

R. Price, 1st administrator of Leisure World, dies

The Register

LAGUNA HILLS — Robert Price, the first administrator of the Leisure World retirement community in Laguna Hills and a former Saddleback Community College District trustee, died Friday after a heart attack at his home. He was 75.

Mr. Price became administrator of Leisure World when it opened in 1964 and remained until his retirement in 1978. He also was active in community affairs.

Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. today at O'Connor Laguna Hills Mortuary chapel. He will be buried in a private service at El Toro Cemetery.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Saddleback Community College or the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Mission Viejo, of which he was a member.

At the time of his death, Mr. Price was part of a steering committee exploring the creation of a new city from unincorporated areas adjacent to Mission Viejo.

He was a member of the Saddleback Community College District board of trustees from 1977 through 1985 and was instrumental in forming the college's Irvine Valley campus in east Orange.

Mr. Price was born Jan. 20, 1913, in Toledo, Ohio.

He graduated with a degree in civil engineering from the University of Michigan. He worked as a civil engineer for several years and also was a city manager for several cities in the East and Midwest.

Mr. Price also was a management advisor to the government of Afghanistan in the late 1950s and he was an engineer at the US Pacific Missile Range in the Marshall Islands in the early 1960s.

In 1986, Mr. Price was named Saddleback Valley Citizen of the Year by the Saddleback Chamber of Commerce.

He was the founder of the Laguna Hills Homeowners Association, now the Laguna Hills Community Association. He was an early director of Saddleback Hospital and was one of the founders in 1968 of the Saddleback Area Coordinating Council, an advisory group to the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Price is survived by his wife, Eleanor; two daughters, Prudence P. Gabriel of Laguna Niguel and Roberta Price-Herzig of Alton, NH; a son, Fred J. Price of Readfield, Maine; a brother, James Price of Sarasota, Fla., and 10 grandchildren.