

### **Westward Ho Apartments Background**

- Westward Ho was built in 1928 with major additions and renovations to the property taking place in 1948 (namely the addition of the 79 unit J-Building, known for its shape, a creation of Del Webb) and the addition of the Thunderbird Room (a 1,000-seat dinner theater) in 1951
- The original Westward Ho design was noteworthy... with the exception of one building in Long Beach, CA, the original Westward Ho building was the tallest reinforced concrete structure west of the Mississippi at the time it was built
- Building was designed in Spanish Colonial Revival style made popular by the Panama-California Exposition of 1915
- It was the first multiple story building in Phoenix to use refrigeration for air conditioning rather than evaporative cooling
- The building was first designed by H. Rafael Lake, architect, in 1927 and then modified by Louis L. Dorr, architect, in 1928. The J-Building was designed by Del Webb
- In 1979 the building was converted from a historic 600-room hotel to 289 elderly and disabled handicapped apartment units
- Building was entered in the National Register of Historic places in 1982

### **Famous political leaders and the Westward Ho**

- Vice President Richard Nixon, while running for President of the United States, had breakfast at the Westward Ho prior to giving a speech in the Thunderbird Room October, 1960
- Actor Ronald Reagan was a guest speaker for the Phoenix Chamber Of Commerce in the Thunderbird Room on May, 1961
- President John F. Kennedy stopped by the Westward Ho for dinner in honor of Senator Carl Hayden on November, 1961
- Senator Ted Kennedy campaigned for Presidential candidate John Kerry at the Westward Ho in January, 2004