

Marín-Herrera Water Award

A Water Committee Initiative

Galardón del Agua Herrera-Marín

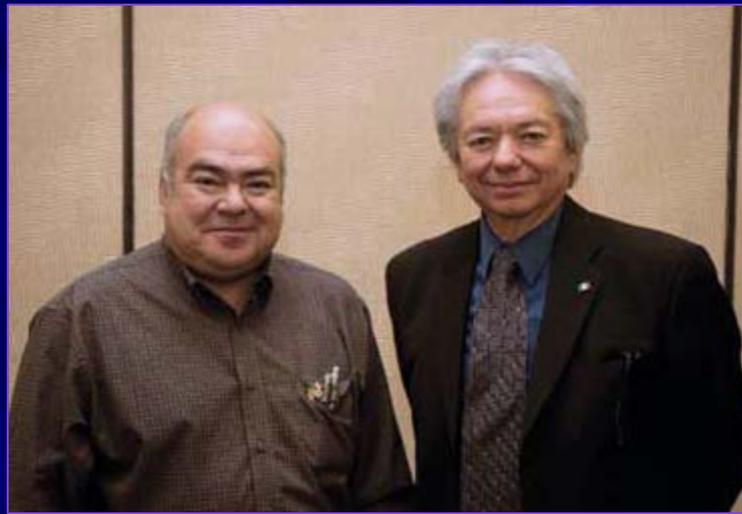
Una Iniciativa del Comité del Agua



Plácido dos Santos

AMC/CSA Plenary Session - Litchfield Park, Arizona

June 3, 2011



Carlos Marín

Arturo Herrera Solís

The Late U.S. Commissioner
International Boundary and Water Commission

El Difunto Comisionado de México
Comisión Internacional de Límites y Agua

During the AMC's December 2008 Plenary Session, the Water Committee Co-Chairs established this award program. The Marín-Herrera Water Award is named in honor of Carlos Marín and Arturo Herrera Solís, respectively the late U.S. and Mexico Commissioners of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC). These two fine gentlemen perished together in a plane crash almost three years ago while surveying a flooding emergency along the Rio Grande. The Commissioners were highly respected for their leadership, positive approach, and the problem-solving spirit that they brought to US-Mexico water issues.



The Purpose of the Award – El Propósito del Galardón

“To recognize exemplary efforts that have strengthened water resources collaboration between Arizona and Sonora”

“Para reconocer los esfuerzos ejemplares que han fortalecido la colaboración entre Sonora y Arizona en asuntos de agua.”

J. Craig Tinney, Ph.D., P.E.

Today we honor Craig Tinney for extraordinary efforts during a decade-long tenure as a member of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Border Environmental Protection. During those ten years, Craig accomplished what many other qualified professionals simply could not. It seemed that everything Craig had done during his life had helped prepare him to tackle the water infrastructure deficiencies that characterize the US-Mexico border region.



A native Arizonan, Craig earned degrees from both Arizona State University and the University of Arizona. He earned a Ph.D., was a licensed Professional Engineer, was a certified wastewater treatment plant operator and was the first official from a state government invited to attend the Utilities Management Institute (UMI) at the North American Development Bank (NADBank).

Craig was armed to the teeth with credentials, but he rarely flashed them. Instead, he persuaded and disarmed people with his kindness, generosity and keen wit.

Craig was equally comfortable talking with a presidential appointee or a laborer holding a shovel in a ditch. Which side of the border he happened to be standing on didn't matter. His work philosophy was simple – help people and help them get their jobs done.

J. Craig Tinney



Craig was an accomplished musician. Music is a passion that he shared with his wife Jacquie. He played the guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, ukulele, fiddle, harmonica and the accordion. True to their unpretentiousness and great sense of humor, their band was called the Privvy Tippers. It's somehow fitting that Craig's father took him to Nogales to buy his first guitar as a young boy.

J. Craig Tinney, Ph.D., P.E.



Craig Tinney's name came forth for this award through a joint nomination from the ADEQ and the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Chuck Graf from ADEQ and Tom Konner from the US EPA office in San Francisco were close colleagues that had worked with Craig.

"Craig's work has enriched the environment and bettered the lives of thousands of residents on both sides of the border. Craig has helped guide 16 projects costing \$230 million, which benefitted over 500,000 residents of the Az-Son border region. Most notable has been Craig's devotion and tenacity with the projects to revive the Santa Cruz River. The recent upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant would not have been possible without Craig."

The Nogales project was supported by a \$59.5 million grant – the largest single border infrastructure grant ever awarded by the US EPA and the NADBank.

J. Craig Tinney, Ph.D., P.E.



But Craig made his mark on numerous other communities – Naco, Bisbee, Douglas, Patagonia, Yuma, Gadsden, Somerton, San Luis to name a few. Whenever there was a need, Craig received the call – sometimes it was a local call, sometimes it was an international call. He always responded.

I believe that Craig was destined to work in the border region. He was the right person, at the right place, at the right time. Today the environment is cleaner and healthier because of his efforts and accomplishments.

From San Antonio to San Francisco, from Hermosillo to Phoenix, from Ciudad Juarez to his home in Tucson...Craig will long be missed. But we should forever be grateful for the time that he was a part of our lives. Like the sound of a songbird on a river running through the Sonoran desert, the memory of Craig Tinney will always be music in our hearts.