

CPRS District II
Recreation, Park and Leisure

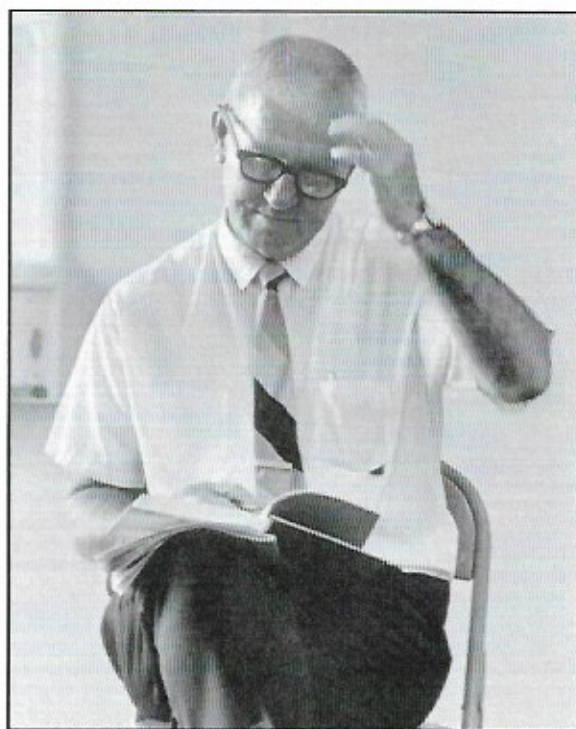
2007 Hall of Honor

Professional Category

J. R. Needy, Ph.D.

1911 – 1982

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARK ADMINISTRATION



- Chair, Department of Recreation and Park Administration, California State University, Sacramento, 1959–1974.
- Vision and leadership provided the foundation for curriculum options including park management and interpretation, commercial and special population options. Instituted a focus on Administration and Management.
- Dean, Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, California State University, Sacramento, 1974–1976.
- Director of Physical Training, U.S. Air Force, WWII, and Assistant to the Chief of Sports, U.S. Air Force, 1950–1952.
- Director of Park and Recreation, Houston, Texas.
- Director of Recreation Department, State of Oklahoma Works Project Agency.
- Basketball Coach, Oklahoma University.
- Distinguished Services Award, American Institute of Park Executives, 1963.
- Fellowship Award, California Park and Recreation Society, 1973.
- Distinguished Fellow Award, Society of Park and Recreation Educators, National Recreation and Park Association, 1976.
- California Parks and Recreation Society, District II; J.R. Needy Professional Award named in his honor.

J. R. NEEDY FOUNDATION

January 31, 2007

Ms. Lisa Rudloff
Sunrise Recreation & Park District
7801 Auburn Blvd.
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Dear Ms. Rudloff:

I have been asked by Debra Walker, Pat Fenwick and Judy Quattrin, who I believe are all members of the Hall of Honor Executive Committee, to submit with their sponsorship, the attached nomination of Dr. J. R. "Shocky" Needy for induction into the Hall of Honor in the Professional Category.

Dr. Needy's professional career is both broad and deep, as noted in the attached resume. He is, of course, most remembered as the long-time Chair of the Recreation and Leisure Studies program and the Dean of the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at California State University, Sacramento. However, his contributions go far beyond the simple listing of his professional experiences and honors.

In 1959, Dr. Needy brought structure and direction to the fledgling Recreation Administration program at CSU, Sacramento. He instituted a focus for the program on Administration and Management that has guided the program to this day. In the early 1970's, he brought the Park Management Program and the Recreation Administration Program - programs which had existed for some time in separate schools - together into the Recreation and Leisure Studies Program. His contributions to the academic standing of parks and recreation as a field of worthy study were so exceptional he was made the Dean of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at CSU, Sacramento in 1974.

In addition to his accomplishments in academia, Dr. Needy was an active participant in regional, state and national professional societies. This can be noted in the honors bestowed on him by the California Park and Recreation Society and the National Recreation and Park Association, and in an award named in his honor by CPRS District II.

Ms. Lisa Rudloff
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Perhaps Dr. Needy's greatest contribution and his most lasting legacy can be found in the hundreds of students he inspired and motivated to greater achievements, both personally and professionally. So many of his students went on to achieve success at the highest levels in the public and private sectors with literally dozens attaining the Director's level with city, county, special district, state and federal agencies. His guidance and inspiration was so profound, upon his death in 1982, many of his former students created a Foundation in his memory and to carry forward the ideals he espoused. I have had the privilege of serving as the Foundation's President.

For the reasons stated here and in the attached resume, I hope you will look favorably on the nomination of Dr. J. R. Needy for posthumous induction into the Hall of Honor. I can think of no one more deserving.

