

SARATOGA

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An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Saratoga

The Heart of Saratoga

Spotlight



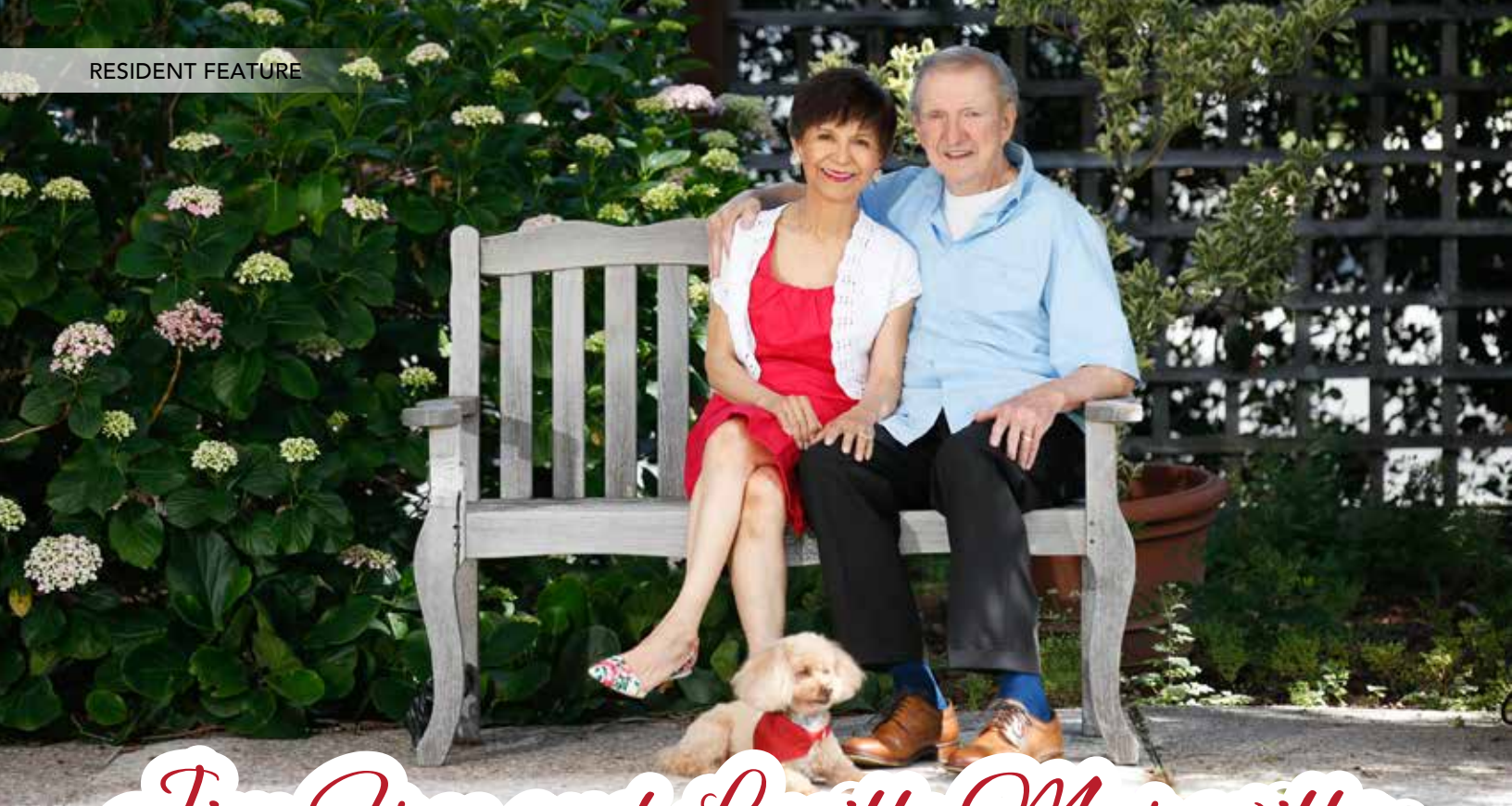
*Jim Free and
Lucille Maravilla:*

Positive Change and Supporting Our Community



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Cover photo by Hyunah Jang, of Hyunah Jang Photography



Jim Free and Lucille Maravilla: Positive Change and Supporting Our Community

By Genevieve Laucher

Jim Free and Lucille Maravilla have both contributed greatly to the community. From Jim's work on the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation and the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation, to Lucille's involvement with the charitable Country Woman's Club of Campbell and work getting individuals the healthcare and Medicare they need; Jim and Lucille have certainly made a positive impact locally and beyond.

