

**L2014.02**  
**Charles McKain**  
**Collection, 1921-2012 [bulk 1977-2012]**

**FINDING AID AUTHOR**

Gabrielle Garcia

**ACQUISITION INFORMATION**

Robert "Bob" McWilliams donated these materials on behalf of Charles McKain to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2014. Accession #L2014.02.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION**

This collection was processed by Gabrielle Garcia as part of the 2020 CSL Project.

**EXTENT**

Number of containers:  
Linear feet of shelf space: 3

**ABSTRACT**

**BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY**

Charles McKain, 65, from San Diego, passed away on Saturday, March 17, 2012. Charlie retired as a staff attorney for the Fourth District of the California Court of Appeal. He graduated from Hoover High School in 1963 and went on to earn a history degree from Stanford University and Juris Doctorate from the UCLA School of Law. He was an active member in many local Democratic Clubs and served on the board of the San Diego Democratic Club, now known as San Diego Democrats for Equality, for many years.

"Charlie was a pioneer in San Diego LGBT politics," said Doug Case, President of San Diego Democrats for Equality. "During the 1990-91 San Diego City Council redistricting process, he created proposed boundaries for the Third District that united communities with a high concentration of LGBT voters. The City Council adopted most of his map, paving the way for the election of Christine Kehoe, San Diego's first LGBT member of the City Council."

He played a significant role in progressive politics during his time serving on the Executive, Rules and Credentials Committees of the California Democratic Party. In

1980, he was also one of the first openly gay delegates from San Diego to the Democratic National Convention, and was elected as a delegate in 1992, 1996 and 2000. He also was a member and leader of the San Diego Democratic Central Committee.

"After 30 years as an active and vital member of the San Diego County Democratic Central Committee, Charlie was given Lifetime Membership status on the Central Committee – a recognition that is reserved for a limited few who are truly dedicated individuals and whose leadership of the Party proved critical to our success," noted Jess Durfee, Chair of the San Diego County Democratic Party.

Charlie received many honors for his work, including the San Diego Democratic Club Political Action and Lifetime Achievement Awards, the Henry Auerbach Democrat of the Year Award from the San Diego County Democratic Party, and being recognized when the San Diego City Council declared July 8, 2008, as "Charles McKain Day."

Charlie was also an avid basketball player, playing in as many as four leagues a week, including San Diego Hoops, the gay league. The high point of his basketball experience was playing in the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney, Australia for the San Diego team. Survived by his husband Robert McWilliams and sister Charlyne, Charlie and Bob were together for 36 years, and lived in San Diego's Sunset Cliffs neighborhood, where they regularly opened their home for political events and fundraisers. They became legally married in California in June of 2008.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/92953158/charles-louis-mckain>

## **COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains materials pertaining to the personal, academic, professional, and political life of Charles McKain (with the San Diego Democratic Club) and his husband Robert "Bob" McWilliams, notably detailed and substantial journal entries written by McKain from 1989-1990. These materials include correspondence, awards and commendations, newsletters, legal files, periodicals, various memorabilia and ephemera (such as buttons, conference badges, postcards, and other items), books, and journal entries.

## **ARRANGEMENT**

This collection consists of 4 boxes divided into 6 series:

- Series I: Interests [Box 1]
- Series II: Professional and Political [Box 1]
- Series III: Ephemera and Memorabilia [Box 1]
- Series IV: Publications [Box 1-Box 2]
- Series V: Academic [Box 3]
- Series VI: Personal Writing [Box 3-Box 4]

## **SEPARATED MATERIAL**

In this field, list any materials that have been removed from the collection and transferred to another collection, department (e.g., the library), or institution.

1. Framed: [L2014.02.01-L2014.02.07]
  - a. Posthumous Resolution by California State Assembly honoring Charles McKain 2012 [R1.S4]
  - b. Charles McKain Law Degree [R2.S3]
  - c. San Diego City Council "Charles McKain Day" Proclamation 2012 [WR8]
  - d. UC Berkeley Law Degree 1974 [WR8]
  - e. "The Order of the Coif" UCLA (law association) 1974 [WR1]
  - f. [WR8]
  - g. [WR8]
2. Flat File:
  - a. 1 plastic "March on Washington April 25, 1993" rainbow flag
  - b. Mounted redistricting map of San Diego submitted by Mckain in 1990
3. Buttons:
  - a. Z1402-Z1406 - Box 3 Tray 3H
  - b. Z1414-Z1407 - Box 3 Tray 3I
  - c. Z1415-Z1424 - Box 4 Tray 1A
  - d. Z1425-Z1432 - Box 4 Tray 1B
  - e. Z1500-Z1559
4. Photos: [P371-P373]
  - a. Loose photos of Charles McKain: politics, pride travel, 1990s, & undated
  - b. 3 packets of photos of SAGA hiking trips 1981,1982
  - c. Loose photos of Charles McKain
5. DVDs:
  - a. SAGA's Greatest Hits: Highlights of SAGA Ski Club's Famous Christmas Shows at the Cafe del Rey Maro 1981-1990
  - b. SDCDP 2008 Roosevelt Dinner Awards (Charles McKain received awards)
  - c. San Diego Hoops (basketball) at Sydney Gay Games VI 2002

