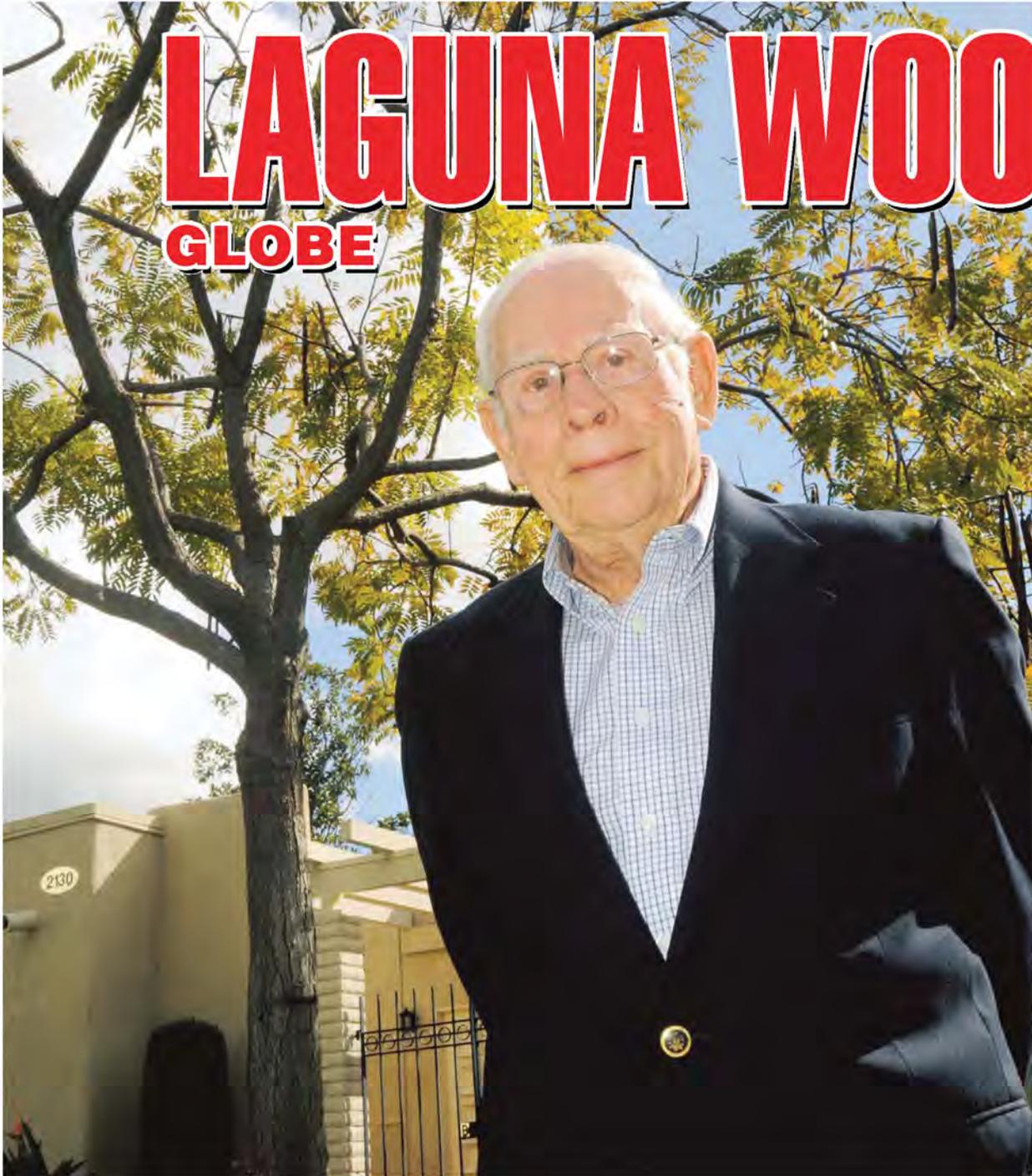


LAGUNA WOODS

GLOBE



Historical Society Honoree of the Month Arthur Moss stands in front of his Laguna Woods home. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER.

