

## Mount Diablo Branch 8 Obituary Notices

**The Membership Secretary in coordination with the Sunshine Committee will publish notices of the death of a Branch member as that information becomes known. Services, if any, will be listed in this document and email notices of the services will be made to the membership. A member's date of death, date of induction into Branch 8, city of residence, partner, Branch roles and interests will be listed.**

**Obituary notices will be listed by date of death and will remain on the Branch website for one calendar year.**

## **SIR Ray Nummi**

September 1, 1920-March 1, 2020



Nummi, Ray MD-007

Field	Description
Inducted	11/02/1994
Partner	n/a
Residence	Pleasant Hill
Deceased	03/01/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Cribbage Golf Poker Fishing

# SIR Ed Cohn

March 22, 1928-March 27, 2020



Field	Description
Inducted	05/10/2010
Partner	Era Cohn
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	03/27/2020
Service	<a href="https://www.gatheringus.com/memorial/edward-cohn/2860">https://www.gatheringus.com/memorial/edward-cohn/2860</a>
Roles	MRC Member Recruitment Member

	Speaker Committee
Interests	Bocce Book Exchange Sirs in the Kitchen SUMS Wine

## **Ed Cohn – In his own words, about 2015**

Dear Sirs:

My name is Ed Cohn and I have been a member of SIR for around five years. I come from a few career changes but my most recent and that which I retired from, was an event and meeting planner in a company that I had called “Functions International”.

I came from Chicago but weather induced me to move to California and I ended up in the Bay Area and Walnut Creek for the past 50 plus years. After the Navy as a medical corpsman, I did the GI Bill at U of Illinois, married and had three great children that are my joy. I lost one, my eldest Jeff to cancer. Hardest thing I ever had to endure.

My hobbies are tennis, bridge, writing (I wrote one book that I am quite proud of). And of course, would you believe. Bullfighting!

My interests are; tennis, fine dining, Wine, good stimulating dialogue with friends, world affairs, music, both classical and jazz, and writing. I have written one book that sold well, and I have started another.

As for my SIR activity, I am chairman of Dine in 2, a participant of SIRS in the kitchen. The write your own biography, which motivated me to have my book (see last paragraph) published. Also I am on the Speakers committee, wine tasting group, picnic etc.

I find SIR to be a wonderful adjunct to a very active life and highly recommend it to all seniors.

“GITANO.....The Best is Yet to Come!”

It is an autobiography of my adventurous life consisting of my world travel, and many stories of people that I have met along the way. I include Bullfighting and my adventures that it involves. This is a fun reading and I am proud of the way it turned out.

The first printing was sold out!

# SIR Monte Allen

April 15, 1931-April 2, 2020



Monte Allen

Field	Description
Inducted	04/12/1999
Partner	Janet Allen
Residence	Pacheco
Deceased	04/02/2020
Service	n/a

# SIR Jerry Gaya

September 14, 1946- April 13, 2020



Jerry Gaya

Field	Description
Inducted	5/08/2017
Partner	Fay
Residence	Concord
Deceased	04/13/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Car Enthusiasts Wood Carving Computers Fishing  Photography

# **SIR George Benkly**

**March 8, 1927- April 14, 2020**



George Benkly

George J. Benkly

March 8, 1927 - April 14, 2020

Resident of Walnut Creek, CA.

George J. Benkly, a resident of Walnut Creek for over 50 years, died on April 14, 2020.

He was born on March 8, 1927 in Yonkers, New York to Anna and G. Nickolas Benkly. His father was European Representative for Carrier Corporation and the family was transferred to Paris, France and returned to the U.S. in 1930 for the birth of George's sister Doris.

George is survived by Jody, his wife of sixty years. They had two much loved sons, Michael who died 12 years ago, (Chris) and Steve (Brenda). George and Jody have three Wonderful grandchildren; Jason, Alexis and Jeremy and one two year old great granddaughter who is a bundle of energy and love.

At the age of seventeen, George joined the U.S. Air Corp. Reserve and they sent him to Rutgers University for Engineering studies. Later he received his degrees in Chemical Engineering and Business Management from Siena Jesuit College in Loudonville, New York.

The family moved to California and George became a Bechtel Corporation Engineer in San Francisco for 25 years. He was head of Bechtel's Heat Exchanger Department and was the founding member of the Bay Area Heat Transfer Club and also the Houston Texas Heat Transfer Club. The family joke was mom (Jody) never figured out exactly what a heat exchanger was. George was a good soul who believed people were basically decent, kind and caring. He seemed to like and be concerned for everyone and this was

especially evident as he was suffering through his own battle with cancer. His family is trying to follow his example of kindness.

