

## **William (Bill) McCormick**

*Chairman Emeritus*

[McCormick & Schmick's](#)

Portland, Oregon

Former Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa (2005 - 2007)



William (Bill) McCormick was born in Providence, Rhode Island. He attended Roger Williams Jr. College and Boston University while serving in the Army Reserve Military Police until he was Honorably Discharged in 1963. Mr. McCormick then moved to Northern California and worked in the brokerage office of Connecticut General Life Insurance Company in San Francisco until 1965. It was at this time that he became a partner in the Refectory Steak House Restaurant chain. By the early 70's Mr McCormick had moved further north to Portland, Oregon and sold his interest in the Refectory Restaurants. In 1973 he purchased the landmark restaurant "Jake's Famous Crawfish" and within the year had partnered with Doug Schmick. While growing the successful restaurant company he attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business, Executive Management Program in 1979. Today there are 56 McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants in 24 states. The company went public in July 2004 and is traded on the NASDAQ. Mr. McCormick currently serves as Chairman Emeritus.

Throughout his business career Mr. McCormick's civic and charitable involvement has been far reaching and encompassing virtually all aspects of society and its institutions. He has provided thousands of pounds of food for the Pasadena, California food bank, 10,000 books for disadvantaged children in Los Angeles County and began the Shamrock Run twenty seven years ago for the benefit of many service organizations in Portland, Oregon. As co-chair of the Portland Opera Foundation he was successful in raising \$24 million dollars to help sustain that organization in the future.

He served as the [US Ambassador to New Zealand from 2005-2007](#) and received the Sue Cobb Award for his service there. Mr. Ambassador McCormick was recently awarded the Secretary's Award by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for his contributions and recognition of the nation's veterans. Each year [McCormick & Schmick Seafood Restaurants](#) provides over 17,000 complimentary meals to veterans visiting any McCormick & Schmick Restaurant on Veteran's Day. Mr. McCormick states this is his way of saying thanks. Mr. McCormick's philanthropy and love of the arts recently afforded him the opportunity to serve on the President's Committee of the Arts & Humanities whose Honorary Chairman is First Lady Laura Bush.

Mr. McCormick's community and national involvement has included serving on the boards of such organizations as the Oregon Historical Society, The Portland Opera, North West Mental Health Services, Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, President of the Portland Police Chief's Forum, St. Vincent's Hospital Heart Institute, the High Desert Museum, Vice-Chair of the Citizens Crime Commission, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Portland State University's Business School Advisory Committee, Oregon Health Science University, The Oregon Restaurant Association's Board, Executive Committee and their Political Advisory Committee.

National involvement includes the National Restaurant Association's Board and Government Affairs Chairman, Finance Chairman for Gordon Smith for U.S. Senate, Bush for President Finance Co-Chair and Republican National Committee Finance Committee (Oregon Chairman).