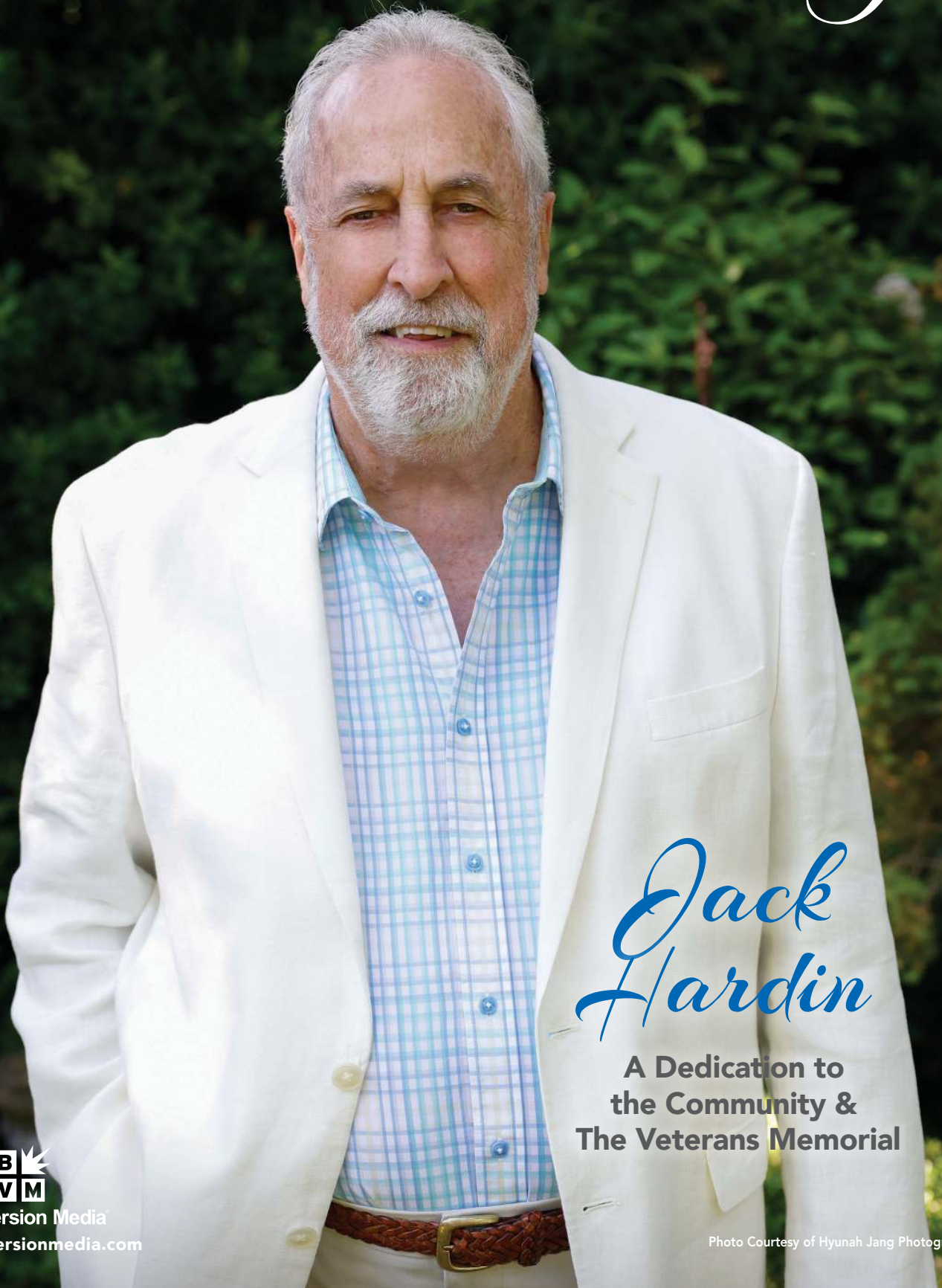


# LOS GATOS

An exclusive magazine serving the residents of Los Gatos  
The Heart of Los Gatos

## *Living*



## *Jack Hardin*

**A Dedication to  
the Community &  
The Veterans Memorial**



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# Jack Hardin

## A Dedication to the Community & The Veterans Memorial

By David Nielsen

Raised in a military family, Jack Hardin moved frequently growing up. His father was a staff and headquarters photographer during World War II and Korea and retired as a Captain in the Marine Corps after 20 years. Jack was always the new kid on the block and in school, moving across the country from California to North Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., and New York then back to California. His school years saw him attending no fewer than six grade schools and four high schools. He became quite adaptable to new and different neighborhoods, situations, and classmates. Jack's 21st birthday was highlighted by a very different "situation", completing his initial parachute jump while in the US Army at Fort Benning, Georgia!

