



JEROME D. MACK (Class of 1938)

Jerome Mack was born in Albion, Michigan. In 1929, he moved with his family to Las Vegas. Jerome was in the first graduating class of Boulder City Grammar School, and graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1938. In 1941, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of California, Los Angeles.

During World War II, Jerome was an Air Corps navigation instructor. Upon returning to Las Vegas, Jerry and his father, Nate Mack, founded the Bank of Las Vegas. Jerry and his longtime partner, Parry Thomas, operated the bank. In 1969, Bank of Las Vegas merged with Valley Bank of Reno and became the biggest bank in the state. Thomas and Mack then merged Valley Bank of Nevada with the Bank of America.

Later, Jerry formed the Thomas and Mack Company, a real estate development company whose initial project was the McCarran Center, now the largest commercial office park in Las Vegas.

Perhaps nowhere is Mack's contribution to Las Vegas more evident than in higher education. In 1951, he co-founded Nevada's first college, Nevada Southern College, which became UNLV. That project started in a spare room at Las Vegas High School with only one teacher and 12 students. In the mid-1960s, shocked at learning the small amount of land owned by the university. Jerry and his partner, Parry Thomas, formed a land foundation, personally guaranteeing the note and acquiring over 350 acres that the university now occupies. The Thomas and Mack Center was named in their honor.

Mack was Chairman of the State Democratic Party, a member of the Democratic National Finance Council, Democratic National Committee, Nevada Finance Chairman for Lyndon Johnson's presidential campaign, state coordinator for Hubert Humphrey's presidential campaign, and state coordinator and treasurer for U.S. Senator Howard Cannon for over twenty years. He was chairman of the Nevada Tax Commission and was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to serve as a member of the nominating commission for U.S. Circuit Judges for the 9th Circuit Court.

Mack's list of honors includes the United Way Leadership Award, the National Conference of Christians and Jews Silver Medallion Award, honors from the State of Israel, Israel Bonds, The Boys Club of Clark County, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts of America, and the Nevada Outstanding Citizen Award.

His other business ventures included President of the Riviera Hotel, President of the Four Queens Hotel, President of the First Bancorporation, and Chairman of the Board, United Tanker Corporation.

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 me at Dave@lvhsaa.com

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