Jim was born and raised in the Colorado Rockies in a town called Steamboat Springs and raised not far from there in cattle ranch country.

After graduating from high school and working for a couple of years, Jim joined the Navy as a surface-to-air missile technician aboard the USS Goldsborough, based in Pearl Harbor. After his service, Jim stayed with his aunt and uncle in San Leandro for about a year. He transferred from a junior college to San Jose State University and ended up loving the area and deciding to stay.

After graduating from college, Jim started his career in commercial real estate and later founded his own appraisal firm, Urban Land Research. Jim was president of the South Bay chapter of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers and served on the board of directors of the Northern California chapter of the Appraisal Institute. He also worked as a senior certified commercial broker with Coldwell Banker. Additionally, Jim got involved with the City of Campbell at different levels over the years. He was selected as Campbell's Citizen of the Year in 2003 for his involvement in areas of the city, including the Downtown Historic Committee.

In January 2005, Jim got a call from Dan Furtado, the mayor of Campbell at the time. The mayor said that he and the city council would like to build a veterans memorial. Knowing that Jim was a veteran, the mayor asked him if he would like to help out. Jim said that he would love to, and got started with forming the committee and heading up the project. From 2005 until 2015 he was the president and CEO of the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation and is now the Chairman Emeritus. Jim says it was an honor and pleasure to be a part of such an important cause - supporting our veterans and their families.

The veterans memorials are a large part of Jim's life, both in Campbell and in Los Gatos. When the Veteran's Memorial and Support Foundation, serving all veterans with a focus on Los Gatos, Saratoga, and Monte Sereno was first established and began thinking of creating a veteran's memorial, one of the advisors, Hon. Francis J. Harvey, 19th Secretary of the United States Army, and board director, Ellen Manzo, met with Jim and he gave them everything they needed in order to establish a nonprofit organization. He has been working in conjunction with the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation since its beginning, serving as a professional advisor to this group to this day.

Jim was also involved in the Kiwanis for several years, serving as president in 1999. In 2013, the California assemblyman, Paul Fong, selected Jim as veteran of the year.

Additionally, this year, Jim was selected as Campbell's veteran of the year!

Jim says, "Having been able to interact with some of our



outstanding veterans, both men and women, has been an honor. Of our veterans, about 1.6 million have given their lives in the fulfillment of their pledge to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, the very document upon which we all live and exist today.



Since I first became involved in helping to create the Campbell Veterans Memorial and later becoming involved in the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation, it has been a pleasure to participate and contribute what I could. I have enjoyed my interaction, dialog, and conversation with many really stellar people of the City of Campbell, the Town of Los Gatos, the City of Saratoga, and others in the surrounding communities.”

Jim first met Lucille Maravilla over 35 years ago, through personal development seminars and later at a Stanford Bachelor party. They have been married for 17 years. Both from Colorado, they share a love of the outdoors. They have no children, but their dog Suzette is their “baby.” She is a rescue dog who has found her home with Jim and Lucille. She is a delight to them and everyone who meets her.

Lucille was born in Pueblo, a steel town on Colorado’s Eastern Slope. Lucille moved out to the Bay Area to attend Stanford’s Graduate School of Business. She had family living in the area, and three of her brothers followed her to Stanford as undergraduates. After Stanford, Lucille first worked as a training coordinator in a health clinic helping San Jose State students find internships. She then worked at the Stanford Hospital, using her teaching background as a trainer in housekeeping, and later as an assistant manager for housekeeping and maintenance in the University. From there, she moved into a career in high tech for several years. Lucille comes from a big Latino family and grew up with parents who were all about giving back to the community. In college, she helped her Congressman, registering Spanish speakers to vote. She has been a licensed California insurance agent for 17 years.

