

**L2013.36
Mel Merrill
Collection, 1989-2011**

FINDING AID AUTHOR

Gabrielle Garcia

ACQUISITION INFORMATION

Mel Merrill donated these materials to Lambda Archives of San Diego in 2012.

PROCESSING INFORMATION

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

EXTENT

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet of shelf space: 0.25

ABSTRACT

BIOGRAPHY OR HISTORY

“[Meldon] Mel Merrill came to San Diego in 1960 out of graduate school and went to work for General Atomics designing nuclear reactors for utilities, research facilities and outer space. In 1979 he sought and (after a government hearing) received a Secret level security clearance as an openly gay man. He retired in 1986. Having coming out around 1970, he first encountered the LGBT community in the men’s rap groups at the Center’s original site on B St. He became a long term supporter and donor to the Center and is proud to have his name on two rooms in their facilities. In 1980 he joined with 6 other community members to form a real estate partnership to buy the building that became the Center’s second site on 30th St. Most of his political activism has been based in the San Diego Democratic Club, which he joined in 1977. He served on the Board for many years and was involved in the pioneering campaigns for City Council of openly gay candidates Al Best (1979) and Neil Good (1987). The Club then worked on getting district elections, and redrawing the boundaries of District 3 to provide a district our community could win with Chris Kehoe in 1993. He has also served on the Boards of USDEC (United San Diego Elections Committee) a bipartisan LGBT PAC, the SAGA ski club, and ran the phone hotline for the San Diego AIDS project. He [continued] to volunteer and donate to political campaigns, the Victory Fund and the Servicemen’s Legal Defense Network. He

[volunteered] at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation where he [chaired] the Grants Committee.”

https://archive.org/details/casdla_000208

Merrill passed away in 2017.

COLLECTION SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains materials pertaining to the Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego (presently Lambda Archives of San Diego) in the early 1990s, the donations of Jonathan Dunn-Rankin, and redistricting efforts affecting San Diego’s District 3 in 2011. These materials include cards, notes, event programs, forms, newsletters, flyers, clippings, articles, and speeches.

ARRANGEMENT

This collection consists of 1 box.

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 item
 - a. San Diego Human Dignity Foundation Annual Event: "The Reunion Party 2014" signed by Leslie Jordan

SUBJECTS

Mel Merrill, Jonathan Dunn-Rankin, Greg Louganis, Jess Jessop, Kate Johnson, San Diego Democratic Club, Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego (LGASD), Lambda Archives of San Diego (LASD), Lesbian and Gay Historical Society of San Diego (LGHSSD), International Gay and Lesbian Archives (IGLA), politics

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]
Mel Merrill Collection, 1989-2011
Lambda Archives of San Diego
San Diego, California

RELATED MATERIAL

None

LOCATION NOTE

C.3.1.2

LANGUAGES

English

CONTAINER LIST

Box	Folder	Description	Date(s)	
1	1	Lesbian and Gay Archives of San Diego 1989-1994	1989-1994	
1	2	San Diego District 3 Redistricting 2011	2011	