## MICHAEL E. RODGERS 1902—1996

## HUMANITARIAN AND SENIOR ADVOCATE

Born in Northern Ireland in 1902, Michael E. Rodgers survived the Irish Civil War. As a teenager, Michael was a radioman with the Irish forces. In 1921, his keen knowledge of radios led him to work for the Marconi Company in London. As their representative to the Orient, he travelled to China, India, Burma and Australia.

While touring Los Angeles in 1928, Michael stepped on to the Paramount lot at a time when movies were transitioning to sound. Soon, Michael began a career in the new field of movie sound engineering. In 1941, at the start of World War II, he started employment with McDonnell Douglas engineering aircraft radios.

Eventually moving to Huntington Beach, he retired in 1967 and once again, did groundbreaking work in a new field.

At age 65, Michael focused his attention on issues facing seniors. He co-founded the Huntington Beach Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, creating their Life Long Learning Education program.

In 1973, he joined with several activists and groups to form the Huntington Beach Council on Aging (HBCOA). Working with the City Council, they established the Seniors' Recreation Center in 1975. Under Michael's leadership, the HBCOA engaged in a campaign to re-model the center with an additional 1500 square feet.

The building became the Michel E. Rodgers Seniors' Center in 1984

His list of accomplishments is extraordinary.

- Grand Marshall of the 79th annual Independence Parade of Huntington Beach
- 1982 Citizen of the Year award from the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Member of the Senior Center Advisory Committee under Supervisor Harriett Wieder
  - Member of the OC Transportation District Advisory Committee
    - Member of the Seniors Interfaith Alliance
  - Member of the Coastline Community College Emeritus Institute
    - Member of the South Coast Institute for Applied Gerontology

When asked what his secret was, Michael stated:

"There really is no secret to it. It's quite simple, just keep active, keep thinking and doing. Keep exercising. Keep being involved and your chance of making it are good."

## MICHAEL E. RODGERS Humanitarian and Senior Advocate

60"