MARCH HONOREE

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Arthur Moss named March Honoree of Month

BY JANET WHITCOMB
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Life here is rejuvenating," says Arthur N. Moss as he and his wife Adeline sit down to discuss their long and happy association with Laguna Woods. "This is the place to retire!"

By retire, however, Moss is referring only to his formal employment. There's nothing retiring about his list of activities since he and Adeline became permanent residents in 1991. He has belonged to the Tennis Club, Film Club, Keyboard Club, Photo Club, Men's 18 Hole Golf Club and the Men's 9 Hole Golf Club. He has served on the by-laws review committee for the Nifty's Club, as publicity chair for the New York Club, and as a supervisor for the PC Club. Moss also served on the Golden Rain Foundation's nominating committee in 2005 and 2008 and chaired United's nominating committee in 2007. Just recently he completed four years of service on the City of Laguna Woods' Planning Advisory Committee. Previous to that he was a member of the City's Human Relations Committee and designed a seminal brochure, "Help Make Laguna Woods A Hate Free City," to assist residents in identifying and defeating hate crimes.

Then there's Moss's ongoing involvement with the Reform Temple of Laguna Woods. For two years he served as Vice-President of Religious Practices; he also was a member of the search committee for a Rabbi and Cantor. Since that time he has participated in numerous other temple committees.

When asked to name his most gratifying accomplishment, though, the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for March replies, "Being available in time of need for my fellow congregants and friends in the Village."

The reference is to the many memorial services Moss has conducted, as well as "funeral services when a member of the clergy was not available." And are even more remarkable upon learning that prior to moving to Laguna Woods—and for almost a decade thereafter—Moss had no prior history of speaking at memorials and funerals. In fact, he adds, "It's something I never thought I could do."



Historical Society Honoree of the Month for March, Arthur Moss, and his wife Adeline will be celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary later this year. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

All that changed, however, during an especially challenging time almost nine years ago. His doctor had advised him he required surgery on one of his knees and that the other might require a similar operation in a few years. Figuring he'd never return for a second surgery, Moss had both knees fixed in August 2000.

Then while still hospitalized he learned one of his closest friends in the Village had died. One day after leaving the hospital—though "I almost had to drag myself"—Moss not only spoke about his friend but conducted the service. Since that time he has performed the same duty for many others, as well as produce photo programs to accompany each ceremony.

Moss grew up in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he met his future wife while they attended Bassick High School. Then World War II intervened. Ultimately Moss was assigned to the headquarters of General George Patton, serving "just shy of three years." Soon after his return he and Adeline married and began a family.

Although Moss studied several years at the University of Bridgeport, upon the death of his father he quit to supervise the family's vending machine business. Later he became president of Art's Woodcraft in Stamford, CT; after selling that business he served as a systems consultant to Entre Computer

Center. Upon his January 1987 retirement he and Adeline, a 30-year medical office assistant and supervisor, indulged their interest in world travel.

About this time their daughter Laurie, who had received a full scholarship to USC, presented her father with Rose Bowl tickets for his birthday. Never having visited California before, he and Adeline flew out to San Francisco, rented a car and "enjoyed the scenery." After looking into what was then Leisure World, they soon became "snowbirds," first vacationing here for two months, the second year four months, and during their third visit deciding to become permanent residents.

Laurie, a special education teacher, and her family continue to live nearby. But since their son David and his family reside in Connecticut, Arthur and Adeline frequently revisit their home state, on one occasion driving cross country and stopping at a number of national parks.

What's next? In addition to being proud grandparents three times over and equally proud great-grandparents of four-year-old Aiden Moss, later this year Arthur and Adeline Moss will be celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary!

Moss will be honored by the Historical Society at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 4, at Clubhouse 6.