



THE GARCES MEMORIAL ALUMNI BOARD PRESENTS  
THE 14TH ANNUAL

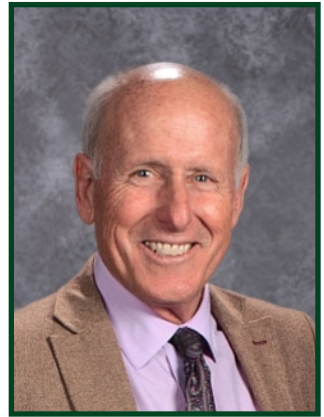
# HALL OF HONOR



DR. TOM BERRY



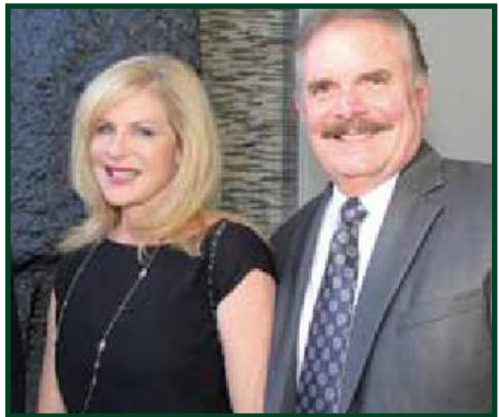
JOAN FINCH '87



ED HEARN



JENNY PONCETTA '70



THE KARI & STEVE ANDERSON  
FAMILY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the 14th annual Garces Memorial High School Hall of Honor Awards Banquet. The Hall of Honor was established to publicly recognize and pay tribute to individuals who have demonstrated a continuing commitment to, and promotion of, the values, mission, and philosophy of Garces Memorial High School.

Tonight, the Hall of Honor will recognize and pay tribute to four very deserving individuals and one very special family. The 2022 Hall of Honor inductees are Tom Berry, Joan Finch, Ed Hearn, and Jenny Poncetta. The 2022 Garces Alumni Award will be given to The Kari & Steve Anderson Family.

The inductees and the Anderson family are long-time supporters of Garces and advocates for Garces Memorial in the local community. It is due to people like them that Garces has a rich history of alumni and families who make Garces possible. We have included a brief biography of each of them on the following pages.

Garces Memorial High School is a very special place, a place that was founded in faith 75 years ago, is rooted in tradition, and growing in excellence. With that in mind, there is a common thread that binds tonight's honorees - they have proudly and courageously upheld the values of our school and have brought pride to the good name of Garces Memorial High School. Their involvement with our school, and with our greater Garces community, has been selfless, generous, and integral to the history and to the future of Garces Memorial High School.

Thank you for joining us this evening as we honor these wonderful people for all they have done and continue to do for Garces Memorial High School.

