

Matt Byers
Grand Marshal
77th Temple City Camellia Festival

A graduate of Temple City Schools, Pasadena City College and Cal State, Los Angeles, Matt returned to the Temple City Unified School District in 1984, developing a district-wide vocal arts program. He directed choirs covering grades 4 through 12, was the co-founder of the Temple City Summer Musical/Drama Workshop, the Temple City Junior Honor Choir and the Temple City Performing Arts Academy.

Growing up in Temple City, Matt enjoyed the wonderful small-town feel. The bowling alley on Las Tunas, Jacks Ranch Market (and all the samples he had). Gino's \$.15 Hamburgers, and Cools Candies. While times have changed, and Temple City has grown with the times, the one throwback to yesteryear is the Camellia Parade. Matt has participated in the Parade 40 times, both as a student and advisor, and serving as an Honorary Grand Marshall in 1998!

The theme this year's event is "Everyday Heroes" which is a wonderful reminder of the great people in our community. We have community members that became heroes such as a space shuttle pilot, a SETI director, pro football players, and Rose Court participants. Temple City's "Everyday Heroes" include city workers, business owners, grocery clerks, health care and fast food workers. These are the people who, on a daily basis make Temple City the community Matt is proud to be associated with.

Matt has been honored by the Temple City Schools Foundation and was selected as Los Angeles County's "Teacher of The Year" for 2016. He includes in his list of "Everyday Heroes" the teachers in our community who, daily, choose to make a difference in the lives of our future citizens. Through the pandemic, he knows that parents have gained a new respect for the challenges of teaching kids. He marvels at his colleague's ingenuity, tenacity and care that they exhibit daily, while juggling the challenges of their own households.

Matt is perhaps most well-known for directing the world-renowned Temple City High School Brighter Side Singers, and always told his talented students, be "the brighter side" and "swing away" to make a difference wherever you are. Matt resides in Pasadena, along with his bride Sheri, enjoying time with his 6 children, 2 wonderful sons-in-law and 6 grandchildren with one on the way!

Matt Byers
Temple City High School Class of 1976
Director of Vocal Arts, T.C.U.S.D
Temple City High School Teacher for 36 Years