He was in Sirs, Branch Eight. He enjoyed the friends, meetings, and activities. In earlier years he enjoyed playing golf with the group; but in recent years he enjoyed the poker groups and looked forward to poker games and friendly players. They played for the "High Stakes" of nickels, dimes, and quarters. These "High Rollers" had a good time and he enjoyed the many friendships. George believed in our community and their desire for an Arts Center. Like so many citizens he worked for and contributed to the creation of the Arts Center. He remembered the excitement when the Leshner Center for the Arts became a reality. For 25 years, George, Jody and two longtime friends had season tickets for the plays, musicals, etc. That was one activity he was able to continue and he enjoyed going to the Leshner and then to an early dinner with friends. Those were comforting and good memories for him.

When he was younger, he was a busy member of the Walnut Creek Methodist Church. He always remembered the loving and caring congregation.

George wanted his ashes to be scattered where our son Michael's are scattered. His wishes will be respected, and we believe their souls will be together in God's home.

Field	Description
Inducted	08/02/1999
Partner	Jody
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	04/14/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Dart and Pool Golf 9 Hole Poker



# SIR Clark Morehouse

December 17, 1922- May 17, 2020



Clark Morehouse

Field	Description
Inducted	03/02/2001
Partner	
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	5/17/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Bocce Ball Open Play Dine Out Single SIRS Dominoes

# SIR Jim Walters

April 11, 1929- May 23, 2020



Jim Walters

Field	Description
Inducted	10/09/2017
Partner	Blanche
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	May 23, 2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Golf, Nine hole

# **SIR George Heuga**

**October 15, 1940- August 5, 2020**



George Rene Heuga

October 15, 1940 - August 5, 2020

Resident of Walnut Creek, CA

George Rene Heuga, our beloved husband, father and friend, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. George was a proud and extremely hard-working man, with an endless list of projects underway at all times. He had a huge heart and loved his family deeply. George was an excellent listener; his way was to be quiet and let others around him speak. But he could also confidently lead a conversation with a group of any size, including a classroom of students in his many teaching roles over the years. He was very generous, fair, and accepting of others.

George was born and raised in San Francisco. He loved the City and enjoyed sharing San Francisco stories to anyone who would listen, including his experiences working at Playland amusement park early in his college years. After graduating from George Washington High School in 1958, he attended City College of San Francisco and then San Francisco State University, where he earned a BA in Radio and Television Broadcasting and pursued a master's degree in Audio/Visual Media & Broadcasting Operations. After college, George held a few jobs in San Francisco in the media and broadcasting field, including as a cameraman at KQED and Technical Director at Far West Laboratory for Educational Research and Development. His big break came in 1974 when he started his career at UC Berkeley, where he worked for 31 years as a lead A/V Media Consultant. During retirement, George dedicated himself to numerous volunteer roles -- including as a driving instructor through

AARP, a senior tutor at the Byron Boys Ranch, and a technician for the Rossmoor Computer Club -- and participated in Sons in Retirement and the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society. In addition to family, George's passions included listening to music (his favorites were big band and jazz), traveling, photography, camping, swimming, gambling, and dancing.

George married his dear wife in 1967 and was a caring and devoted husband for 53 years. He was a devout Catholic who never missed a Sunday Mass, and who was enthusiastically involved in his churches over the years, including St. Bonaventure's in Concord and St. John Vianney in Walnut Creek. George is survived by his wife, Maureen; five children: Michelle O'Connell, Michael Heuga (Julie Cochrane), Danielle Wilson (Larry Wilson), Nicole Heuga (Brian Morrissey), and Julieann Pettitt (Steve Pettitt); and six grandchildren: Amber, James, Ian, Shane, and Corinne O'Connell, and Abigail Heuga. George will be dearly missed. He loved his family and friends and we all loved him.

Due to pandemic restrictions, a small, private Funeral Mass will be held at Queen of Heaven Cemetery & Funeral Center in Lafayette, California, George's final resting place. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to one of his favorite charities, the Hanna Boys Center (<https://www.hannacenter.org/>).

