

Santa Susana Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 6480 Katherine Road, Simi Valley.

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**Camarillo**

**Kay William Murray**

Kay Murray was born on Feb. 10, 1915, in Los Angeles on West 53rd Street and passed away on May 11, 2007.

His mother enrolled him in YMCA as soon as he was old enough, to give him activities and guidance. He learned to swim early and was a natural. He swam competitively with the 'Y' and with other teams in due time.

He attended schools in Los Angeles, graduating from Polytechnic High School, Los Angeles Junior College and Occidental College, where he earned his teaching credential in 1940. After World War II, he earned his Master of Arts degree from University of Southern California.

While in junior college, Kay became a charter member of the Palos Verdes Surfing Club. He also competed in swimming meets, played water polo and, throughout his life, participated in almost any activity that involved water — liquid or frozen.

Kay was a tall, dependable kid, and before he was 12, the legal age, he began delivering the Shopping Newspaper in his neighborhood. He turned his earnings over to his mother, who could not work. Throughout school years, he always held one or two jobs to support his mother and to pay for school. He became a beach lifeguard, a city swimming pool manager and guard, and playground director, all while attending school. He was also an American Red Cross aquatics and first-aid instructor and director.

He taught school in Los Angeles County for a year before being accepted by the Los Angeles Unified School District, where he taught physical education for 20 years, all at the junior high school level.

In Occidental College, Kay had met Betty Fairchild, another teaching candidate and water person. Their friendship developed, and they married in the Occidental Music Chapel on March 29, 1942.

World War II interrupted the teaching. He joined the United States Navy and served for three years, being discharged as a lieutenant junior grade.

Upon discharge from the Navy, Kay returned to his teaching profession, but always with another goal in mind. He wanted his own swimming school. When the time was right, a location was chosen, the swimming pool was built, and Kay Murray's

Aquatic School opened in May 1952.

In 1962, the Santa Monica Free-way came through the swim school's location at National Boulevard and Overland Avenue. Kay located another spot in West Los Angeles at Barrington Avenue and Gateway Boulevard, where a larger facility was built, and began accepting students in 1963. Kay and Betty turned the swim school over to two grown-up and capable sons in 1973.

With "retirement," Kay and Betty moved to Mammoth Lakes, where they could ski as much as they wanted. Their condominium became headquarters for many young skiing guests. In three years, Kay felt that he needed more variation in activities, so the senior Murrays moved into Leisure Village, which had a fine large pool for daily workouts. They also had purchased a 14-foot inflatable raft for white-water trips. Arranging for a third person who acted as pickup crew (mostly cousin Lou Whitney), they navigated several rivers in California, Washington and Idaho.

They also arranged for second son Douglas, who was as large and strong as his Dad, to fly to the start of a trip, help float the rapids and camp out, then fly back to Los Angeles to teach swimming. Of course, white-water rafting had to run its course, just like surfing.

So swimming in Leisure Village became the prime water sport and square dancing. When Kay and Betty moved into Leisure Village, a new class in square dancing was beginning. They joined, progressed, and enjoyed the activity so much that they traveled a great deal to dance. Driving their motor home, they went to square dance resorts

in Arizona, Northern and Southern California, and across the country.

International travel beckoned, and over several years, Kay and Betty checked out the continents, choosing different itineraries each trip. They became regular Elderhostel travelers. But that also came to an end.

For 30 years after retirement, Kay and Betty lived an active and interesting life in Camarillo. Kay reached two goals in 2007: he reached his 92nd birthday, and he celebrated 65 years of marriage to the same woman. His graduation into the next dimension of life leaves his devoted family and friends sad, but gratified to have known and loved an extraordinarily moral, gentle man.

Kay's family includes sons, Stephen (wife Jane) and Douglas (wife Gretchen); grandchildren, Beverly (husband Chris Christian), Jennifer (husband Brad Hooks), Drayton, and Ken Murray; and great-granddaughter, Kayla (named for Kay) Christian; wife, Betty; and in-laws, nieces and nephews, and cousins who will miss him.

A memorial service is planned at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village.

Assisting the family with funeral arrangements is the family-owned and -operated Rose-Perez Funeral Home & Cremation, 805-484-6365. "Our families putting your family first."

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