

## **Bob & Bette Ring—Friends of the Laguna Canyon Foundation**

Twelve-year Leisure World residents Bob and Bette Ring have recently made a major gift to the Laguna Canyon Foundation to help preserve and protect the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park adjoining the western boundary of Leisure World. By making the Foundation a principal beneficiary of their charitable remainder unitrust, the Foundation's treasury is assured of receiving a very significant gift.

“Leisure World residents are the primary beneficiaries of the wilderness park, and Bette and I want to do whatever we can to make sure the Foundation can preserve the priceless heritage of the park for generation after generation of Leisure Worlders and their grandchildren's grandchildren,” Ring explained.

Stepping down as a candidate for reelection to the Golden Rain Foundation over which he has presided for two years after serving two years as President of the Third Laguna Hills Mutual, Bob and Bette's generous gift recognizes the Laguna Canyon Foundation's outstanding leadership and is a tribute to all their many friends and supporters in Leisure World and the new City of Laguna Woods that Bob helped to father. Another major beneficiary of the unitrust is the Methodist Church which Bob serves as vice-president of the California-Pacific United Methodist Foundation. The Rings have dedicated their lives to family, church and community service.

Both were born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, share the same birthday and brought three high performing children into the world—Lori, Robert and David. Lori gifted her parents with two grandchildren—Katie, 10, and Kyle, 7. All live nearby in Southern California.

Bob retired at age 60 as CEO of Unitek Equipment Corporation in Monrovia, the world's leading manufacturer of resistance welding equipment. Bob endured the 110-mile round trip from Laguna Hills for 15 years. Bette was a grade school teacher for 15 years, a Meals On Wheels volunteer for six years and is in her 18th year as a Sunday School teacher. She is past president of both the Aquadettes—Leisure World's famous synchronized, ladies swimming team—and the melodious Harmonaires chorus— and is a continuing 12-year member of these two highly-entertaining groups.

To prepare for their illustrious careers, Bob earned a degree in Engineering Physics from Lehigh University; Bette, a degree in Education from Newark State Teachers College. .

Joining the Laguna Canyon Foundation Board in 1994, Bob is currently its treasurer and a member of its Estate Planning and Gifts Committee chaired by Peter Kote, Orange County vice-president of the American Red Cross. Of Bob Ring, Peter says, “I feel honored to work with Bob Ring. He inspires all of us on the committee with a display of incomparable creativity, ingenuity, enthusiasm and energy.”

The Rings have earned the gratitude, respect and love of the Leisure World community for their continuous community service. With their major gift to the Foundation, they have expanded the circle of loving and grateful admirers. To them, the gift is a way of saying thank you to the people of Laguna Beach who voted 80% for a \$20 million bond issue in 1990 that made it possible to stop the construction of some 3,200 homes—some within 100 feet of Leisure World manors. As a result we have been able to prevent the extension of Santa Maria to Laguna Canyon Road and keep Laguna Canyon wild forever.

“Unlike a building of brick and stone that will decay and crumble away, a wilderness park is there forever for the enjoyment and spiritual renewal of people of all ages and for all time to come,” Bob observed in explaining why he and Bette decided to make the Foundation a major beneficiary of a portion of their life savings.

To which the Foundation replies, “Thank you, Bob and Bette. We hope your example will encourage others to follow in your footsteps.”