Field	Description
Inducted	3/12/2012
Partner	Maureen Heuga
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	8/05/2020
Service	N/A
Roles	Audio Support, Monthly Luncheon
Interests	Poker Digital Photography Computers and Technology Wine Tasting/Cellar Fillers

## **SIR Fred H Nelson**

**October 1, 1939- November 2, 2020**



Fred Nelson

# Fred Nelson

1939 - 2020



Fred Nelson

Oct. 1, 1939 - Nov. 2, 2020

Concord

Fred passed away peacefully at home after struggling with failing health due to multiple myeloma. Born in NY, graduated from Valparaiso University with a BA in Theology. He was a Youth Director in Omaha and at Trinity Lutheran

Church in Walnut Creek. Owner of Nelson Press & Graphics for 20 years. As a Rotarian for 33 years, he exemplified "service above self". He loved all sports, especially coaching the boys' teams, playing golf, and travel. He was devoted to his family, his church and to Rotary. Survived by his wife, Lois, sons Jeff (Tammy), Jamie (Cheryl), Jon (Erica), and 7 grandchildren. Memorials to the Rotary Foundation.

Field	Description
Inducted	7/11/2005
Partner	Lois Nelson
Residence	Concord
Deceased	11/02/2020
Service	N/A
Roles	Chaplain 1/14/2013-11/3/2020 Speaker Assistant 1/1/2014-12/31/2018 Director 1/12008-12/31/2010
Interests	Barbecue Bargain Bites Bargain Wines Book Group  Golf 9 Holes  Golf 18 Holes

# SIR Joe Maurino

November 24, 1937- December 11, 2020



Joe Maurino

Field	Description
Inducted	02/05/2004, <b>member 16 years</b>
Partner	Gloria
Residence	Concord
Deceased	12/11/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Computers Cribbage Fishing Golf 18 holes

## **SIR Marechal Duncan**

**March 17, 1922- December17, 2020**



Marechal Duncan



Marechal Niel Duncan

March 17, 1922 ~ Dec. 17, 2020

Resident of Lafayette, CA

Marechal Niel Duncan, longtime resident of Lafayette CA passed away on 12/17/2020.

Marechal was born on March 17, 1922 in Quincy MA to Harry and Olive Duncan. When he was a year old his family moved to San Diego where Marechal grew up. He graduated from Herbert Hoover High School in 1940. He joined the Navy soon thereafter and served on the USS Kelty, a four – stack destroyer based in San Diego. After Pearl Harbor he was assigned to a naval unit designed to establish advanced aviation bases. He served on Guadalcanal for nine months and was then transferred back to the states where he was assigned to the escort carrier USS Petrof Bay at Astoria OR and then out to the Pacific. Marechal earned numerous medals and citations including three Bronze Stars. He was transferred to UC Berkeley for officer's training and graduated in the class of 1948 with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. While in Astoria he met his future wife Doris Paulson. They were married on June 22, 1947 and lived in El Cerrito CA.

After college Marechal was employed by Cummins Engine Co., Penn Controls, and Motorola. He received an MBA from Pepperdine University in



1979. With Motorola he introduced radio paging and cellular phones in the Western United States. He retired after a 28 year career with Motorola. In 1955 the Duncans purchased property in the Silver Springs area of Lafayette and built a home.

Marechal has served as an LMYA coach, a Scout leader with Troop 204, a Lafayette Historical Society Board member and officer, the co-chair of the Lafayette Sesquicentennial celebration, and a founding member of the Lafayette Community Foundation where he established the group's Liaison Committee for Seniors. He was a member of SIRS Branch 8 and a Master Mason. He was honored for his community service by being named Lafayette Citizen of the Year in 2015. He enjoyed backpacking, fishing and golfing. He was a founding member of the original Lafayette Toastmaster's Club and past President of the Silver Springs Homeowners Association. He served on the City of Lafayette's Blue Ribbon Open Space Task Force, the Senior Needs Assessment Committee, and the Lafayette Community Liaison Committee. He was predeceased by his parents, his sister, Barbara Rose Herman, and his son Douglas. He is survived by his wife Doris, his children Nancy (Brian Fidler), Steve (Carol), and Cameron, and grandchildren Kelly Duncan, Hayley Duncan, Tyler Fidler, Jessie Fidler, Rennie Fidler, Rachel Duncan, and Parker Duncan.

## . **Lafayette's 2015 Citizen of the Year is Marechal Duncan**

By [LOU FANCHER, CORRESPONDENT](#) |

March 19, 2015 at 5:04 a.m.

LAFAYETTE — To keep pace with Marechal Duncan, Lafayette's 2015 Citizen of the Year, bring running shoes.

The 93-year-old rises every morning to stretch and jog for 30 minutes, then sets out from his Lafayette home of 60 years to be what he calls, "active."