Besides helping seniors with their Medicare needs, Lucille is also an independent insurance agent with individuals and family clients under the age of 65. She helps these clients find affordable healthcare that best meets their needs. Her clients refer family and friends to her from all over the state. The most important thing to Lucille is that people are served, and their needs are met.

Lucille belongs to the Country Woman’s Club of Campbell (CWCC). CWCC supports fundraising activities in the community to raise money for college scholarships. For three years, Lucille chaired the Crab and Pasta Dinner, CWCC’s largest annual fundraiser. Jim was able to help with this

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Student Counseling for College Admissions and Beyond

Campus Pathway’s principle, Jeffrey Morrison, utilizes 40 years of Silicon Valley experience to guide serious students to envision the life they want and then identify and win acceptance to the best colleges that fulfill that vision.



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fundraiser; they both love it when they can work together on community events. The Country Woman's Club provides scholarships to students who have faced a major challenge in life and are able to complete school. The scholarship allows them to go onto college, technical school, or art school.

Lucille is also a member of CAHU. This is a professional society for insurance agents. CAHU not only offers professional development, but they also help out in the community and have a charity where they support local service organizations.

Lucille and Jim enjoy being active as much as possible, with hobbies including snow skiing, scuba diving, backpacking, and photography. They have traveled a lot and have visited the



Great Barrier Reef in Australia as well as Canada and Europe. Lucille and Jim also spend time with family. Lucille's parents are still in Colorado and she speaks with them every day. Her family has reunions every year, and Lucille loves that Jim embraces her large family.

Jim and Lucille love living in the Bay Area. They enjoy all the hiking and open space even in a metropolitan area. They both have a lot of gratitude for the beautiful, diverse community that we live in.

For more information about the Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation, please visit www.campbellveteransmemorial.org. For more about the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation, please see www.honoravet.org.

Cancer does not stop for COVID-19 and neither does



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THE FLAME OF LIBERTY BURNS BRIGHT

1st Anniversary of a Memorial Dedication Honoring U.S. Military, First Responders & Local 9/11 Heroes



By Ellen Manzo

On June 15, 2020, the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation honored the courage and sacrifice of all U.S. military service members, veterans, first responders, and two local 9/11 heroes – Mark Bingham and Todd Beamer, as they marked the anniversary of the dedication of The Flame of Liberty. The memorial honors those who are responsible for defending America's freedom and security. As the Foundation celebrates the first anniversary, they remember the spirit of service and solidarity that so many of America's citizens showed during the conflicts that plagued our country over time and following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. The examples of heroism are especially inspiring and vital right now when considering the many U.S. service members and first responders who have placed their own lives on the line and are confronting COVID with courage.

Today, Silicon Valley is fortunate to have The Flame of Liberty enlighten us to the fact that our community members now have the chance to celebrate all of those on the front line of battle, on the front line of natural disasters, on the front line of American law and order, on the front line of COVID-19, and on the front line of American values and freedom.

Photos by Glenn Kishi, Tony Avelar, Roy Prasad, Dr. Clyde Horn



A GRATEFUL NATION HONORS THE COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF ALL VETERANS WHO SERVED TO ENSURE OUR LIBERTY



The work of the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation is far from complete. The members of the Foundation relish the fact that eight years of planning and securing Town support for The Flame of Liberty is behind them and as a result of their efforts, a beautiful world-class memorial stands in Silicon Valley at the Los Gatos Civic Center. Today, the members of the Foundation continue to secure funds for their capital campaign and plan steps towards accomplishing their next mission of delivering support and improving the lives of veterans, service members, and their families. See www.honoravet.org for more information about the Veterans Memorial and Support Foundation or how you can be part of this important community endeavor.