Gregg Gunner '66

Chairman

Garces Memorial Alumni Board

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## GARCES MEMORIAL ALUMNI BOARD 2020-2021 BOARD MEMBERS

*Gregg Gunner '66*

*Chairman*

*Cindy (Duncan) Lynch '68*

*Mary (Loken) Cornett '68*

*Tom Swertfager '69*

*James Sakowski '70*

*Carolyn Antongiovanni '72*

*Melissa Fortune '72*

*Mike Georgino '75*

*George Clerou '76*

*Kati (Anspach) Whittington '77*

*Bernadette (Eyherabide) Root '78*

*Raji Sanghera '87*

*Maria (Bernal) Toretta '88*

*Courtney (Kirschenman) Tobias '92*

*Lexi (Antongiovanni) Clerou '06*

*John Moore III '07*

# HALL OF HONOR AGENDA

- 5:30 - 6:30 pm            No-host Cocktails
- 6:30 - 6:45 pm            Welcome  
Gregg Gunner '66  
Chairman of the Garces Alumni Board
- Opening Prayer  
Kent Hickey, Garces President  
Gabiella Camou '23, Garces Student
- 6:45 - 7:30 pm            Dinner
- 7:30 - 7:45 pm            Alumni Scholarship Dessert Dash
- 7:45 - 8:45 pm            Induction Ceremony
- DR. TOM BERRY**  
*Introduction by Alumni Board Member Jim Sakowski '70*
- JOAN (HALLER) FINCH '87**  
*Introduction by Alumni Board Member Raji Sanghera '87*
- ED HEARN**  
*Introduction by Alumni Board Member Courtney Tobias '92*
- JENNY (MAITIA) PONCETTA '70**  
*Introduction by Alumni Board Member Gregg Gunner '66*
- 8:45 - 9:00 pm            **THE 2022 GARCES ALUMNI AWARD**  
**THE KARI & STEVE ANDERSON FAMILY**  
*Introduction by Alumni Board Member Bernadette Root '78*
- 9:00 - 9:30 pm            Closing Remarks  
Closing Prayer  
Garces Alma Mater

## *Dr. Tom Berry*

*Introduction by Alumni Board Member  
Jim Sakowski '70*



Tom Berry became a member of the Garces community when he married Garces alumna Mary (Anspach) Berry '79, and he has been an advocate for Catholic education in general, and of Garces Memorial specifically, ever since. Tom and Mary met at Creighton University and, once Tom finished dental school, they moved to Bakersfield in 1987 to start their family. They have three children who are also Garces graduates – Katie (Berry) Grimm '05, Michael Berry '08, and Annie (Berry) Carlson '12. Each of their children have married Garces alumni as well – Katie is married

to Brandon Grimm '00, Michael is married to Kelly (McDermott) Berry '08, and Annie is married to Dominic Carlson '12.

As Tom and Mary's children became Garces Rams, they both became very involved on our campus. Mary volunteered and helped with Gala – which meant Tom was also a volunteer. When Michael was on the football team, Tom was one of the “paint dads” – showing up to paint the field before each home game. They came to every event their children participated in and became beloved fixtures at Garces.

Tom was asked to be on the Garces Memorial School Board, and he served as a board member for nine years. During his tenure as a school board member, Garces saw the addition of the Campbell Field House, the refurbished stadium seating at Sam Tobias Field, the Cerro Science Building, the St. Dominic Student Chapel, and an electrical upgrade to the campus. Tom was also a committee member of the Fund the Future Capital Campaign, helping to raise \$6 million dollars for the improvement of Garces which resulted in, the Salvucci Aquatics Center, the Garces Tennis Complex, and the Art of Music Building.

When Tom rolled off the Garces School Board, he was asked to join the Garces Foundation Board, which is now known as the Bakersfield Catholic Education Foundation. He has been on the Foundation Board since 2010 and is currently the President of the Foundation. As such, he has helped the Foundation assets grow from \$2.34 million to \$16.06 million dollars resulting in a substantial annual allocation to Garces Memorial. The Foundation funded the initial iPad program for Garces and currently provides funding for tuition assistance scholarships, teacher development, and a breakfast and lunch program for families in need of assistance. Under Tom's leadership, the Foundation established the new STEM room at Garces complete with new computers and a designated space for the Robotics program.

Tom, along with his wife Mary, have been generous supporters of Garces. He has been a long-time supporter of the Garces Gala, the Garces BBQ, and the Monsignor Leddy Golf Tournament. He has given generously to the Annual Fund Drive and to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. And he spearheaded a Foundation Board Member Scholarship Fund to assist students to come to Garces.

# Joan (Haller) Finch '87

*Introduction by Alumni Board Member  
Raji Sanghera '87*



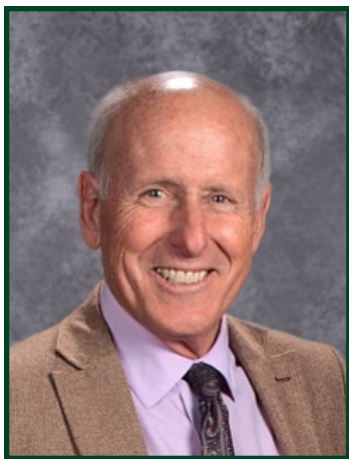
Joan Finch graduated from Garces in 1987 and was one of six “Haller” siblings to attend Garces Memorial. Joan’s mother, Helen (Reischmann) Haller was a 1957 graduate and providing her children a Catholic education was of paramount importance to her. Joan siblings are Mary Kay (Haller) Link '82, the late Barbara (Haller) Boylan Schager '83, Dianne (Haller) Peranich '84, Katie (Haller) Metcalf '90, and Daniel Haller '91. While at Garces, Joan excelled in volleyball, girls basketball, and track and received all-league honors for athletic abilities. Joan still holds the triple jump record