Duncan and his blazing energy will slow down just long enough to be celebrated at a Citizen of the Year dinner March 27, at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

As vice president of the Lafayette Historical Society, Duncan oversees a history in which he himself has been a major player. A former Troop Leader of Boy Scout Troop 204 for nearly 20 years, LMYA coach when his now middle-age children were young, co-chairman for the annual Senior Symposium, **involved in SIRS for 27 years**,

instrumental in establishing the historical society's room in the Lafayette Library, a participant in various task forces and committees — it's fair to say Duncan is a legend.

Kathy Merchant, Las Trampas development director and longtime friend, says, "Often in a community there is one person who, for decades, is the voice of that city, who gives time and talent to almost every aspect of what makes a city special. Lucky us that in Lafayette, that person has been Marechal for over 50 years."

Duncan doesn't know how a story got started that he caused his family to pull up their roots in Quincy, Mass., in 1922 and move to San Diego.

"I was just 1 year old," Duncan says. "I once told a reporter I had said I didn't like the winter, but it's made up that I started the whole thing. Everybody was moving."

Even so, it makes a lively tale because his father's Model T made it only to Missouri before getting stuck in the mud. ("Remember, there were no highways then," he says.) Duncan's dad sold the car and the family took the train to California.

Making his home in the west, Duncan joined the Naval Reserve in 1940.

"I had no idea what was about to happen. I wanted to go to the Naval Academy," he says.

Instead, World War II happened and the reserves were called to active duty. Duncan landed on Guadalcanal in one of the first advance offensive naval units, charged with going ashore once the Marines had secured the islands.

"I had a bad time there," Duncan recalls. "There were bombs, snipers, shelling. I had malaria and PTSD, which they called being 'shell-shocked' then."

After his Navy days ended, Duncan attended UC Berkeley, graduating with a degree in science, and earning a masters from Pepperdine University. He landed a job and became the western area sales manager for Motorola.

"I introduced the first cell phones in California," he says, proudly.

Perhaps the only person who can claim they've matched Duncan's community activist track record since his retirement from Motorola is his wife, Doris. Diminutive in stature, but mighty in her own volunteerism, her determination equals — and even exceeded, in one crucial case — that of her husband.

Pen pals during the war — they'd met while Duncan was on a few days' shore leave in Oregon where she was a schoolteacher and out for dinner and dancing with friends — she had decided he was "different, a wonderful dance partner and most impressive." Learning through their continuing correspondence that he was in Berkeley attending college, she arranged to come down for summer classes.

“I guess she came down for me,” Duncan says. “I was dating other gals so I thought, ‘Uh-oh.’”

Four children, seven grandchildren, multiple decades and countless civic contributions later, the Duncans like a phrase: “Life is lived forward and understood later.”

“This is what 93 looks like,” Duncan says, stretching to his full height and offering his profile. “I say, keep active and keep busy. Keep your mind going.”

A good citizen, they agree, is informed.

“Things happen in a city, and the City Council invites the public to come talk about it,” Duncan says. “To me, a citizen is someone who will get up and say, ‘Here’s what we should do to make this a better city,’ or, ‘Here’s what I object to.’ If you protest or speak for something, that’s a citizen.”

Field	Description
Inducted	07/02/1988, <b>member 32 years</b>
Partner	Doris
Residence	Lafayette
Deceased	12/17/2020
Service	n/a
Interests	Fishing Golf 18 Holes Hikers Travel

# **SIR Bob McIvor**

**March 29, 1931- January 2, 2021**



**Bob McIvor**

Robert R. McIvor

March 29, 1931 - January 2, 2021

Resident of Rossmoor ~ Walnut Creek, CA

Long-time East Bay orthopedic surgeon Robert R. McIvor, MD, passed away peacefully January 2, 2021, after a long illness. He was surrounded by his grandchildren and their partners, and his long-time assistant Gino Maningas. He was a resident of Rossmoor in Walnut Creek, after living for decades in Orinda, CA.

Dr. McIvor was born in Oakland in 1931 to Robert and Margaret McIvor, and attended Piedmont High School, where he was co-class president his senior year. He attended Williams College before transferring to Stanford University, and after graduation stayed on to go to medical school and orthopedic residency. An excellent athlete, he took up boxing while a medical student and used to sneak away from class to train, ultimately winning the San Francisco Golden Gloves competition.

