



# LEISURE WORLD NEWS

Thursday  
Nov. 29, 2001

An Orange County Register publication

## Top vote getter is Society's pick



Elected earlier this month to the Golden Rain Foundation Board, John Fuller, a former President of United Mutual, was chosen as Leisure Worlder of the Month for December by the Historical Society.  
News Photo by Rod Veal

### John Fuller quietly accomplishes much

By Cheryl Walker  
The News

When the dust settled on the recent Golden Rain election, one candidate's vote count stood out so far from the pack it could be unprecedented: just one vote shy of a perfect round of support from his peers.

As fate would have it, that

wasn't the only piece of good news former United President John Fuller heard this month.

The Historical Society also selected him as its December Leisure Worlder of the month.

Mild-mannered and modest, Fuller says he was amazed on

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### Ceremony facts

Who: John Fuller  
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for December  
Where: Clubhouse 6  
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 5  
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society

## FULLER

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both counts.

But former United President Bob Miller says the Leisure Worlder has done much to merit the distinctions and is a real asset to Leisure World.

"I think an awful lot of John, he's so very competent and in his quiet, reserved way he has made so many contributions to our community and to United mutual in particular."

One look at Fuller's resume of accomplishments supports that claim.

He has contributed generously of his time and talents to clubs (Computer Aerospace); organizations (Community Civic, Historical Society); and the Golden Rain and United Boards (as both a director and committee/subcommittee member).

And, at Saddleback Hospital, he's also logged more than 1,000 hours as a volunteer escort and messenger.

**Background** The native of Fleischmanns, N.Y. (in the Catskill Mountains) says that engineering was the logical choice of a career for someone who had "a natural curiosity and liked to build things."

"If things were broken, I'd like to fix them."

He also loved innovation and recently received a letter of appreciation from the Department of the Navy for 50 years of "dedication and hard work" during a career in aeronautical engineering.

He attended Michigan State College, Rensselaer Institute and Bridgeport Engineering Institute where he completed his engineering degree.

In 1941, he went to work for Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Conn., where he designed flying boats and helicopters and became a pilot.

During World War II, he spent three years in the U.S. Naval Reserve assigned to American Airlines engineering department at La Guardia Field, N.Y. for naval Air Transport Command.

After the war, he returned to Sikorsky and remained there

for the next 27 years rising to the post of manager of mass properties engineering.

During that time, the Society of Aeronautical Weight Engineers elected him president and an honorary fellow and he earned a listing in "Who's Who in Engineering."

His extra curricular activities included volunteering for the YMCA, the Methodist Church, Masonic Lodge and Connecticut State Police and two fire departments also earning him a listing in "Who's Who in the East."

He retired the first time in 1978 and moved to California (because of his first wife's health). But, he couldn't stay idle and decided to accept a position with General Dynamics (Convair Division) in San Diego.

There he was a group engineer on the Space Shuttle Orbiter at Lindbergh Field.

Northrup, subsequently, recruited him as a group engineer for its B-2 Stealth Bomber and other projects.

He retired again in 1991 after his first wife died.

He married again and with his second wife, Kevin, moved to Leisure World.

Fuller says a friend, Charles Nahas, encouraged him to run for the governing boards and his own natural inclinations led him to the computer and aerospace groups.

Nahas says the qualities that impressed him about Fuller were evident from the first time they met, in the computer room; that is, the fact that Fuller was an intelligent, highly personable man.

Recalls Nahas: "He had a great willingness to assist and help and wasn't interested in taking credit."

Nahas says those first impressions have been reinforced throughout the years as Fuller has handled with grace, assignments with various clubs and organizations but shunned the spotlight he richly deserved.

Nahas says he found it particularly attractive that a man that had every right to blow his own horn chose not to do so.

"The need of affirmation is not the top of his agenda."