

# *Gordy Shields Day*

*Presented by Councilmember Donna Frye*

*April 20, 2010*

## *Proclamation Written By Darryl MacKenzie*

**WHEREAS**, Gordon Albert Shields was born on April 20, 1918 in Quincy Massachusetts of Irish and Scottish parents who immigrated from Nova Scotia in 1910, he has thus entered his 10<sup>th</sup> decade of dedication and inspiration to his family, friends and community; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordy was a devoted husband to his late wife of 64 years, Olwyn, and family member to their three children Susan, Valerie and Scott, two grandchildren and one great grandchild; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordy has succeeded in realizing significant personal contributions and accomplishments in life as an Officer in US Navy on USS Dane during World War II, as a recipient of a Master's Degree from San Diego State, as a school guidance counselor at Grossmont College, as a former president of the Teacher's Professional Association and as an active member of the Democratic Party; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordy has made significant contributions to humanity by standing many times before the San Diego City Council succeeding with his humor and his well-presented oratory to garner and retain the attention of all in that chamber, being a founding member of the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition in 1987, chairing SANDAG's Bicycle Facilities Committee for over ten years, working tirelessly on SANDAG Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group over 10 years to advocate for bike paths, bike lanes, regional bike maps and laws improving the life of cyclists, and, in particular, by leading since 1976 the realization of the San Diego Bay's Bayshore Bikeway for which he was honored in 2004 by having the bridge over the Sweetwater River named the "Gordy Shields Bayshore Bikeway Bridge"; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordy has accomplished significant personal achievements in his passion of cycling leading a team of five in a bike ride from San Diego to Washington DC in 1981, and embarked on competitive cycling at age 70 to set USA national time records for the distance of 20-kilometers for age 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-90, and on April 11, 2008 at San Diego's Fiesta Island for the "Age 90 and above" category, for which he was featured on the front page of the San Diego Union Tribune; and

**WHEREAS**, Gordy is considered the "heart and soul" of his beloved cycling club, the San Diego Cyclo-Vets; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council and the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, does hereby proclaim April 20, 2010, to be "**Gordy Shields Day**" in the City of San Diego, and does hereby, honor, commend and thank Gordy for all of his contributions to improving the quality of life for his family, friends, fellow citizens and cyclists, and for forever being "...our hero, we all want to grow up to be like Gordy."