After finishing his training, and a brief stint in the Army at Fort Ord in Monterey, CA, he moved to Santa Barbara, then back to Oakland to start his medical practice. He married nursing student Loran Chandler, daughter of Dr. Loren Roscoe Chandler, dean of the Stanford Medical School, and they eventually had four children: Owen, Andrew, Doug and Wendy. The family made a home in Orinda, while Dr. McIvor worked long hours at three practices: Livermore, Lafayette (John Muir Hospital) and Oakland. He carved out time most days for a new athletic love, tennis. He joined the Berkeley

Tennis Club and was still a dues paying member at the time of his passing. He was one of the best players in the state in the 1970's.

As time passed and his athletic pursuits left him with bad joints, he took up golf. He enjoyed many local outings with friends and golfers in and around Walnut Creek. Another mid-life interest was singing and acting. He took voice lessons and started his career with the San Francisco Gay Mens Chorus, and later was chosen for many minor parts in regional theater companies. He loved the old favorites like "Oklahoma" and "Carousel," and would often sing those standards around the house or while driving. He played the piano and sang at home, while Loran accompanied on the violin.

For a while he owned an alfalfa ranch in Fish Lake Valley, Nevada, and would drive a hay truck back and forth to supply Loran's horses with feed. If there was no help, he would load the flatbed truck by himself. Notoriously thrifty, he refused to upgrade his old truck, so broke down a few times, leading to different road adventures.

Even in his last years, he loved to go to the gym. When bad balance no longer allowed him to swing a golf club, he would still go to the local course in his golf cart. His motto of life was to "just keep on plugging."

Robert leaves behind his younger brother William, also a retired orthopedic surgeon, and sons Owen, Andrew, Doug, and daughter Wendy. His wife Loran died in 2002. He has five grandchildren and one great grandchild. There will be no service at this time due to the Covid pandemic.

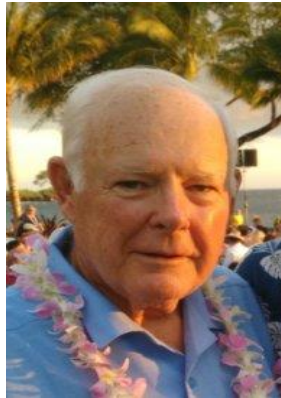
Field	Description
Inducted	02/18/2013 <b>member 7 years</b>
Partner	
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	1/2/2021
Service	n/a
Interests	Golf 9 Holes Golf 18 Holes

# SIR Dennis Fitzpatrick

December 30, 1943- January 28, 2021



Dennis Fitzpatrick



In his own words, Dennis is “thankful to SIRs as an organization for its information and activities” having primarily acted as a board member, assistant treasurer and treasurer. He enjoyed golf with SIRs, both 18 and 9 holes and appreciated being a member.

Born in Glendale, California, Dennis was the second oldest of five children of Rita and Gerald Fitzpatrick. He lost his own father at the age of 17. After graduating from the University of Oregon in 1967, he began his career in banking in the Bay Area. He went on to co-found Pacific Valley Bank in San Jose, serving as its President, from 1975 to 1983. Then in 1984, Dennis joined CivicBank of Commerce, based in Oakland, CA, as President and CEO. He was proud of his alma mater, the University of Oregon and an avid fan of Oregon Duck football and men’s and women’s basketball. He was an avid reader, enjoyed politics, spent time visiting family in Danville, Newport Beach and Singapore, and traveled with his extended family every year across America, Asia and Europe.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, sister Sharon, sons John and Michael, daughters-in-law Melissa and Tanya, and grandchildren: Kirin and Lily, Connor and Katherine.

Field	Description
Inducted	11/11/2013 <b>MEMBER 7 YEARS</b>
Partner	Peggy Fitzpatrick

Residence	Orinda
Deceased	01/28/2021
Service	N/A
Roles	Assistance TREASURER 2016/2017 Treasurer 2018 and 2019
Interests	Bridge- Rubber 9 Hole golf Genealogy Astronomy

## SIR Al Welch

**February 24, 1934- January 28, 2021**



Charles "Al" Welch

Field	Description
Inducted	11/2/2000 <b>MEMBER 20 YEARS</b>

Partner	Mary Welch
Residence	Walnut Creek
Deceased	01/28/2021
Service	N/A
Roles	Membership Secretary 1/1/2006-12/31/2006
Interests	Bridge-Basic, Rubber, and Duplicate 9 Hole golf Pickle Ball Computes and Technology  Darts and Pool  Golf 18 Holes  Cribbage  Sums in Retirement  Travel