
REMEMBRANCE

Mary Drane

Mary Drane passed away suddenly Wednesday, Dec. 17 at Saddleback Memorial Hospital from congestive heart failure.

Mary did much for Leisure World. She served three years on the Third Mutual Board and three years as secretary on the Golden Rain Board. She was a hard worker, serving on eight committees and chairing two of them. She also served as advisor on a number of committees. Mary stood for the best interest of Leisure World residents. As a result she received the highest number of votes for both boards.

In addition to her work for the community boards, she supported her husband Harold in founding the Community Association. In 1996 they were awarded a plaque commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Association.

Mary also wrote the Historical Society's "Reflections" column for the Leisure World News and was well known for reading community resolutions on Channel 6. For her dedication to Leisure World she was named Leisure Worlder of the Month in 1981.

Mary received many awards throughout her life, including being elected to Beta Gamma Sigma, a business honor society in 1960; receiving the Exceptional Service award from the Saddleback Area Coordinating Council in 1977 and being recognized for community leadership by the Historical Society in 1988.

Mary met Harold, her husband of more than 65 years, in the Beaumont High School orchestra in St. Louis. Harold received a scholarship to Columbia University in New York. After spending a year apart, they eloped and moved to New York.

In New York, Mary attended the WPA Music School until accepting a secretarial job at a brokerage firm on Wall Street. She took a course on the NY Stock Exchange and made up portfolios for customers. In 1940 she started at Exxon as a typist, climbing the ranks to Personnel Administrator of Worldwide Marketing. During her 33 years at Exxon, Mary obtained two degrees in night school. She graduated Cum Laude with a BA from Hunter College and earned an MBA from New York University.

Mary also committed her life to music. She and her sister Louise recorded as "The Drane Sisters." Their music aired on a Brooklyn Radio Station. In Leisure World she was active in the United Methodist Choir, Handbell Choir and Leisure World Chorale. She also supported Opera 100, LH Philharmonic and Community Concerts.

From music halls to Wall Street, Mary devoted her life to bettering herself and her community.

One of the most important parts of Mary Drane's career was her presidency of the New York Chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honor society of more than 1,200 top executive of New York City. That fact was omitted by the family in the original notice of her death. Mrs. Drane died Dec. 17, 1997.