



ROD VEAL / GLOBE

Betty and Howard Baumann are Laguna Woods Villagers of the month. It is very rare for a couple rare to win the award in the same month.

Couple gets 'Villager' nod for May

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Husband and wife Laguna Woods Villagers of the month are rare and only a handful have gotten the joint honor since the program's inception.

Betty and Howard Baumann are just such a pair and either could have gotten the honor individually.

Virginia Templeton, who worked with Betty in her role as past chairman of the Laguna Woods Community Services Committee and worked with Howard with various Third Mutual issues, says that the two have shown their devotion to the community by their involvement in Kiwanis, the Garden Villa Association, the Florence Sylvester Senior Center and city and community governance.

"Their work has been directed to providing leadership in the maintenance and care of our homes and services and activities for residents and they deserve recognition for the work each has contributed to the community and their enduring interest to remain committed."

Former Third Board Director

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Baumans

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Isabel Muennichow calls Betty a lovely person and Howard a real hard worker who always did his homework as a director.

"This was especially apparent as chair of the landscape committee - a stressful job since people often become very emotional about the plants around their manors and Howard spent many hours visiting the residents ... and was compassionate to everyone's needs and tried to accommodate them within the community's guidelines."

John Dalis, president of Kiwanis, says both the Baumans are exemplary Kiwanians (especially singling out Howard's talents as an auctioneer and Betty's for selling See's candies to help fund the organization's scholarship program). "Any time I ask them to perform, they never fail, they're always ready to help."



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Howard and Betty Baumann pose in their Laguna Woods Village manor Monday morning.

BACKGROUND

Betty, a native of Zionsville, Ind., has a degree in insurance management and worked in the field for both her state and the local Auto Club. Before she retired in 1986, she also chaired the gift shop at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

Howard, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a former stock car racer, a competitive shooter and a World War II Army veteran. He has a degree in biology from Long Island University but his career forte was in-

dustrial product sales and marketing plus insurance at AAA (Betty's firm was his firm's underwriter, which is how they met).

Like Betty, he too was involved in Jewish community affairs and even was a producer, director and moderator of a CBS TV show in Indiana called "A Jewish Perspective."

Both he and Betty have been involved in Kiwanis activities for decades and awarded the distinguished service recognition of Kiwanis International called the Hixon Award. Both have served in a variety of posts and have achieved various levels in the service organizations and he has even had his name inscribed in the tablet of honor.

He also chaired and was the architect of the 1987 Pan American Games Torch Run which raised \$120,000 for the James Whitcomb Riley Children's Hospital.

After the couple retired to Laguna Woods Village in 1997, neither rested on their laurels.

Both got involved with the local Kiwanis group.

Howard became involved in community governance serving on the Third Board as a director. He also was a member of the Bocce Club, the Men's 9-hole golf club and was a fundraiser for the Florence Sylvester Senior Center.

Betty served as president of the Garden Villa Association and got involved in city governance by serving on the Laguna Woods community services advisory group and in particular chairing that group's "Arts, Culture and Recreation subgroup." She also served as a president of the Women's 9-hole Golf Club where she is currently its handicap chairperson.

Both Howard and Betty say their greatest joy in life is helping others (in fact she says her favorite song is the Barbra Streisand classic "People"). Howard explains for both that whenever they are able to enhance the lives of others even in a little way it gives them great satisfaction.

Whenever either see a need, he explains, they feel "motivated to help."