

**Richard S. Cariño**  
**Educator – Community Activist**  
**Inducted into Hall of Fame October 18, 2013**

Richard S. Cariño was born April 21, 1954 in Casa Grande, AZ (only because Eloy has no hospital). He was the second oldest of 12 children born to Ralph Villa Cariño and Minnie Salazar Cariño, daughter of the Eloy pioneering Salazar family, who was herself a 1951 graduate of Santa Cruz.

He received his public schooling at Eloy Elementary and was a 1972 graduate of Santa Cruz. He completed 2 years of study at Central AZ College, 1 year at Northern AZ University, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 1977 from Arizona State University. He completed his Masters in Educational Leadership in 1988 at Northern AZ University. He has completed another 40+ hours toward his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership.

Richard started his educational career as a teacher and Federal Grants Writer/Director at Picacho Elementary from 1977-1990. Also during this time he taught ABE/GED classes for Central AZ College from 1982-1990. In 1990, Richard was selected as the Eloy Junior High Principal.

He was selected as the Eloy Elementary District Superintendent in 1993. Richard has the distinction of being the first Eloy native and Eloy educated Hispanic to hold the offices of Eloy Junior High Principal and District Superintendent. In 2005, Richard retired from the district.

Richard has been active in the community as a Little League Coach, Youth Basketball Coach, Catholic Youth Organization sponsor at St. Helen's of the Cross Catholic Church, and served on numerous boards. He was on the Santa Cruz governing board for 22 years and received 2 awards for his service and dedication to education from the AZ School Boards Association in December of 2012.

He was a member of the Santa Cruz Career Ladder Steering Committee and on the Board of Directors for the Pinal Hispanic Council for 22 years. Richard was the local President of the Santa Cruz Valley Food Bank, a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Eloy Housing Authority and Interim Director for 6 months. He was a member of the ASBAIT (AZ School Board Association Insurance Trust) Board of Directors for 12 years. For 5 years he was a member of the Foster Care Review Board of Pinal County and the county representative to the State Foster Care Review Board.

He is still a member of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Board and the Pinal County Restorative Justice Panel. He volunteers on Wednesday evenings at Bingo for St. Helen's Church.

Richard was honored as the Eloy Chamber of Commerce "Good Neighbor of the Year" in 1993. He received the "Heart in Hand" award from the state offices that represent CAHRA in 2005.

After 8 years of retirement Richard is back to work as the Interim Superintendent here at Santa Cruz for the 2013 school year, again the first Hispanic Eloy native to hold this position.

**Ricky Nelson**  
**Professional Baseball Player – Coach**  
**Inducted into Hall of Fame October 18, 2013**

Ricky was delivered to E.B. and Willie Pearl (Precious) Nelson by Dr. Howard Holmes on May 8, 1959, in Eloy, Arizona. He went through the Eloy schools from 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades. He served as Student Body President his eighth grade year.

At Santa Cruz, Ricky was on the varsity wrestling team his freshman and sophomore years. He played football, baseball, ran track for the freshman teams and was in the varsity marching band where he wrote one of the songs they played in concert. His junior and senior years, Ricky played varsity baseball. He was a member of the State Championship team his junior year and the State Champion Runner-Up his senior year. He received recognition on the All-Conference, Super All State, and Class AA-A Baseball All-Star Teams. He also served as senior class president.

Ricky is indebted to Ralph Cariño for picking Ricky to play Little League for him when no one else would. He also credits Ray Montijo for playing Ricky on his summer baseball team to give him the experience and confidence to make the SC varsity teams.

Ricky went to Arizona State University where he played varsity baseball and was on the 1981 National Championship team. Recognized for his baseball talents, Ricky was drafted by the Seattle Mariners where he played for 5 ½ years. He also played for the New York Mets and the Cleveland Indians. He retired in 1987.

Ricky returned to ASU and earned his Exercise Science/ Physical Education degree while working for the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department. In 2001, he took a break to manage the Oakland Athletics Arizona Rookie League team to a league championship.

Ricky served on the first Arizona Probation Officers Association as Vice-President for 12 years, the Arizona Professional Baseball Commission for 4 ½ years, helped start the Arizona Diamondback Training Centers in 1998, developed neighborhood partnerships for 4 years, coached a variety of youth sports, and has been a Gideon for 10 years.

**Father Rudy Rosales**  
**Priest – Athletic Trainer**  
**Inducted into Hall of Fame October 18, 2013**

Raul “Rudy” Rosales is one of ten children of Gilbert and Lupe Rosales, lifelong Eloy residents and active members of Saint Helen of the Cross Catholic Church.