Jack and his wife, Barbara, met in May 1969, when Jack was stationed at Fort Ord in Monterey following a recent return from Vietnam as a paratrooper with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. A fraternity brother buddy from Oregon suggested that they drive to San Jose to see if any sorority sisters were interested in going out. Jack agreed to go, he and Barbara met, and they began dating. When he was honorably discharged from the US Army in January 1970, he moved to San Jose and continued to date Barbara until they were married in September of that year. They have now been married for nearly 53 years.

Jack and Barbara have lived in the Blossom Manor neighborhood of Los Gatos since 1989. They moved into their "little piece of Shangri-La" just after the Loma Prieta earthquake. They have always enjoyed the tranquility of the surroundings and the proximity to downtown Los Gatos with its shopping, restaurants, and healthcare facilities.

They actually lived in a very small three-room cabin in the Los Gatos foothills when they were first married in 1970. Jack was a postman at the local post office until he returned to college at San Jose State University where he earned his BS and an MS in Geology.

During Jack's professional career, which spanned over 40 years, he had the opportunity to travel worldwide. He worked in some very interesting locations, and met amazing, talented, and generous people.

He started as a mud logger on oil rigs working for Exploration Logging throughout California, including the Channel Islands, in addition to the Oregon and Washington coasts. After two years he moved to Woodward-Clyde Consultants, located in San Francisco and Oakland, where he worked for twelve years. One particular assignment brought him to Saudi Arabia, where he was involved in conducting a siting study for a military city in the middle of nowhere. The trip included a post Saudi Arabia stopover in India, Kathmandu, Nepal, to catch a glimpse of Mount Everest, and then to Singapore.

Following assignments brought Jack to the Sierra Foothills, Olympia, Washington, and Bay City, Texas, which had him working on