at Garces. Joan was also voted Homecoming Queen her senior year. Joan’s athletic ability earned her a college scholarship, and she went on to play volleyball at Cal State Bakersfield. Joan married her husband Jeff in 1989 and they have three wonderful children who are also Garces graduates – Jordan Finch '10, Justin Finch '08, and Julianne Finch '16.

Joan initially came back to Garces to substitute teach and coach volleyball and was hired by Dr. John Ritter in 2004 as a full-time teacher for PE and Health. She also continued to coach volleyball and the track team. Joan was appointed the Garces Athletic Director in 2014.

As the Garces Athletic Director, Joan made huge strides with the CIF and the KHSD. Her fellow AD’s in the CIF Central Section voted Joan as the recipient of the 2016 California State Athletic Directors Association’s Norm MacKenzie Award as the Athletic Director of the Year. Joan hired our first full-time Athletic Trainer and was one of the first to fully utilize the iPad program at Garces. She put Garces Athletics on-line, making athletic forms, schedules, rosters, release times, game locations, final game scores, etc., accessible to everyone. She took over the Booster Club and set funds aside for the refurbished the gym floor and provided new seating for the players and coaches. She was instrumental in the new sod for the football field. She worked closely with the Hail Mary Club on the refurbishment of the Campbell Field House. She easily worked an 80-hour week on behalf of the students, coaches, and families at Garces. Joan is well-respected by all and remains an exceptional ambassador for Garces.

When the Garces Alumni Board was re-established in 2009, Joan was the faculty representative for the first three years. When Joan’s husband Jeff retired in 2017, Joan decided to join him and she retired from Garces in 2018. Joan is a faithful Catholic who lives her life with integrity and grace. For several years, Joan continued to volunteer to help Garces and you could often find her helping out at cross country and track meets. On occasion, you will still see Joan at a Garces football game or a soccer game with her grandchildren in tow. And currently you can often find her on-campus, as she is substitute teaching at Garces this school year.



## *Ed Hearn*

*Introduction by Alumni Board Member  
Courtney Tobias '92*

Ed Hearn joined the administrative team at Garces Memorial in 1991, at a time when the school was experiencing a sharp decline in enrollment and needed a change in leadership and direction. He spent five years at Garces setting the gold standard for future administrations as much of what Garces Memorial represents today was due to his vision.

When Ed arrived at Garces, he was unaware that the school had a 2.5 million dollar debt to the diocese and upon arrival, he was given six months to bring the school into the black.

Following that stumbling block, a plan was created to repay the debt by the time Ed left five years later. Also at this time,

the school implemented a new administrative model and he

was appointed the President/Principal, implementing a restructuring effectively used in several successful Catholic schools across the country. In his role, Ed implemented several changes for the betterment of Garces. One of the most significant was a more definitive and focused model for Catholic education that enhanced the identity of Garces as a Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory school. In October 1991 Ed launched the Parent Pledge program which he continues to practice to this day in his capacity as a school President.

In addition to providing the guiding philosophy and direction of Garces, Ed was responsible for many improvements at the school. The school significantly improved its academic offerings by adding new Honors and Advanced Placement courses, a summer reading program, summer school and a study skills program for incoming freshmen. Instructors were encouraged and financially supported to attend in-service training to improve instructional delivery. Ed worked with the late Johnny Etcheverry cleaning, sanding, and preparing the wrought iron fence that surrounds our campus to this day. Buildings were painted inside and out, classroom floors were carpeted, new roofs were installed, the parking lots resurfaced, and a new concession stand was built. Athletic fields were also improved and the marquee on the corner of Union and Columbus was installed. Under Ed's leadership, Garces developed the 2010 Plan which was a road map outlining the future direction and needs of the school. The 2010 plan was published in January of 1995 and prioritized the school's needs into either physical plant or school operations. Many of the changes to our campus are a result of the 2010 Plan – including the library, the administration office, the concession stand, and the fence surrounding the school.