Rudy attended Eloy Elementary Schools from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He was successful academically, socially, and athletically at Santa Cruz Valley Union High School. He was a 5 sport letterman in football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, and track as SC’s First Student Athletic Trainer. Rudy was in National Honor Society and Student Council, being elected Student Body President his senior year.

Rudy attended Northern Arizona University on both athletic and academic scholarships. He continued his successful Athletic Trainer career serving as an All Sport Student Trainer for four years and Head Student Trainer for three years. He completed his National Athletic Trainers Association Internship Training and his Bachelors of Science in Education and Masters of Arts in Education while at NAU. He was a staff team member of the 1978 NAU Football Big Sky Championship Team which was inducted into the NAU Athletics Hall of Fame.

Rudy taught Physical Education, Sports Medicine, and History at Tolleson Union High School from 1980-89, while also serving as Head Athletic Trainer and Student Council Advisor. He served on the AZ Coaches Association Football All Star Staff as Athletic Trainer 1980 – 83.

Rudy became Father Rudy after returning to school at St. John’s Catholic Theological Seminary in Camarillo, California and receiving his Masters of Divinity in 1993. He was ordained a Catholic Priest in the Diocese of Tucson.

Father Rudy served as Parochial Vicar at Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, Pastor of Holy Cross in Morenci, Sacred Heart in Clifton, St. Mary’s in Duncan, Holy Angels in Globe, and is Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Grace in Maricopa.

Father Rudy received the Distinguished Service to Education Award from the Morenci School Board and the Morenci Rotary Red Rose Citation for Exemplary Service to Community for his dedication to serve community youth.

**Mary Lou Rosales**  
**Community Advocate**  
**Inducted into Hall of Fame October 18, 2013**

Mary Lou was born in Tucson, AZ to Luis Maria and Maria Dolores Rosales, one of ten children. She attended Eloy Elementary Schools and Santa Cruz Valley Union High School.

When a medical procedure prevented her from attending school, Mr. John Berryhill, Superintendent, provided for remote transmission from her classes that enabled Mary Lou to excel academically.

She went on to participate in several school clubs and organizations. Her outgoing personality won her the title of "Miss Whirlwind" in 1967 while her academic accomplishments earned membership in the National Honor Society.

Mary Lou attended the University of Arizona before returning to Eloy to start her many years of community service. She worked as Eloy Enterprise Women's editor before moving over to Central Arizona Association of Governments, and eventually Community Action Human Resources Agency (CAHRA) where she was instrumental in finding grant funding for programs to improve the lives of low-income and disadvantaged Pinal County residents.

Despite her demanding career demands, Mary Lou found time to serve as a 4-H Leader and a Youth Minister for St. Helen of the Cross Catholic Church for over 25 years, She was an officer in both the Honorable Junta Patriotica and the subsequent Corazon De Latinos Unidos (organizations that sponsor the Eloy Fiestas), the Pinal Hispanic Council, and the Arizona Community Action Association.

For her years of dedication to community service, Mary Lou was recognized as the Eloy Good Neighbor of the Year in 1976; a Congressional Certificate of Honor from US Congressman Rick Renzi; recognition from Governor Jane Hull for work with AZ Governor's Council Against Hunger; and Valle de Sol Profiles of Success Special Recognition, 2005.

**Larry Shorty**  
**Professional Football Player – Educator**  
**Inducted into Hall of Fame October 18, 2013**

Larry was born in Marvill, Arkansas on May 19, 1951 to Jed and Allene Shorty. In 1952, the family moved to Picacho where Larry attended 1st – 8<sup>th</sup> grades and participated in flag football, track, and softball.

At Santa Cruz, Larry was in the marching band and the spring concert band as well as being an All-State selection in track, basketball, and football. Larry played in both the football and basketball North-South All Star games and was selected to the Arizona Republic High School Football All-Century Team.

Among many scholarship offers, Larry chose Arizona State University and started there in 1970. Larry was a football standout and made All Conference in the Western Athletic Conference and Honorable Mention Associated Press All America.

He was one of the few ASU football players to have started in the first three initial Fiesta Bowl games, all of which Arizona State won.

Larry played professional football for the Oakland Raiders, Miami Dolphins, Chicago Wind, Memphis Southmen, and Saskatuween Roughriders. At the end of his professional football career, Larry returned to Arizona State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education.

Larry taught at Laveen School, Isaac Junior High, Picacho School, and for Roosevelt School District. While he was teaching, he also coached basketball, track, football, and soccer. He coached football, basketball, and track for Santa Cruz. He retired from teaching in 2007.