



NANCY EMPEY HELM (Class of 1958)

Nancy Empey Helm has been a resident of Las Vegas most of her life. She graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1958. She attended Brigham Young University in Utah and graduated with degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance. After graduating, she returned to Las Vegas as a music educator for the Clark County School District.

Mrs. Helm is an accomplished soprano and has been featured as soloist with the Utah Valley Opera Association, the BYU Philharmonic Orchestra, BYU Opera Theater, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, UNLV Theater Department and many other independent theatrical groups in Utah and Nevada. She was a western regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions in Southern California, having won the Nevada State competition. She was also a featured performer in the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls" during its year-long run at the Dunes Hotel. She has been an active participant in many theatrical productions in the Las Vegas community and has directed many choral and choral-orchestral productions.

Mrs. Helm founded the Desert Chorale in 1984, a 60-voice, non-profit, community chorus, and has been their Musical Director for 25 years. The Chorale, under her direction, was named the official voice of the Las Vegas (later Nevada) Symphony, and together with Maestro Virko Baley, they collaborated on many major choral-symphonic works. The Chorale has appeared in Disneyland, with Sarah Brightman, on the Martha Stewart TV Christmas Special, and are featured performers for many national conventions in Las Vegas. Their annual Memorial Day and Christmas season concerts have become traditional community favorites in Las Vegas.

In February, 1997, Senator Richard Bryan issued a Proclamation naming the Chorale as the Ambassadors of Goodwill for the State of Nevada. In July, 1998, Senator Harry Reid paid tribute to the Chorale on the Congressional floor in Washington, DC.

Mrs. Helm has been twice nominated to appear in "Who's Who in Nevada" featuring women who have made substantial contributions to the betterment of Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. In March, 2007 she was presented with the BYU Alumni Association Community Service Award.

Nancy is married to Don Helm (LVHS Class of 1956). They are very proud of their 6 children and 12 grandchildren.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact dave@lvhsaa.com.

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