

# Assemblymember Brown honors Fathers of the Year



PHOTOS/CYNTHIA MENDOZA

Father of the Year Award recipient George Aguilar and his family. From left: Daughter Patty Aguilar, mother Mary Aguilar, George Aguilar and his wife Patricia Aguilar.



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Assemblymember Cheryl Brown's Father of the Year Award recipients, from left: Coach Dwaine Radden, Mr. O, Wayne Dickerson, Floyd McIver, Assemblymember Cheryl Brown George Aguilar, David Radtke and Sandy Torres, during the awards luncheon on Friday, June 7 at Vanir in San Bernardino.



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"It's a blessing to be recognized for doing something you're supposed to do; you're supposed to raise your kids," said David Radtke of Grand Terrace. "It feels great." David Radtke, second from left, is joined here by his family including: daughter Lindsi, wife Penny, son Craig and daughter Alexis.

## By Cynthia Mendoza

On Friday, June 7, Assemblymember Cheryl Brown hosted her first annual Father of the Year Awards luncheon to recognize noteworthy fathers in the 47th Assembly district who are not only great dads, but who also serve their communities in meaningful ways.

The following is a very brief summary of each recipient and some of their accomplishments. Space does not allow for inclusion of all of them.

George Aguilar served as executive director of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District for 27 years and currently serves on the Utilities Commission for the city of Colton. He is also president of the Inland Empire Chicano Latino Caucus. As a father, he teaches his daughters that they can do anything and that there are endless possibilities, as well as instilling in them the value of an education.

Wayne Dickerson has worked in the pharmaceutical industry for 20 years and is currently an educator at Alta Vista Charter School in San Bernardino. During his spare time, he coaches several soccer teams including the Antelope Valley Heat and Antelope Valley Ambush. Through his work as a coach, several players have gone on to receive college scholarships, including his daughters. As a father, he teaches his children responsibility and motivates them to do well in school.

Floyd McIver has served his

country for 27 years in the Air Force and Army Reserves. During his military career he served as a law enforcement officer and freight superintendent at (then) Norton Air Force Base and has also worked at Kaiser Steel and California Steel. He is a graduate of San Bernardino Valley College and has served as volunteer with the PTA through the Rialto Unified School District. As a father, he set an example for his children through living his own life correctly, listening to them and teaching them to put God first.

Known simply as Mr. O, Akinlana Osonduagwuike, the principal at Frisbee Middle School in Rialto,

adopts a few at risk youth every year in order to provide them love, guidance and wisdom. Through his guidance and nurturing, students respond well to him and in turn improve in school and change their lives for the better. As a father to two sons, Mr. O teaches them about the importance of helping others and being honorable men of God.

Dwaine Radden moved from California from the South with "next to nothing but a dollar and a dream" and went on to coach youth football for many years, a sport he had also played a young man. Coach Radden is currently head coach of a semi-pro team that has consistently won three championship titles and one national title. He is a graduate of CSUSB where he earned his teaching credential. He and his wife Melinda have five children.

David Radtke of Grand Terrace earned his bachelors degree from University of Redlands and serves as general manager of Dimare International Produce. He has also worked for the County of Riverside as the director of a substance abuse program for kids in the juvenile probation program. In his spare time he coaches Little League softball, youth pro-ball and soccer. He is an active member of the Grand Terrace Lions Club. He



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Father of the Year Award recipient Wayne Dickerson, middle, with his wife Mary, left, and daughter Blair, right, on Friday, June 7 at Assemblymember Cheryl Brown's Father of the Year Awards, where he, along with other noteworthy fathers in the

and his wife Penny have four children. As a father he provides structure, consistency and love to his kids and is always there for them to listen and provide advice without judgment.

Sandy Torres currently serves as principal of Ruth O. Harris Middle School in Bloomington. He has also served as assistant principal at Colton Middle School and in vari-

ous other capacities in Colton schools. He has received several awards including Educator of the Year by the Association Of Mexican American Educators and by the Bloomington Community Boosters. He and his wife Suzanne have three children. As a father, he supports his children by providing wisdom and guidance when they need it.

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