

RICHARD LEE CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP



The California Envirothon (CAE) is creating a scholarship in honor and memory of Richard Lee Campbell. Richard was a beloved and respected leader, friend, and tireless advocate for the CAE.

The Richard Lee Campbell Scholarship is to be awarded at the annual California Envirothon to each of the five winning team members. Its purpose is to support college or university tuition, attendance at either a trade or vocational school, or other related expenses to further their education.

Richard was a man of strong moral convictions and character. He believed in the conscience of community and compassion for the world. He had a sense of purpose and sought to instill in others, their own sense of purpose. He valued doing good by everyone we meet and to make sure that when we leave somebody, we leave them in a better state than before.

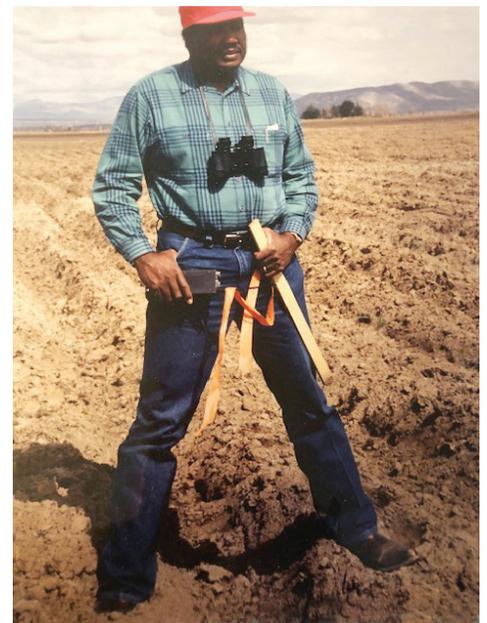
This sense of responsibility, care, and love was evident in his dedication to the schools and students of California Envirothon. He was conscious of the neglect and inequity of under-represented communities especially in education. He sought to help students and teachers with a passionate vigor to involve them in CAE knowing it would enrich their lives, further their education, and inspire opportunities. His commitment was authentic and meaningful as he recruited teams, teachers, volunteers, local resource conservation districts, and federal and state agency partners. He was instrumental in mentoring the CAE Steering Committee and bringing on new members. He knew how to lead and take charge; to carry out responsibilities; and to encourage the next group of leaders. He adhered to the duty of carrying everybody to the next level as much as one can. This reflects the core values of the CAE.

Richard Lee Campbell was born September 15, 1948, in Kilmichael, Mississippi. He attended Alcorn A&M University in Lorman, MS, earning a degree in Agricultural Education. In 1970, he began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service, in Bismarck, North Dakota, as a Soil Conservationist. He was promoted to District Conservationist, Yuma County, CO, and then in 1977, the District Conservationist at the Dalles, near Portland, Oregon.

In 1983, his career led him to Los Angeles County as the NRCS District Conservationist in Lancaster, serving the Antelope Valley RCD and the RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains. He also provided assistance to the Tehachapi RCD, the Riverside-Corona RCD, and the Inland Empire RCD.

In the Antelope Valley, he worked to solve the area's huge dust problem by founding the successful Dustbusters Task Force. Then in 1992, he co-founded the Antelope Valley Fever Alliance Program. Seeing a need to keep kids involved in agriculture, he stepped up to coordinate 'Kids Ag Day' at the Antelope Valley Fairgrounds where 900 kids would arrive by bus for a day of fun and learning about natural resources.

Richard left us on September 30, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. He is very much missed by his wife, Nancy, his children and grandkids. The loss is felt by friends and colleagues as well.





Richard, as the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative, teamed up with a federal, state, and local alliance supporting the Los Angeles Urban Resources Partnership. This was an initiative of the Clinton Administration, which provided grants to community groups in the inner cities to support community gardens, urban forestry, art, eradicate urban blight, outreach to under-privileged youth, and to instill civic pride in neighborhoods and parks. He was active in countless other community environmental affairs. He believed government played a vital role in giving communities a helping hand.

Richard believed we are all here for a purpose. He accomplished what he did on his own, having a very strong and independent spirit. He was a quiet leader in his service. He deeply cared for people and was moved when they in turn, showed their care for him. He made a difference, loved his family, and is watching over us. In that spirit, we establish this scholarship to encourage youth to follow in his footsteps.



Please visit the CAE website at caenvirothon.com to make a donation. Click on the menu item “About Us” in the header for more information.