Ed left Garces in 1996 to become the Principal of Brophy College Preparatory, a private Jesuit, Catholic school in Phoenix, Arizona. In 2006, Ed became the president of St. Augustine High School in San Diego, California, where he currently continues to provide exceptional leadership in his role as their president.

In 2016, Ed came back to Garces to provide leadership and guidance on the Garces Memorial 2018-2024 Strategic Plan. Ed drove up from San Diego numerous times over several months to lead discussions with the planning committee members about the future needs and objectives for Garces Memorial. His insight and moderating abilities were invaluable in creating the final document that the school is using today.

Ed received his BA from Loyola University of Los Angeles and his MA from California State University Los Angeles and has spent over 50 years in education. Ed is married to Diana, they celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2021 they have three boys, Nate, Conor and Mark two grandchildren with a third one due today.

# Jenny (Maitia) Poncetta '70

*Introduction by Alumni Board Member  
Gregg Gunner '66*



Jenny (Maitia) Poncetta graduated from Garces in 1970 and has remained a loyal supporter of Garces ever since. While at Garces, Jenny was a member of the ski club, the Basque club, and yearbook.

At a young age, Jenny went into the family business of running Wool Growers Restaurant where you will find her almost daily attending to her customers and her staff. It is truly a family business, one that she ran with her mother, Mayie Maitia, and her brother Danny Maitia, until their passings. She currently runs the business with her daughter Christiane (Arduain)

Camou '93. Wool Grower's is a must stop for our alumni and families and over the holidays you will find Garces families catching up with Jenny and other alumni as if it was a Garces reunion.

Jenny sent both her her daughter's to Garces, Christiane (Arduain) Camou is a 1993 graduate and her daughter Natalie (Arduain) Sorhouet graduated in 1998. Currently Jenny's granddaughters Gabriella Camou '23 and Sophia Camou '25 attend Garces. Jenny was a presence on campus when her daughters were at Garces and is a presence now that her granddaughters are here – supporting her granddaughters in their theater performances, rooting for them during a soccer game, or attending Grandparents' Day.

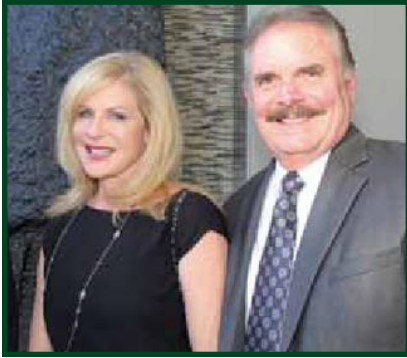
Jenny has always proudly supported her alma mater. She has generously given in support of the Fall BBQ, the Garces Gala, and the Hall of Honor. She has donated food from her restaurant and donated the bar and the proceeds to the Hall of Honor awards dinner. In addition to donating her resources from the restaurant, she has underwritten many of our special events, the football program, the girls soccer program, the drama program, and our FFA program. She served on the Garces Alumni Board for three years and helps to plan the 1970 Class Reunions. She supports the Alumni Scholarship, the Gino Colombo Scholarship, and the Annual Fund Drive. Most recently, she is in the process of establishing a tuition assistance scholarship in memory of her mother to assist others to obtain a Catholic education at Garces.

She is a strong Catholic, practicing her faith in word and in deed. She is an active member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and St. Francis Church. She is a member of the Kern County Basque Club and was formerly on the St. Francis Church Finance Council. Her support of Catholic causes is infinite. Jenny is married to David Poncetta. David's children are also Garces graduates – Melissa Poncetta '97 and Michael Poncetta '00.

