

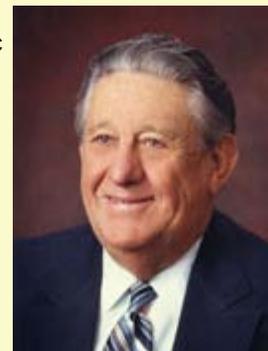
Richard Ronzone

October 7, 1917—January 21, 1989

Elected 1972, 1976, 1980

Richard Ronzone's family pioneered retail in Nevada. Ronzone worked in the family store until his retirement in 1970. He was active in local politics and civic affairs, serving on the Clark County Commission, on the Downtown Improvement Committee, in the Nevada Assembly, and on the Board of Regents.

Ronzone was born in 1917 in Manhattan, Nevada. His mother, Bertha "Mom" Ronzone, started a general store in Manhattan around 1915. The family also opened stores in Tonopah and Beatty. In 1929, the family moved to Las Vegas and opened a store downtown. Ronzone graduated from Las Vegas High School and attended the University of Nevada for three years before his father's death forced him to return to Las Vegas and help with the store. In 1941, Ronzone joined the Nevada National Guard and served in World War II. After he returned from the service in 1946, he became general manager of the store.



In addition to managing the store, Ronzone was active in local politics. He was elected president of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce in 1951. In the 1950s, he served on the school board in Las Vegas. He also worked to raise money for Nevada Southern, now UNLV. He served on the Board of Regents during the 1950s and 1960s. Ronzone was founding chairman of the Las Vegas Downtown Improvement Committee in 1960. In 1970, Ronzone was elected to the Nevada State Assembly. He was then elected to the Clark County Commission in 1972, 1976, and 1980.

In 1970, the Ronzone family sold the stores to Diamond's. Ronzone remained active in civic affairs and served on the Las Vegas Valley Water District board, on the Regional Transportation Commission, and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Rotary Club. Ronzone also supported UNLV from its founding as Nevada Southern throughout the remainder of his life; he was honored by UNLV in 1961 for his commitment. Ronzone was one of the founders of Frontier Savings and Loan in 1982 in Las Vegas.

Richard Ronzone died in 1989 of a massive heart attack at his home in Las Vegas.