



RIALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BRIDGING FUTURES THROUGH INNOVATION

PRESS RELEASE

Rialto Unified School District
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Ben F. Kolb Middle School Commemorates 50th Anniversary

In 1967, some of nation's most historic milestones transpired: *The Summer of Love* began in Haight Ashbury, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *Cool Hand Luke* were the big box office hits, the first Super Bowl was played against the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs, The Beatles released the critically acclaimed album, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, the single "Respect," recorded by Aretha Franklin, was named Billboard's 'Song of the Year,' United States Supreme Court unanimously ends laws against interracial marriages, boxing legend Muhammad Ali was convicted and banned from US boxing for refusing induction in the US Army, the US Senate confirms Thurgood Marshall as the first Black Supreme Court Justice, the average income in America was \$7,300, the average monthly rent was \$125, and the average sale of a house was \$14,250. Fifty years ago, in 1967, **Ben F. Kolb Middle School**, located 2351 North Spruce Street, in Rialto, also opened its doors to the first junior (now middle) school students.

On Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Kolb Middle School will celebrate its 50 years of existence in promoting thousands of students and staffing hundreds of employees.

The celebration will be fun and the mood, reminiscent, according to Kolb MS Principal, **Carolyn Eide**, who added, "The evening will include presentation of the Colors with Kolb JROTC, sharing of memories from former staff members, also, our talented Kolb Marching Band will perform, and a community tile project will adorn one of the walls, as a mural. We are excited to invite parents/guardians, families, former students and staff and the community, to our 50th Anniversary Celebration to commemorate our school's history."

The Kolb Middle School 50th Anniversary Committee, consist of: **Principal Eide**, Assistant Principals, **Karen Good**, and **Dr. Acquillahs Muteti**, School Secretary, **Lucia Acosta**, teachers, **Mary Byrnes**, **Nathaniel Robinson**, and **Kristen Urnsbach**, ASB Director, **Lauren Erickson**, Library Technician, **Terry Day**, former principal/teacher and current Lead Academic Agent of math/science, **Dr. Edward D'Souza**, and former teacher, **Nick Valentine**.

"Middle school experiences for our many students and staff, past and present, result in memories that carry some of the best years of academic and social lives," said RUSD Superintendent, **Dr. Cuauhtémoc Avila**. "I, along with the Board of Education, thank the Kolb 50th Anniversary Committee, as we anticipate attending this momentous school event."

Ben F. Kolb was born in Gadsden, Arizona in 1916, and was the youngest of nine children. He grew up in Garden Grove, California. He worked after school in an orange packinghouse. He married Mary, the daughter of a beloved Rialto kindergarten teacher, Margaret Todd, in 1939. Mr. Kolb moved to Rialto in 1942, where he served as a meat manager at Stater Bro., grocery stores for 17 years. He later co-owned his own meat market. Two of his three children, **Ben Kolb Jr.**, and **Donna Lynn Mueller**, became teachers. Donna, at one time, taught third grade at Georgia Morris Elementary School in Rialto. Although Mr. Kolb helped start Little League Baseball in Rialto, he is best known for his contribution to education, serving as a dedicated member of the Board of Education from 1954 to 1958.

For press information on the anniversary commemoration please contact Communications/Media Services Director, Syeda Jafri, at (909) 820-7700, ext. 2127.