

# LAGUNA WOODS

## GLOBE



Lorraine Patton is the Historical Society's August Honoree. She has lived in the village for about 26 years.

› CARINE NADEL, FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

# AUGUST HONOREE

LW HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES LORRAINE PATTON  
FOR HER YEARS OF VOLUNTEER WORK. PAGE 8

# Former clubs president enjoys being 'political buff'

**BY CARINE NADEL  
FOR THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE**

Lorraine Patton, 93, said she was quite surprised and very appreciative that she was chosen by the Historical Society to be their latest honoree.

"My late husband and I moved in back in 1985 and since then the village has opened up so many avenues for me. My two sons, they live in Texas, are so proud that they're flying in to attend the ceremony," she said.

The ceremony honoring Patton will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 3 at Clubhouse 7. Coffee and a reception will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the presentation will at 10 a.m.

Some of the avenues that opened up for Patton have included being president of the Bicycle Club, the Recyclers; president of the Hikers Club; president of the Aliso Club; being the first and only woman president of the Petroleum Energy Club and, the one that means the most to her – president of the Republican Club of Laguna Woods.

"My dad was very political and because of him, I'm a huge political buff. It's the backbone of our country. To have the right to vote is the greatest privilege we can have. My mom was my best influence though, whatever good that I have inside of me came from her. When she entered a room, it completely



**Lorraine Patton named as August honoree for the Laguna Woods Historical Society.** > CARINE NADEL, FOR THE GLOBE

lit up. My dad loved her so," Patton said.

As a young woman, Patton, born and raised on a dairy farm, was a member of the 4-H club, attended college and owned her own secretarial business, which is how she met her first husband. In high school she was considered to be the best baker in Porter County, Indiana.

"Back in 1935 I won so many blue ribbons for my baking that I won a grand prize of getting a free trip to go to Washington, D.C.! I went right after I graduated in 1936. For me, it was heaven and it wasn't the last time I was treated to a trip in our nation's capital

either!"

Patton was appointed by Rep. Chris Cox to be a member/delegate to the California Republican State Convention. It was during this time in 1995, that Patton helped to form the Close-up Foundation, a nonprofit group, with the goal of bringing government back to the people. Patton helped gather nearly 80 seniors from across America to Washington to get a hands-on, behind the scenes look at the political process.

"This was a great achievement in so many ways. My present husband, William (Pat) and I were treated to lunch with Rep. Dana Rohrabacher in the members-only dining room at the Capitol. Later I organized a reunion of the Close-up alumni and was awarded a free trip for the 25th anniversary where I was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the Orange County Republican Women's Federation. It was quite a lovely surprise!" she said.

Patton and her husband are avid travelers. They have visited nearly every worldwide destination possible. "China was one of my favorite trips. But I love to visit any nation; I'm very interested in both history and geography. Learning about other people is just so interesting to me."

In her earlier years, Patton accompanied her first husband as much as pos-

sible to his overseas business trips, which helped fulfill her itch to explore the world. Her most memorable trip was when the couple went to Larvik, Norway, where she looked up her roots. Later as president of the Scandinavian Club of Houston, with a membership of over 400, she was invited to a reception, "where I was honored to be seated at the head table with the visiting King Olaf of Norway."

When it comes to thinking over her life, Patton says her philosophy is that "whatever is past is done. I'm proud to have lived an active life and that I did my best not to miss any opportunity that came my way. I feel I've lived the life that I was meant to and wouldn't change a thing.

"My Aunt Clara lived to be 102 and stayed active even after she turned 100. I plan on doing the same. I believe in keeping fit; I try to get to the gym a couple of times a week. I want to continue to support those who work hard to make things better for our country. My older son is also very political in Texas, I'm proud to say he got that from me."

Patton also believes in being a good neighbor here in the village. "I believe that you need to live your own life, which for me includes doing what I can for others."