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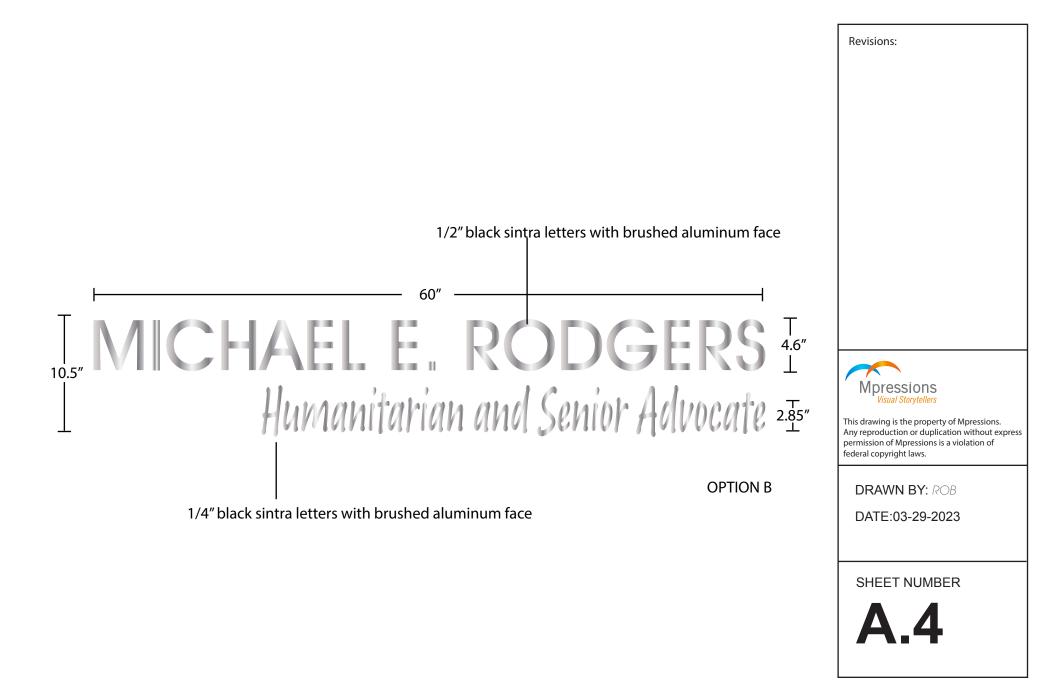
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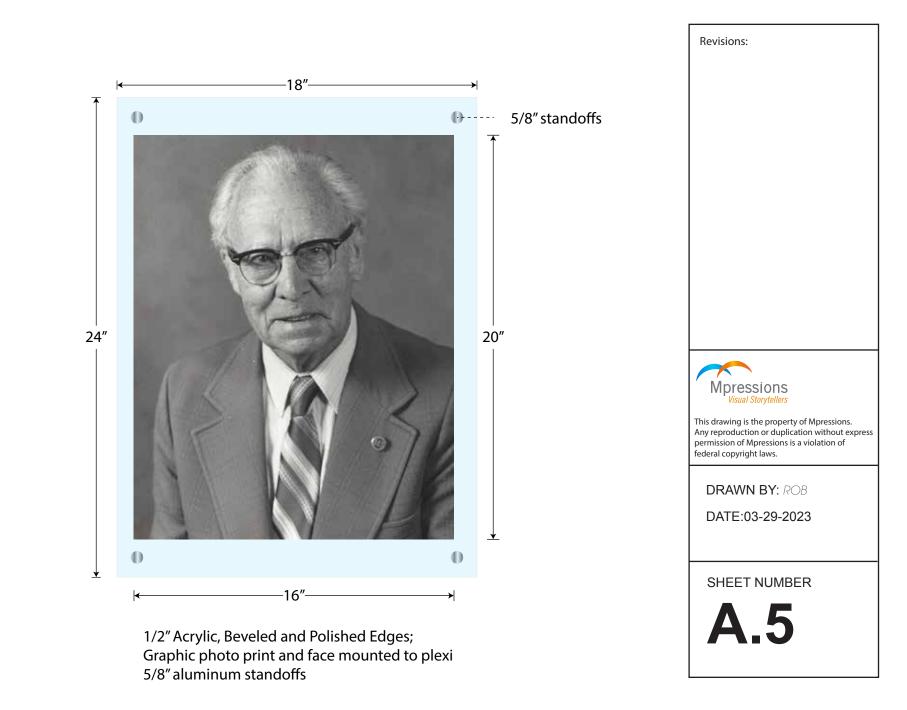
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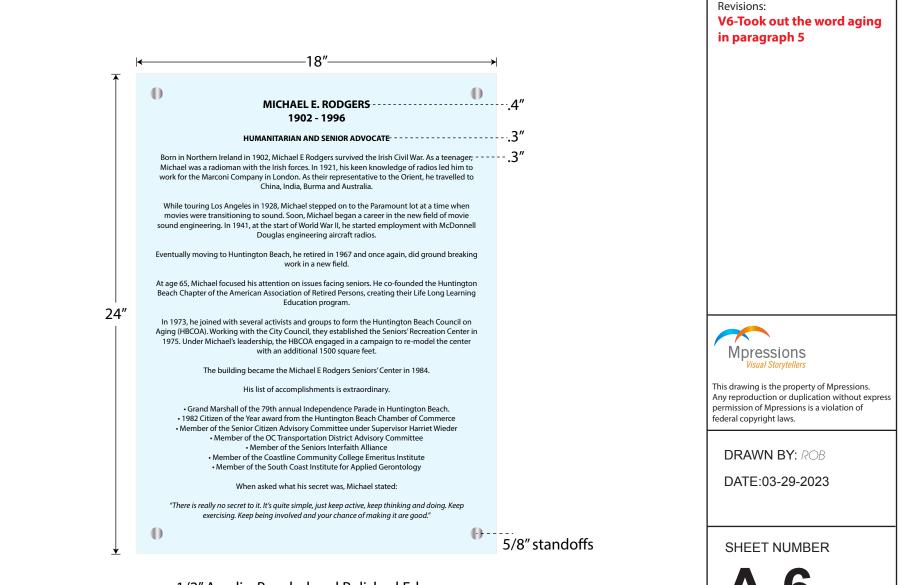
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**Revisions:** 







1/2" Acrylic, Beveled and Polished Edges;Graphic printed direct to board5/8" aluminum standoffs



measurements are for each option