# 2022 Garces Alumni Award

## The Kari & Steve Anderson Family

*Introduction by Alumni Board Member Bernadette Root '78*

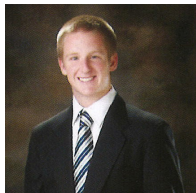
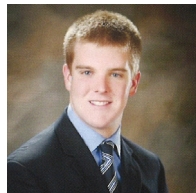
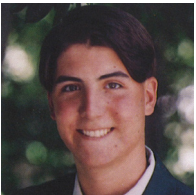


The Kari and Steve Anderson Family have been part of Garces for almost 30 years. Between Kari and Steve, they have seven Garces graduates – Christopher Anderson '97, Cody Anderson '00, Brandon Grimm '00, Kellie (Grimm) Merriman '02, Brett Grimm '08, Chase Grimm '11, and David Grimm '14. While their children were at Garces, they were active and dedicated parents – supporting their children in all that they did. Beyond that, they supported the school through sponsorships and donations – although they have been generous, they have also been humble donors who do so quietly without fanfare. They believe in Garces and are

happy to support the mission of the school. It is people like them who make Garces possible and for that we are grateful.

In addition to supporting the school and being great ambassadors for Garces in the community, Steve's company, SC Anderson, consulted on and built the Garces pool, tennis courts, and the music building. And each project came in on time and under budget – which is no small feat. But Steve's commitment to Garces was evident in every meeting and in every discussion. He was determined to make sure the school was a priority with his team. Steve's son Cody was the project manager on all three projects and between the two of them, Garces was in great hands. The results speak for themselves. All three locations on our campus are beautiful and the students, faculty, and alumni are proud of each space.

The Anderson and Grimm alumni also left their mark at Garces and have left a legacy at our school. Christopher was a member of the marching band and the concert band. Cody was active in the Art Club and the Key Club. Brandon played football and was on the track and field team for Garces. Kellie was a member of the girls tennis team. Brett played golf and football for Garces. Chase was a member of campus ministry and the football team. David played on the 2012 D-2 Valley Championship Football Team.





# *Special Thank You to Tonight's Sponsors*

*Thank you to tonight's Hall of Honor sponsors. Their generosity allows us to provide a complimentary table and awards to each of our inductees and a printed program for each of our guests.*

## **Inductee Sponsor Level**

A+ Shredding/Joe Antongiovanni '89  
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Kathy Gargan '69 & John Gargan '69  
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Monica & Jackson Hering  
Marianne Laxague '58  
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Sangera Auto Group  
Courtney Tobias '92 & Justin Tobias '91  
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Wool Grower's Restaurant

## **Awards Sponsor Level**

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James "Ed" Noriega '65  
Kenneth M. Peters CLU '50  
Bernadette Root '78  
Debra & Jim Sakowski '70  
Susan Swertfager '71 & Tom Swertfager '69  
Les & Susan Walker-Burson

# *Garces Memorial Hall of Honor Inductees*

## 2008 Hall of Honor Inductees

The Honorable Robert Anspach '54  
The Late Rev. Msgr. Ralph Belluomini '51  
The Late Anthony Cornejo '51  
Mrs. Helen Reischman Haller '57  
The Late Dr. Gerald Haslam '55  
The Late Mr. Joe Hernandez '58  
The Late Jimmie Icardo  
The Late Honorable Larry Kleier '51  
The Late Rev. Msgr. Patrick Leddy  
The Late Sam Tobias

## 2009 Hall of Honor Inductees

The Late Bob Carroll  
The Late John Etcheverry '53  
The Late John Kovacevich  
Mrs. Deborah Cerri Leary '67  
Mr. Patrick Lencioni '83  
The Late Deanna Maraccini McCauley '55  
Mrs. Kay Wall  
The Late Honorable Art Wallace '56

## 2010 Hall of Honor Inductees

The Honorable Gary Friedman '61  
Mrs. Joan Garibaldi  
The Late Justin Meyer '56  
The Late Mary Pogon  
Dr. Ken Ruetters '80  
The Late Mr. Paul Summers '53  
The Late Rev. Msgr. Ronald Swett  
Dr. Richard Tucker

