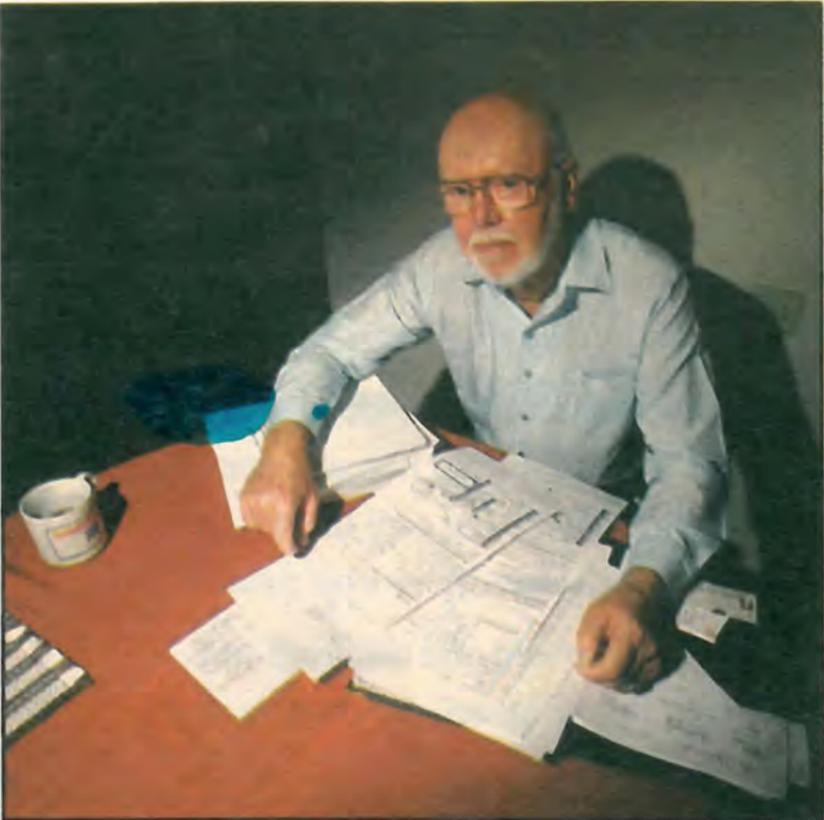


Tenacious Fox is honoree



Paul Connors/*The News*

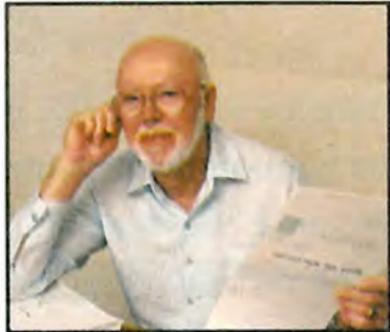
October's honoree Jim Fox is surrounded by literature urging people to vote against Measure A, the airport initiative, and voter registrations forms reminding residents that they only way they can voice their opposition to a commercial airport is by voting.

Stopping airport is his latest goal

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Oct. 5 will be a landmark day for Jim Fox: he and his wife Marie will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary and the Leisure World Historical Society will formally welcome him into its hall of fame as Leisure Worlder of the Month for October.

Typically, the native of the Land of Lincoln is modest about his selection, characterizing himself first as a family man and second as a Leisure World resident with "a very clear goal:



to help this community in every way I can."

But, his friends and colleagues support the society on the aptness of its choice echoing former Golden Rain President Sherwood Heiser's assessment of the recognition that it's an honor Fox "richly deserves."

The father of five and grandfather of nine has served both Leisure World and the greater community outside its walls in many capacities.

His record at Leisure World includes stints on United's board and as president, and on committees including Golden Rain's government and public relations and transportation committees.

As a member of Taxpayers for Responsible Planning, a

Cermony facts

- Who:** Jim Fox
- What:** Leisure Worlder for October
- Where:** Clubhouse 6
- When:** Wednesday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m.
- Sponsor:** Leisure World Historical Society

FOX

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grassroots organization opposed to a November ballot initiative that would mandate Marine Corps Air Station El Toro become a commercial airport, he also is helping coordinate a drive to register nearly 4,000 Leisure World residents to vote "No on 'A'."

A golfer, ballroom dancer, regular exerciser, life-long learner and avid reader, he also participates in the Foreign Affairs Club and co-leads a group that delves into the meaning and modern applications of Great Books.

Outside the gates, he's been an active volunteer for the Braille Institute (which has honored his participation with many service awards) and the St. Vincent de Paul Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program where he acts as a mediator.

In the past, he and his family even helped construct an orphanage in Mexico.

When asked to comment on why he gets so involved, he answers simply that he finds active participation "very rewarding."

Background: Fox, who holds a bachelor's degree from Loyola University in Chicago and a master's in business administration from Pepperdine, says during his 25-year career with Ford Aerospace and the decade following when he was a consultant he had little time for extracurricular pursuits.

When he moved to Leisure World in 1985, he caught the eye of two United board members.

Former United president Harry Schwartz says Fox attended several meetings he was chairing and he was impressed by the new resident's level of interest and background. "I saw how sharp he was and said you ought to be on a committee ... and he did and the rest is history."

Another former United President, Ward Payne, says he too was impressed with Fox's knowledge, enthusiasm, ability "at delving into the details of problems" and bull dog tenacity when given a task to do - like

attending more than 50 meetings representing the community when an outside group was trying to decide on a location for a new airport in Orange County.

Fox says he became involved with airport issues even before he moved to Leisure World noting that he used to live under the landing pattern of John Wayne Airport when his family called Tustin home.

"I realized then you have got to do something before they do something to you." Fox efforts to protect Leisure World from the threat of a commercial airport at El Toro Air Station, have won the respect and admiration of his co-workers.

Champion of Leisure World:

TRP member and former Golden Rain Director Doyle Selden says Fox "stepped right in and took charge — any time you call on him, he's ready: he's what we stand for, why we have a Leisure Worlder of the Month."

TRP member and United Director Charles McLaughlin agrees, adding "If there's a negative out there he wants to turn it into a positive, he's a very giving type of person: if someone is in need, he'll go out and do something about it."

Even when issues are difficult to fathom and tempers flare, Fox finds a way to make constructive headway, says Great Books Club Member Lorayne Shirley. "He tries to bring about a democratic discussion."

Fox, who taught gunnery in the Air Force and management training at Ford, says he learned how to facilitate exchanges of ideas without letting them become free-for-alls.

He adds that, personally, he doesn't have it in him to remain angry long about anything—"You have to learn to be angry in an appropriate time and way — but with me I don't stay angry . . . oh, maybe 10 minutes, then its over."

But Fox is no pushover, says friend Heiser, "Jim displays a unique insight into evolving issues, a tolerance of things we can not agree on and the toughness required to resolve those things we can agree on."

Wife Marie sums her husband up sagely, "He just puts his heart into whatever he's doing."