

Members' Corner

The Board of Directors and fellow members of the Society extend a warm welcome to a new members:

Virginia Ferreira	Danville, CA
Rosalind Graves and Clifford Franco	Oakland, CA
Jay and Jane Jennings	San Ramon, CA

We hope that you will enjoy this organization. We urge you to attend the field trips and the bi-monthly dinner meetings with guest speakers discussing their areas of expertise, participate in the selection of historic sites in the San Ramon Valley, and share your views and experiences with other Society members. We also urge you to join and support the activities of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley and the San Ramon Historic Foundation.

In Memoriam

Leonard Paul Catania



Leonard "Len" Paul Catania, 80, of Livermore, Calif. passed away on Sunday, October 12, 2014, surrounded by his beloved family.

A longtime Tri-Valley resident, Len was born on June 5, 1934 in San Mateo, Calif. to Dorothy and Leo Catania. The family moved to Alamo in 1942. While a student at San Ramon Valley High School in Danville, he met his wife, Phyllis. Upon seeing her for the first time -- and true to the resolve and gusto that became his signature -- he turned to his friend and said, "I'm going to marry that girl".

Len joined the United States Navy in 1953 and served in the Construction Battalion (SeaBees), first at the Alameda Air Station, then Kwajalein and the Philippines. He and Phyllis married in 1955 in Reno, Nevada. After his discharge in 1957, he became a member of Local 36 and worked as a union carpenter for 30 years. While raising their family in the Niles district of Fremont, Len and Phyllis were founding leaders in the Essanay 4-H Club. Len was a devoted 4-H sheep project leader for many years.

His retirement was the longest and most successful imaginable. He collected antiques -- everything from jukeboxes to gumball machines -- rode English trials motorcycles, played golf, read copiously, and, most notably, designed and built his hotrod trucks. He was a member of the P-Town Pushrods and winner of more than 120 trophies and awards from countless car shows. He was a Sudoku addict, loved jigsaw puzzles and was a student of the history of the American West. An enthusiastic traveler, he was proud that his special pair of cowboy boots touched the soil of 46 states and six countries. Always the craftsman, he designed and built unique bird houses, doll house and play house for the great grandchildren, invented solutions to automotive dilemmas and excelled at creative home improvement. Whatever the endeavor, he committed to it fully and completed it expertly.

Len is survived by his wife, Phyllis; daughter Leigh Anne Catania and son-in-law Bill Dillian of Plymouth; daughter Cathryn Lyn Catania of Santa Rosa; daughter Gina Marie Catania of San Rafael; ???? and brother Ronald Catania of Somerset. He is also survived by five grandchildren (Jake, Alice, Anne, Winland ???? & Natalie) ???? and four great-grandchildren (Maya, Bodhi, Lila & Leo).

Len's loved ones will remember a larger-than-life character who was whip-smart, passionate, endlessly creative, devilishly handsome (and a little bit of a rascal) with an ever-present twinkle in his eye. His absence will be deeply felt.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made in his honor to Autism Speaks and/or ????????

The family is planning a joyous celebration of Len's life. For details please call 925-200-7876 or email catania2@aol.com. Condolences may be submitted to www.callaghanmortuary.com.

Callaghan Mortuary

925 447-2942

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