

THE *Community*
FOUNDATION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Richard J. Weyhrich Leadership Award

The **Richard J. Weyhrich Leadership Award** was established in memory of Richard John Weyhrich. Richard graduated from West Point and received a commission in the U.S. Army, embarking on a leadership path that would define his career. After being assigned to the Far East Command in 1954 in Japan and Korea, he resigned his commission in 1955. He went into the securities business as a stockbroker and portfolio manager, a career he successfully pursued for over 30 years. He completed an MBA at Pepperdine University in 1970 and in 1980 established his own business, R.J. Weyhrich Consulting Services. As a successful financial advisor and consultant, Weyhrich later helped establish the Herbert Alumni Center at the West Point Military Academy.



Weyhrich established several scholarship funds around the country, generally set up in the name of a friend or colleague whose leadership impressed him. In 1999, after moving to Avila Beach from Los Angeles, he met with The Community Foundation's then Executive Director David Edwards. He served on the Foundation's Finance and Investment Committee. In July of 2002, Mr. Weyhrich passed away after battling prostate cancer. Through his estate he left The Community Foundation approximately \$1.1 million to create an endowment that would focus on young people with leadership potential.

Mr. Weyhrich felt passionate about identifying young people who had the talent to lead others- and rewarding them. In 2006, the first group of 17 young people received a \$1,000 leadership award. As of 2020, **216** recipients have received about **\$560,000** throughout the county.

R.J. Weyhrich also supported numerous local organizations including Hospice of San Luis Obispo, Cuesta College, the Performing Arts Center in San Luis Obispo, and the Clark Center in Arroyo Grande. Before he died, he spoke about being sad that he had had no children, but it became clear that through this scholarship fund he would be able to help many young people fulfill their dreams. His driving passion was empowering and encouraging individuals with leadership potential, a passion that continues to live on through this scholarship.



"That spirit and his generosity to our beloved institution and the youth of this county provide exemplary evidence of a gracious and worthy soul." -U.S. Military Academy West Point Classmates

550 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401
805-543-2323 ● www.cfsloco.org