



LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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NEWS PHOTO BY ROD VEAL

John Dalis, one of the founders of the TGIF Club continues to participate in club activities Fridays in Clubhouse 1.

Dalis lives life to the fullest

Community involvement is part of his heritage

BY CHERYL WALKER
THE LEISURE WORLD NEWS

John Dalis is no Zorba the Greek, but his dedication to living life to its fullest is evident in everything he does, especially in the variety of community service work he does now and did while he was still in the working world.

That's why the leader of the Saddleback Kiwanis Club and one of the guiding lights of the successful social group TGIF

was named the Historical Society's distinguished resident of the Month for November.

"He's a considerate, cooperative person, very concerned about doing a good job," says former TGIF president Jim

Shafer.

"He's always interested in what is good for individuals and the community," says United Director Linda Wilson, of the former cooperative mutual director.

Ceremony facts

Who: John Dalis

What: Resident of the month

Where: Clubhouse 7

When: 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 2.

Sponsor: LW Historical Society with funding from Renaissance at the Regency,

BACKGROUND

Dalis was born in Los Angeles and grew up knowing the basics of being a good host at the hands of his mother who was known as the Pearl Mesta of her community.

But Dalis also was very serious about work and started early, at the age of 14, making

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money in a poultry market.

He later graduated to working in a produce market before going into the Army during the Korean War. After the war, he decided to go to Los Angeles College where he majored in administrative management.

After getting his degree, he went to work with the California Division of Highways where he remained for 37 years until his retirement.

"I was the right of way agent, and enabled the 210 freeway to be built on time." Appraising properties was his forte.

He said he liked government work because he liked helping people.

But work wasn't enough for Dalis.

He spent many of his off hours as an active member of the American Legion, trade organizations and university clubs, city committees and even chaired a camp board.

Even after he retired, he didn't slow down his community service and now is a member of the platinum circle at South Coast Repertory, participates in awarding educational scholarships for young people and takes an active role in various clubs like the Hellenic Social Club (which he helped found), Italia-America, California, Bocce and Historical Society.

Besides serving on the United Board, he also was a member of the GRF maintenance committee and various subcommittees on Clubhouses set up to handle improvements and renovations.

Dalis says he hopes to keep being involved in organizations that "bring satisfying results in humanitarian needs" and to help the community stay a "vibrant and pleasurable place for all of us to be happy and content."