

Laguna Woods

GLOBE

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Craig Charlton is Historical Society's Villager of Month

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

The Historical Society just named Craig Charlton its Honoree of the Month for April. He will be honored at 10 a.m. April 2 at Clubhouse 6.

Charlton is known as a conscientious man and a talented musician and historian of the musical arts with archival sheet music, records, audiotapes, CDs, books and more of jazz and popular music, particularly of the 1900-1950 decades.

But he also brings to the table a calm authority, business acumen, and authoritative knowledge on a variety of topics.

Charles Little, president of the Foundation of Laguna Woods Village, says Charlton has been an active member of the organization's board for the last eight years.

"As chairman of our public relations committee, Craig has been a major contributor to the success of the Foundation and richly deserves recognition for his effort as Villager of the Month."

Community Civic Association President Denny Welch added that Charlton is "very accomplished and very nice - he always has a smile on his face."

Golden Rain Director Ruth May adds special appreciation. "Perhaps it was sheer luck that made Craig Charlton one of the first people I met when I came to live in The Village some 11 years ago. After that, nothing was luck. It was my good fortune to be able to look

upon Craig as a FRIEND. Merriam Webster defines a friend as 'one attached to another by affection or esteem.' And that's Craig to me. Esteem is a perfect word to describe my feelings for the true gentle man that he is and I do mean two words - gentle and man. And I defy anyone to deny those facts."

Background

Charlton is a native of Iowa and attended Webb School, the Pillsbury Military Academy, Kenyon College and the University of Iowa where he majored in business administration.

He served in the United States Navy as a pharmacist's mate.

After World War II, he worked as a financial analyst at the Principal Financial Group in Des Moines, Iowa; a contact salesman for Tower Materials Company in Des Moines; and was self employed as a manufacturers' agent with Charlton Equipment Company/Charlton Associates, Inc., also in Des Moines.

He moved to the Village in 1992 with his late wife of 51 years Jane. He met his current wife Carol at the Hikers Club in 2004 and they were married in 2005.

His Village activities include, besides his work with the Foundation, being president of the Toastmasters/Topic Masters; president of the Hikers Club; president of the Ukulele Club; president of the Moonlighters Song and Dance



JEFFREY ANTENORE, FOR THE GLOBE

VILLAGER OF THE MONTH: Historical Society honoree for April Craig Charlton displays his guitars and music archives in his Laguna Woods Village home.

Club; driver/delivery person with Meals on Wheels; leader of the Moonlighters Dance and Entertainment Band (where he plays bass guitar); musician, singer and dancer with the Hawaiian Serenaders (he plays the ukulele and bass guitar with the group); a leader of the Showstoppers; a member of the American Legion; and a member of the California, Keyboard and World on Film clubs.

He said he finds most satisfying his work with the Toastmasters/Topicmasters, "I have been active (with them) for 24 years ... and have mentored 25 plus new members encouraging and nurturing them to become more self confident and capable speakers in small group and larger group settings."

He also was involved with the fight against the commercialization of Marine Corps Air

Station El Toro.

He also finds his work with the Foundation satisfying especially since it is a charitable organization that assists residents with temporary, emergency financial needs."

"My personal reward at our village is to be enthusiastically involved in all clubs and activities in which I am a member.

"It is my reward to be able to make things work as well as possible, to the enjoyment of the members and guests.

"This is possibly the motivating source of why I am honored to be the 'Villager of the Month'."