## 2011 Hall of Honor Inductees

Mr. Don Border '50  
Mrs. Joanne (Molinario) Border '58  
Sister Sharon Casey OP  
Mrs. Katherine (Padilla) Cornejo '55  
The Late Honorable Louis Etcheverry '58  
Mr. Mike McCaffrey '64  
The Late Tom Soliz '65  
Mrs. Marianne (Werdel) Witmeyer '85

## 2012 Hall of Honor Inductees

The Late Gene Garibaldi  
Mr. Dan Giordano '66  
Mr. Joe Ziemann

## 2013 Hall of Honor Inductees

Ms. Marianne Laxague '58  
Mr. Gary Ogilvie '55  
Dr. John Ritter

## 2014 Hall of Honor Inductees

The Late Stan Antongiovanni '61  
The Late Dr. Romain Clerou  
The Late Pat Franey  
Mr. Tom Werdel '53

## 2015 Hall of Honor Inductees

Mr. Al Sandrini '57  
Mr. Bill Rector '78  
Mr. Darrell Feliz '70  
Mr. Gino Valpredo '88  
The Late Mr. Greg Robinson '70  
Mr. Jim Sakowski '70

## 2016 Hall of Honor Inductees

The Late Charles Anspach '53  
Rev. Msgr. Michael Braun  
The Late Mrs. Mayie Maitia

## 2017 Hall of Honor Inductees

Mr. Tom Anchordoquy '65  
Mr. Arnold Cattani '64  
The Late Yolanda (Papasergia) Griffiths '51  
The Late Frank Maitia Jr. '60

## 2018 Hall of Honor Inductees

Mr. John Fanucchi '68  
Mr. Joe Munoz '54  
The Late Mr. John Roberts '70  
Mr. Leroy Sacchini

**2019 Hall of Honor Inductees**

Mr. Gene Bonas '57  
The Late Greg Boylan '70  
Mr. Tom Franconi '52  
Mr. Bernie LeBeau  
Mr. Ken Peters '50

**2021 Hall of Honor Inductees**

Mr. Mark Brown  
Mr. Vince Fanucchi  
Mrs. Donna James  
Mr. Kevin Pascoe  
Mr. Gordon Westhoff



*Thank you to the  
**Garces FFA Program** and  
their advisor,  
**Mrs. Ashleigh Rossi,**  
for the lovely floral  
centerpieces on our  
tables tonight.*

***Legacy Families***

**The 2008 President's Award**

*The Luigi Antongiovanni Family*

**The 2009 President's Award**

*The Louis & Lucie Clerou Family*

**The 2010 President's Award**

*The Ben & Catherine Sill Family*

**The 2011 President's Award**

*The Robert & Audrey McDermott Family*

**The 2012 President's Award**

*The Alice Jett Conley and  
Vince & Marie Sakowski Family*

**The 2014 President's Award**

*The Jim & BeBe Burke Family*

**The 2015 President's Award**

*The Joe & Jana Campbell Family*

**The 2016 Alumni Award**

*The Tom & Judy Franconi Family*

**The 2017 Alumni Award**

*The Mac & Stella McMurtrey Family*

**The 2018 Alumni Award**

*The Shirley & Larry Gargan and  
Barbara & Joe Harrison Families*

**The 2019 Alumni Award**

*The Mary & David Fanucchi Family*

**The 2021 Alumni Award**

*The Jan & Tim Sullivan Family*

# *Garces Memorial Alma Mater*

All hail to thee, dear Garces  
For united we will stand  
We always will be loyal  
To our brave and mighty Rams!

Our prayers are always for you,  
And with guidance from above  
Though we win or lose we're with you  
For it's Garces High we love!

## *Garces Memorial High School Mission Statement*



Garces Memorial High School is a coeducational, comprehensive Catholic high school. Our school strives to fulfill the mission of Christ by developing students spiritually, academically, and socially.

Our mission commits us to instill in every member of the Garces Memorial community the courage to act with faith, knowledge, compassion, & justice.