards Luncheon

Thursday, May 25, 2023 | 11 am - 1 pm

Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens  
6400 East Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA 90815

### ***Jerry Miller***

#### **2023 Cottonwood Award Honoree**



Rancho Los Alamitos recognizes the leadership and achievements of Gerald R. Miller with the 2023 Cottonwood Award. Jerry, as most of us know him, worked in Long Beach city government for 25 years with the goal of creating a thriving Long Beach economy, making the city both a great place for business and a great place to work. Simultaneously, and since his retirement, Jerry invests his time and energies with community organizations to ensure Long Beach is a great place to live and raise a family.

Jerry is a CSULB graduate and U.S. Army veteran who served during the Vietnam era. Before joining the city, he was director of a CSULB program to assist people with psychology services and job training. Jerry's first job in Long Beach city government was in the Community Development Department. A few years later, he was named Manager of the Economic Development Bureau.

In the early 1990s, when the Long Beach Naval Station and Naval Shipyard were closed under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act, Jerry managed the closures and directed the city's reuse plan for the base. He garnered praise from several government and economic development organizations for his efforts. And it was during this period that the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association was established, not only to recognize the work of architect Paul Revere Williams but help preserve the architectural heritage of Long Beach.

After serving as Acting City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Deputy City Manager, Jerry was named Long Beach City Manager in 2002. During his tenure, Jerry turned around the City's budget woes, eliminating a \$90 million deficit and balancing the budget. Following his retirement in 2007, Jerry helped establish IMC Municipal Consulting, where he serves as Managing Partner. Founded in affiliation with the INCO Company, a successful commercial real estate brokerage firm based in Long Beach, IMC Municipal Consulting provides real estate and community development advisory services focused on achieving the economic development goals of its clients.

Among the many awards Jerry has received are the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus Award for the College of Liberal Arts at CSULB; the 2006 Chapter Presidents Award from the Los Angeles Metropolitan Chapter of American Society for Public Administration; the 2007 President's Distinguished Citizen Award from CSULB; recognition as a Fellow by the International Economic Development Council; and, in 2011, the Small Business Advocate of the Year by the California Chamber of Commerce.

Jerry's career resume is impressive and shows the breadth of his experience and capabilities. His community service record shows his deep commitment to education, non-profits, and the city's cultural resources. Recognition for his community work include his Distinguished Citizen of the Year award from the Long Beach Area Council of Boy Scouts and the Freedom Fund Committee Choice Award from the Long Beach Branch of the NAACP. Jerry serves on the boards of the Port of Los Angeles High School and The Nonprofit Partnership. He is a long-time board member of Rancho Los Alamitos, having served as its chair, and is the founder of the *Cottonwood Awards Luncheon*, now a signature event for Rancho Los Alamitos.