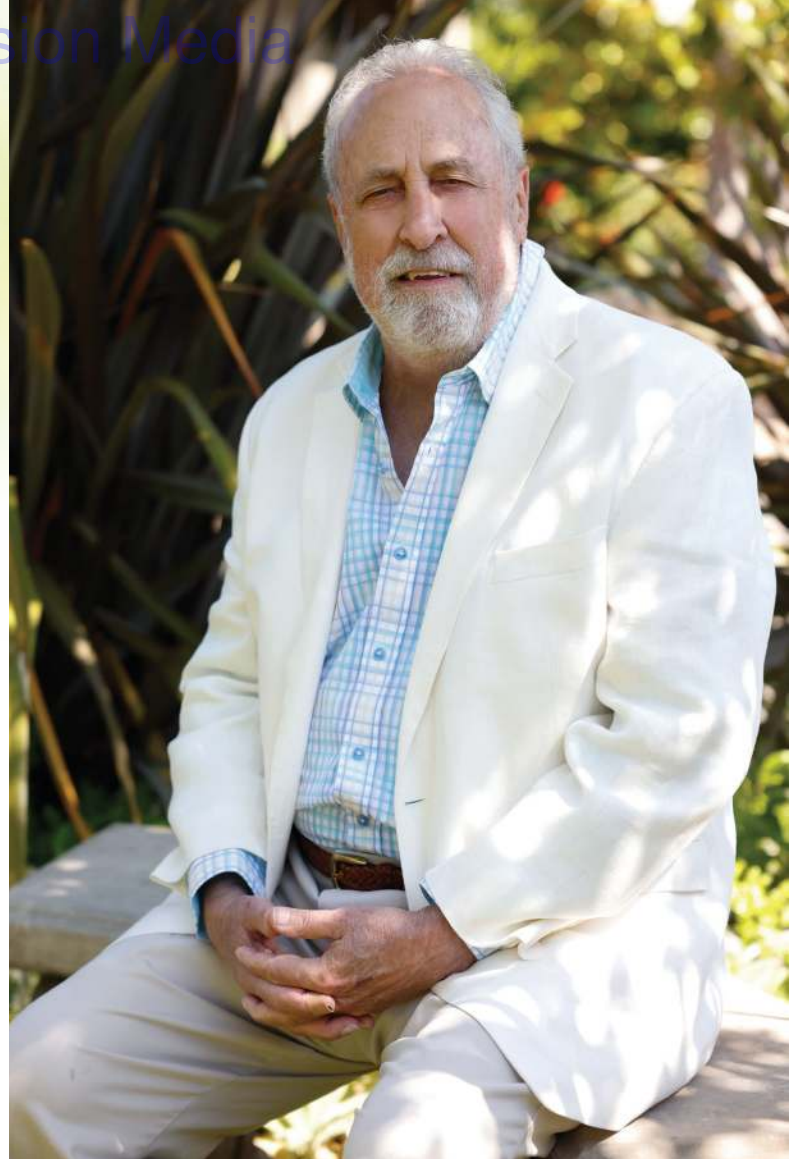


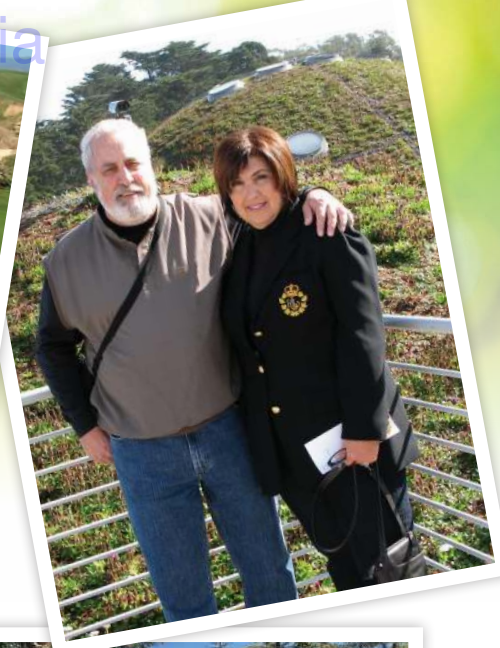
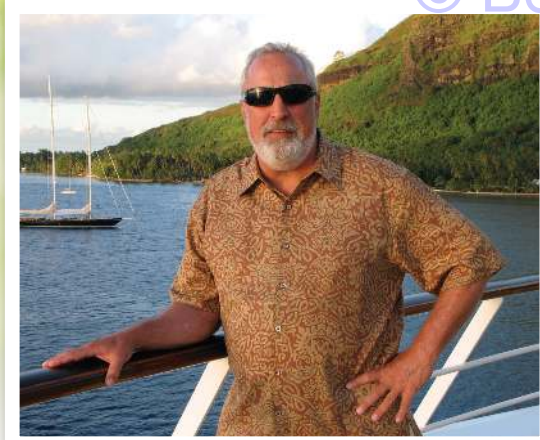
Photo Courtesy of Hyunah Jang Photography

siting studies for nuclear power plants. Additional siting studies were conducted in Moab, Utah, for a nuclear waste repository in the Paradox Basin and, finally, Flint, Michigan on the site of a Superfund chemical waste dumping ground which had made the cover of National Geographic Magazine. While working in the Canyonlands of Utah, in order to capture a photograph of a unique geologic structure, Jack allowed himself to be dangled over a 500-foot cliff with a fellow geologist holding onto him by his ankles. They would later identify this locale on their geologic map as "Ankles Overlook".

Studying the effects of the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake by enlarging a surface rupture trench located off Summit Road, Jack and his younger brother, a fellow geologist, were interviewed by the New York Times while inside the trench. They were there analyzing the activity of the earthquake and the movement it created.

For the next nine years, Jack worked for EMCON in San Jose, where he was involved in various studies associated with Silicon Valley companies, including retail gas stations, fuel terminals, and oil refineries. Additional studies involved the clearing of unexploded ordnance (UXO) from a former military installation where a massive housing development was planned, an investigation of a former wood treatment facility in Reed City, Michigan, and an investigation, remedial design, and remedial action of a Superfund site in Sunnyvale.





Jack then moved to SECOR, where he was employed for more than eighteen years, managing, directing, and marketing services to clients throughout California. His clients included those in the oil and gas industry, high tech, transportation, solid waste, hazardous waste industries, as well as a gold mine closure in Juneau, Alaska. Jack retired in 2015.

Since January 2020, Jack has been a member of the Veterans Memorial & Support Foundation of Los Gatos. Jack maintains the landscaping at the Memorial and decorates the grounds during national holidays and special remembrances. He is also the Chairman of the Vet Gala 2023 committee, the inaugural fundraiser for the Foundation to be held at La Rinconada Country Club on October 6th. Jack has also volunteered his time, services, and support to Wreaths Across America for the past three years.



Jack enjoys listening to jazz and classical music, walking, playing golf, gardening, reading fiction and non-fiction, international travel, photography, and "grape juice" tastings. Jack and Barbara have several nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and godchildren that they are very proud of. They encourage them to attain degrees of higher education. Godson, Antonio, (at 6'5" and 220 pounds), just made the football roster at the University of Colorado.

Jack and Barbara have shared so many great memories together, especially those that involved traveling across the globe to foreign lands and exotic places. They've traveled to more than 50 countries in North, Central and South America, Europe, Asia, India, Nepal, the Middle East, Far East, and various Pacific Island nations.

Jack shares this loving appreciation of his wife, Barbara, "Since the day we met in May 1969, Barbara has been my inspiration for having a long lasting, loving relationship. She was at the outset the most knowledgeable person I had ever encountered, and someone who was well versed in a litany of subjects. When traveling we seek out areas that provide interesting examples of history, local traditions, art, and architecture. Of course, we are very fortunate to live in the Bay Area with its many rich experiences easily accessible. She's also very supportive of the Veterans Memorial Foundation and its mission. Her 40+ years as an educator, an advocate for higher education, a respected communicator, and a fabulous cook (she's Italian, of course) has provided me with the best of the best."

Jack and Barbara appreciate their very nice neighbors, having forged long-lasting relationships with several families, which they have maintained though some have moved on to other cities. Their neighbors support each other in good, and not-so-good, times and watch out for one another. Jack asks that everyone be thoughtful, gracious, and understanding of others and to always display our country's patriotic flag during National Holidays, or all year round.



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