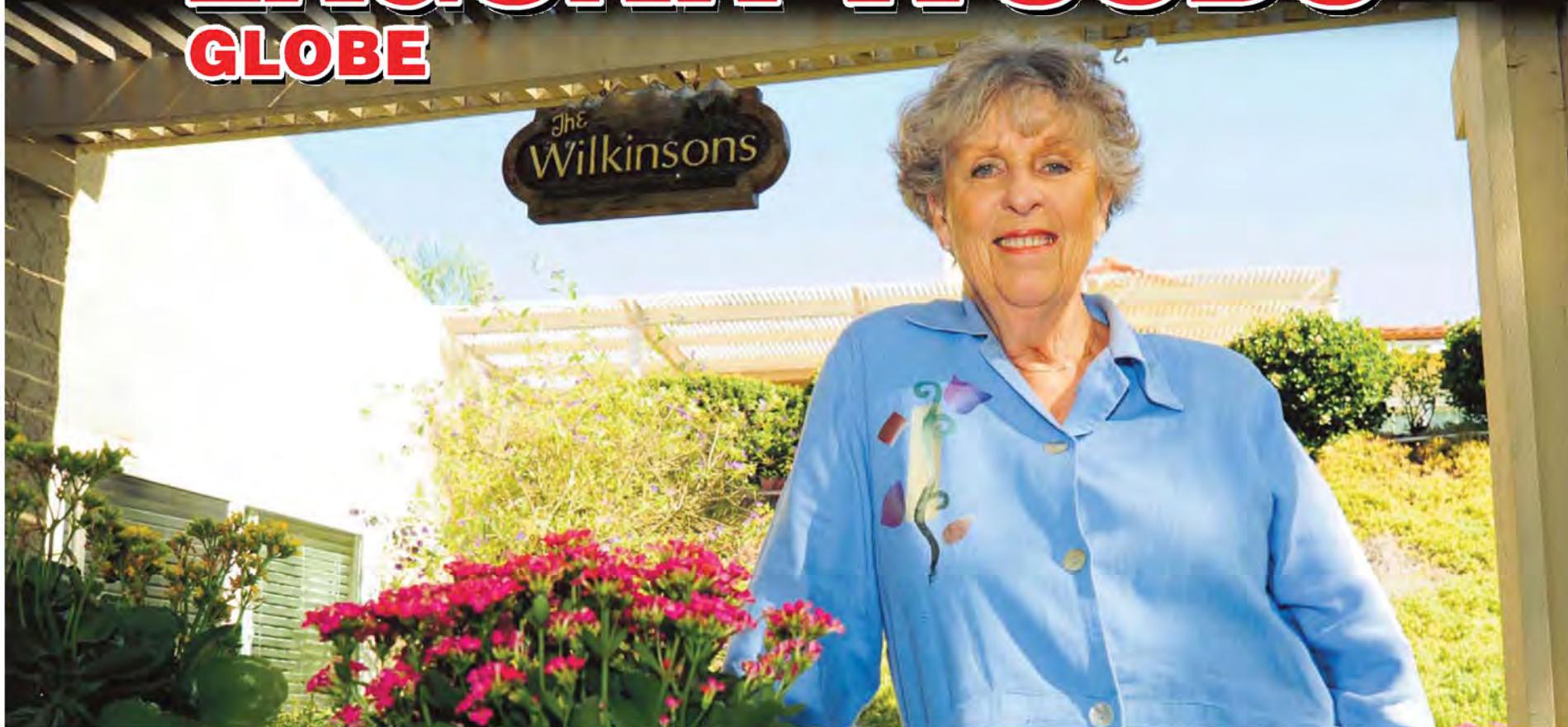


# LAGUNA WOODS

## GLOBE



Laguna Woods Honoree of the Month for October is Pat Wilkinson shown outside her manor. > JEFFREY ANTENORE, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

# OCTOBER HONOREE

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# Pat Wilkinson October Honoree of the Month

**BY AMELIA RUSHBROOK**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Tears come to Pat Wilkinson's eyes when she talks about being the Historical Society's Honoree of the Month for October.

"This place is so full of men and women who give hours of their time each day to help each other out," Wilkinson says. "I look at the people who have been chosen in the past and it's an incredible group of volunteers."

Pat and her husband of 52 years, Ron, moved to Laguna Woods Village in 1997 after living for eight years in Twin Peaks, a small town in the San Bernardino Mountains. Although they enjoyed the quiet life in the mountains, they missed having access to the kinds of community groups and activities so abundant in the Village.

Pat credits her friends for getting her involved in community life. It was through the encouragement of the women in her bridge group, Pat says, that she joined various clubs and activities and got on the board of the Opera 100 Club soon after she moved to the Village. Twelve years later, Pat is still on the board of Opera 100, and she and her bridge buddies still meet for Wednesday bridge nights.

Close friendships, like the ones formed over 12 years of weekly bridge games, are a big part of what Wilkinson loves about living in the Village. The community's culture of volunteering is another.

"There's nothing you can't learn or be if you live here," Wilkinson says, "people here can't wait to help you and teach you. Our community is so unique, I doubt that there's anything else like this anywhere in the world."

Wilkinson's pride in and love for the Village are what motivated her to work with the No on Recall group against the



**Laguna Woods  
Honoree of the  
Month Pat Wilkin-  
son is president of  
the Camera Club.**

> JEFFREY  
ANTENORE,  
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recent attempted recall of four United Mutual directors. Wilkinson was the co-creator of the group's website.

"I love this Village so much; I wanted to do what I could to help United to defeat the recall," Wilkinson says. "I could not not get involved."

Wilkinson describes her time working on the campaign as emotional and challenging but says many positives came out of the experience.

"The whole end result was positive, but as well as that, it created a new family," Wilkinson says. "We were sharing lots of ups and downs and upsets to-

gether, and it bonded us together."

Wilkinson is now working on a website for the Friends of the Village, a group she hopes will help residents learn about the truth about both sides of issues in the community.

Wilkinson juggles her work with the Friends of the Village with her "challenging, rewarding" role as president of the Village's Camera Club, a position she has held since January of this year. Photography has been a passion for Wilkinson since childhood --- her father gave her a camera when she was 6 or 7 years old --- and she emphasizes the im-

portance of taking photos to preserve memories of people and places.

"It's important to take photos when you go somewhere truly beautiful so that you can go back and experience it again; feel it again," Wilkinson says. "Without photos, your memory of those times closes."

Wilkinson is determined to get more Village residents involved in the club and enjoying their cameras. Her introduction of new classes and lectures to the club's monthly line-up and energetic promotion of the club's activities have helped to attract 86 new members since the beginning of the year. The club now has about 260 members.

Wilkinson's vision for the club is to have help available as often as possible for photographers at every level.

Wilkinson loves her volunteer work in the Village, but her "prime joy in life" is family. Pat and Ron enjoy close relationships with their three children Cathy, Karen and RD, who all live in California. Pat says she feels blessed to have many members of extended family also living in the area.

The Historical Society will honor Wilkinson at a ceremony at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at Clubhouse 6.