## **SUBJECTS**

Charles "Charlie" McKain, Robert "Bob" McWilliams, San Diego Democratic Club (SDDC), political conventions, Democratic Party, Black's Beach, Howard Smith, John Van De Kamp, Stanford University, Soviet Union (USSR), Awards/commendations, Athletics/sports, travel, education, AIDS/HIV

## **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS**

This collection is open and available for research use. Copyright restrictions may apply.

## PREFERRED CITATION

The suggested citation for the collection is:

[Item Description]  
Charles McKain Collection, 1921-2012  
Lambda Archives of San Diego  
San Diego, California

## RELATED MATERIAL

L2007.09, L2013.44, L2013.60 (remains with this collection)

## LOCATION NOTE

C.4.2.5-C.4.2.6

## LANGUAGES

English

## CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Personal Interests (basketball, travel, friends) 1986-2002	1986-2002	
1	2	Professional Correspondence 1997-2001	1997-2001	
1	3	Commendations and Awards 1963-2001	1963-2001	
1	4	Black's Beach 1977-1980	1977-1980	
1	5	Politics 1969-2010	1969-2010	
1	6	Newsletters 1989-2012	1989-2012	
1	7	Legal Files 1981-2002	1981-2002	
1	8	Ephemera and Memorabilia		
1	9	Periodicals		
1	Loose	A Memorial Resolution by Toni Atkins in Memory of Charles McKain 2012	2012	
1	Loose	San Diego Democratic Club Doug Scott Political Action Award to Charles McKain 1989 plaque	1989	
1	Loose	San Diego County Democratic Party Henry Auerbach Award to Charles McKain 1995 plaque	1995	
1	Loose	San Diego Pride 2012 Lifetime	2012	

		Achievement Award to Charles McKain (glass award)		
1	Loose	San Diego County Democratic Party Lifetime Member Award 2008 (glass award)	2008	
1	Loose	San Diego Democratic Club Herb King Lifetime Achievement Award to Charles McKain 2008 (glass award)	2008	
1	Loose	San Diego Hoops Jeremy Parrish Award to Charles McKain 2004-2005 (glass award)	2004-2005	
1	Loose	California Savings and Loan League Outstanding Student Award to Charles McKain 1963	1963	
1	Loose	The Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt List of Names 1991-1992	1991-1992	
1	Loose	Maury's New Complete Geography Revised Edition American Book Company 1921	1921	
2	Loose	The Homosexual Matrix by CA Tripp, Ph.D 1975 (autographed in 1980)	1975, 1980	
2	Loose	The Coming Out Party by John Caftey 1982 (autographed)	1982	
2	Loose	Same Sex Marriage Pro and Con: A Reader edited by Andrew Sullivan 1997 (autographed)	1997	
2	Loose	The Wild Man by Patricia Nell Warren 2001 (autographed)	2001	
2	Loose	The New Joy of Gay Sex by Dr. Charles Silverstein and Felice Picano 1992 (autographed by Picano)	1992	
2	Loose	The Feminist Chronicles 1953-1993 by Toni Carabillo, Judith Meuli, June Bundy Csida 1993	1953-1993	
3	1	Schooling 1954-1958	1954-1958	
3	2	Schooling 1959-1967	1959-1967	
3	3	Personal Correspondence		
3	4	Journal Entries February 22-March 22, 1989	1989	
3	5	Journal Entries March 15-April 12, 1989	1989	
3	6	Journal Entries April 5-April 25, 1989	1989	
3	7	Journal Entries April 19-June 7, 1989	1989	
3	8	Journal Entries May 31-June 28, 1989	1989	
3	9	Journal Entries June 22-August 2, 1989	1989	
3	10	Journal Entries August 2-August 16,	1989	

		1989		
3	11	Journal Entries August 16-August 31, 1989	1989	
3	12	Journal Entries August 31-September 22, 1989	1989	
3	13	Journal Entries September 15-November 7, 1989	1989	
3	14	Journal Entries November 7-December 14, 1989	1989	
4	1	Journal Entries December 15, 1989-March 1, 1990	1989-1990	
4	2	Journal Entries February 14-April 15, 1990	1990	
4	3	Undated Journal Entries		