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William Woodrow Meiklejohn

Birth: Jun. 15, 1919
Death: Dec. 16, 2007

Meiklejohn, William, June 15, 1919 – Dec. 16, 2007. Saddleback Memorial Medical Center and the South Orange County community lost a great friend and philanthropist on Sunday, December 16, 2007. William Meiklejohn passed away in his sleep at his Laguna Woods Village home.



Added by: [Cindy R](#)

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Louise Meiklejohn and her sister, Rosalie Mitchell of Milton, Delaware as well as his sister, Rose Taylor of Cave Creek, Arizona and several nieces and nephews.

In his final months, Bill battled liver disease and was cared for by physicians and staff in the Meiklejohn Critical Care Pavilion, the emergency and intensive care facility at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills, which was named in Bill and Louise's honor.



Cemetery Photo

Added by: [Grover1962](#)

Over the last 33 years, Bill and his wife donated more than \$86 million to the not-for-profit hospital. In past interviews Bill said, "We have no children; the people at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center are our family. We truly believe in this hospital, and we wanted to be certain it would serve the healthcare needs of Leisure World and the entire region for years to come." In addition to providing the cornerstone gift for the construction of the Meiklejohn Critical Care Pavilion, which opened in 2002, the Meiklejohns provided the lead gift for the establishment of the Meiklejohn Radiation Oncology Center in 1996. In 1999, the Meiklejohns established the MemorialCare Senior Plus Endowment to fund the hospital's advocacy program for senior citizens.

Born June 15, 1919 in Oakland, California, Bill Meiklejohn said he remembered early in his life walking barefoot to school because his family couldn't afford to buy him shoes. Later his father Joseph bought a truck and started a local delivery service in Santa Ana, California. After United Parcel Service (UPS) acquired his delivery service and employed him, Joseph moved the family to the East Coast to help establish UPS in that region. Although his dad eventually became the second largest stockholder in the firm, company policy prohibited Bill from following in his father's footsteps. Bill attended high school at the Peekskill Military Academy and obtained a degree from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business. A self-proclaimed sports addict, Bill lettered in five sports in high school and went on to wrestle while attending the University of Pennsylvania.

During the World War II, he was drafted by the

United States Army and was stationed in Virginia. Later, he ran a Shell Oil gas station with his brother-in-law and then worked for Northrop in manufacturing control for 18 years. Watching the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim play baseball and deep-sea fishing were Bill's favorite pastimes. He was also an avid table tennis player, and out of his love of the sport, he established Leisure World's Annual Meiklejohn National Seniors Table Tennis Tournament for senior competitors from all over the world. During their retirement years, he and his wife Louise took cruises all over the world. They also taught round dancing for over 25 years. At one time, they even offered free classes in Leisure World. In addition to supporting Saddleback Memorial Medical Center, Bill was an extremely generous donor to his alma mater University of Pennsylvania, where there is a stadium in his name and scholarships made possible by his contributions.

Described as a simple, honest and happy-go-lucky man, Bill found his greatest joy was being able to give to others.

A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, January 4, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. at Saddleback Memorial Medical Center in Laguna Hills in Conference Room 1.

Published in the Orange County Register on 12/30/2007.

Family links:

Spouse:

[Alice Louise Hunt Meiklejohn \(1920 - 2009\)*](#)

[*Calculated relationship](#)

Burial:

[Melrose Abbev Memorial Park](#)

Anaheim

Orange County

California, USA

Created by: [Cindy R](#)

Record added: Dec 31, 2007

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