

Gordy Shields Bridge

The “Gordy Bridge was opened and dedicated in the name of Gordy Shields in April 2004. Gordon (Gordy) Albert Shields was a legend in the San Diego region as cycling advocate and as a champion bike racer. Born in 1918, Gordy was a Navy veteran and an educator who took up cycling at the age of 50. He was one of the members of the Bay Route Bikeway Steering Committee that developed the first plan in 1976 for a continuous bike path around San Diego Bay. In 1987, Gordy helped establish the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition to advocate for the rights of cyclists and to make San Diego a better place for everyone to ride bikes. On behalf of the Bike Coalition, Gordy served on the SANDAG Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee for over ten years, much of that as the Committee Chair. When, in 1989, Chula Vista Mayor Greg Cox asked SANDAG to form the Bayshore Bikeway Working Group to work toward completion of that bikeway, Gordy was asked to represent the bicycling community on the Working Group, and he served until 2009. Along with his tireless advocacy, Gordy was a fierce cycling competitor. He took up competitive cycling at age 70 and went on to set USA national 20 kilometer time trial records in the 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-90, age groups. In 2008 at San Diego’s Fiesta Island, he set the record for the “Age 90 and above” category. Through it all, he was the heart and soul of his cycling club, the San Diego Cyclo-Vets. Above all, whether as an advocate or a competitor, Gordy was a true gentleman whose contributions to the San Diego region is fittingly remembered in the dedication of this bridge in his name.

