

# Laguna Woods

## GLOBE

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## PORTLOCK IS SOCIETY'S PICK FOR MARCH

Ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. March 5 in Clubhouse 6

BY CHERYL WALKER  
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Golden Rain Foundation Director Ruth May notes how former GRF President George Portlock's mantra is "I'm alive, awake, alert and enthusiastic" in spite of health problems "that if he was a building he would be condemned.

"He was my president and my teacher on the GRF board. A smile was always forthcoming and although, as we all know, he had a temper; it was over so soon that it was hard to realize it had ever been there.

"George had the courage of his convictions as president of GRF and started us out on a path that most had not dared to – land planning and the like.

"One thing one learns on the boards is who will remain a friend long after the term is ended – and I hope George will be my friend for a long time to come. It is a privilege to know him."

Community Civic Association President Denny Welch said she and Portlock didn't always see eye to eye on issues, "But you knew he was very sincere in his beliefs and respected him for it."

Portlock's former First Vice President Joseph Heller agrees that his former leader was a special man, "One of a kind."

In fact, Hillel Pitlik, former Third Director, penned a poem when Portlock left the Third board (where he was also president) to go on to GRF which said Portlock had set a tone of taking a path "clear and bold" and called him "the guy who's had no fear."

Portlock will be honored a



JEFFREY ANTENORE, FOR THE GLOBE

**VILLAGER OF THE MONTH:** George Portlock will be honored by the Historical Society Wednesday morning at Clubhouse 6.

Villager of the Month by the Historical Society at a special ceremony at 10 a.m. March 5 in Clubhouse 6.

Portlock was born in San Francisco and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a minor in law at National University in

San Marcos, where he maintained a GPA of 3.8 graduating cum laude.

The United States Navy veteran had a variety of business experiences from running his own store, Portlock Hardware,

# Portlock

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to being a department manager at J.C. Penney, a store manager at Lumber One, and an interior decorating manager at 11 Home Depot Stores.

He served as chairman of the City of Sevastopol's planning commission (when it created the city's general plan), was president of the city's Merchant's Association and involved other civic organizations.

He moved to Laguna Woods Village July 1, 1996 and fought hard against the proposed commercial airport at Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro as a member of Seniors Against El Toro Airport. He also is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, where he specially ministers to seniors.

He served on the Third Mutual Board as an officer and as chairman of its maintenance and landscaping committees. He then segued to the GRF board and besides serving two years as president, served as chairman of the security committee and a member of the select audit, landscape, maintenance, finance, community activities and other sub and ad hoc committees as well.

When asked what he considered the most important accomplishments he had made in the Village he said there were two: the completion of the Gate 14 emergency exit gate (Gate 15) and the refurbishment in record time of Pool 2.

Portlock added most personally satisfying overall, though, was the opportunity as a board member and officer to be of service to Village members and maintaining a strong faith.

Although Portlock is modest about his impact on the community, his successor, Bob Miller, gives an insight into the character of the man.

"When George was president of GRF, I had the pleasure and honor to serve with him as first vice president and treasurer. George seemed to have boundless energy and it was a challenge to keep up with him – his intellect and integrity truly served our community.

"Of a personal note, two years ago I fell and severed the tendons above both my knees in both legs. At 9 p.m., George came to Saddleback's ER and helped haul me home.

"Then on following days George and his wife Beverly brought me chicken soup, éclairs and concern for my situation – I'll never be able to repay that kindness."