If you require any additional information, please call me at (916) 657-4548.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Keith L. Demetrak, President
J. R. Needy Foundation

Hall of Honor Nomination Form

☒ Professional Category

Name of Nominee: Dr. J. R. Needy

Address: c/o Mrs. Helen Needy, 3730 Winston Way
Carmichael, CA 95609 – 2942

Phone: N/A

Email: N/A

Name of Person Making Nomination: Keith L. Demetrak

Phone: (916) 657-4548

Name of Sponsor: Debra Walker, Pat Fenwick, Judy Quattrin

Dr. J. R. Needy

Professional Experience

- Dean, Division of Health, Physical Education & Recreation, CSU, Sacramento, 1974 – 1976
- Professor and Chair, Department of Recreation & Leisure Studies, CSU, Sacramento, 1959 – 1974
- Director of Physical Training, U.S. Air Force, WWII
- Assistant to the Chief of Sports, U.S. Air Force, 1950 – 1952
- Director of Park and Recreation, Houston, Texas
- Director, Recreation Department, State of Oklahoma Works Project Agency
- Coach, Oklahoma University
- Director of Personnel, AIDA Oil Company, Houston, Texas

Special Honors

- Distinguished Services Award, American Institute of Park Executives, 1963
- Fellowship Award, California Park and Recreation Society, 1973
- Distinguished Fellow Award, Society of Park and Recreation Educators, National Recreation and Park Association, 1976

Jerome R. Needy, PHd.

Born on January 19, 1911 in Missouri

Those of us, who were privileged to know Dr. Needy from CSUS or Sac State, remember him best for two simple phrases:

Good is the Enemy of Best – always striving to do your best!
The Utopia Project – the last and most difficult right of passage before earning your BA degree from CSUS.

How many of those present this evening can list that challenge as one of their major life achievements? I would encourage the rest of you to talk with a “Utopia Survivor” after the banquet this evening to discover what you missed!

Dr. Needy or Shocky as he has been called by those close to him earned his BS from University of Oklahoma, an MA from the University of Missouri and his doctorate in education from New York University.

Shocky worked full and part-time with the YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, Boy's Clubs of America and in several municipal Recreation departments in a variety of areas spanning from Aquatics to Playgrounds, Waterfront and camp directors.

He served as the State consultant for Sports and Games for the US works Projects Administration, then becoming the state director of recreation for Oklahoma

Dr. Needy served the USAF on many large air bases as Director of Physical Training, Sports and Recreation

He then served as the superintendent for the Parks and Recreation Dept in Houston Texas.

Going back to his roots he became the assistant professor of Physical ed. And assistant basketball coach at the University of Oklahoma. He originated and developed the Shuffle Offense in basketball which became widely used by high school and college teams.

Another stint with the air force and he became the Executive Officer of Personnel Services and Assistant Chief of Sports for the Air force at the Pentagon.

He next served as the Director of Personnel and Industrial Relations for a private oil company before coming to California in 1959 as a professor and the chair for the Department of Recreation and Park Administration for CSUS.

Dr. Needy became Dean of the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 1975 and served in that capacity until his retirement in 19__.

Shocky served on too many boards, councils and commissions to mention on a local level, state level with CPRS and nationally with NRPA and many other organizations. To say his influence was felt across the nation would be most accurate.

He was also invited to speak, give papers, and serve on panels at National and state conferences for the American Assoc for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, the NRPA, CPRS and the American Institute of Park Executives.

Dr. Needy was a published author for the Air Force Sports Manual and the NRPA on a variety of topics.

Dr. Jerome R. Needy was professionally honored with the following awards:

1. Distinguished Service Award by the American Institute of Parks Executives
2. Citation Award for Outstanding Professional Services, by CPRS District II
3. A Citation Award for Professional Service by the NRPA
4. The Fellowship Award, the highest honor given by CPRS at the state level
5. The Distinguished Fellow Award, the highest award given by the National Society of Park and Recreation Educators

In addition to all these achievements, Dr. Needy has been credited for having the foresight and perseverance to merge Recreation Administration

and Environmental Resources into one larger and stronger department on the CSUS campus.

He has also mentored many students who have gone on to be professionals in the field locally, statewide and nationally.

And finally, one of Dr. Needy's finest accomplishments was his marriage to his best friend and fishing buddy, Helen W. Needy. They were married in _____ and had one son, Jerry, who resides with his wife in Georgia.

He was always be remembered for taking the time to debate an issue with a student or lend an ear, even as he was leaving campus for the evening. Helen mentioned to me a few weeks ago that she learned to keep dinner warm and never expect Shockey at any certain time.