

In Memory of Kenneth I. DeLong

PVP Watch Serving the Palos Verdes Peninsula



On the morning of March 8, 2020, the residents of the Palos Verdes Peninsula lost one of their greatest advocates. Ken DeLong passed away.

Ken for decades fought tirelessly to keep a spotlight on the Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) City Hall and other governmental agencies and districts which affect the daily life of our community.

Kenneth Irving DeLong was born in Los Angeles on January 24, 1930, and except for the years he spent in the United States Army from 1951 until 1953, he lived his entire life in Southern California. In 1953, while in the Army on the east coast, he married Katherine (Kitty) Shipley, who survives him, along with their three sons Jeff, Gregg and Gary and a

daughter Susan.

Ken had a career in the telecommunication industry, beginning with Pacific Telephone before being promoted to its parent company AT&T in the 1970's. After retirement he became a consultant in that industry. The DeLong Family moved to RPV in 1975 and Ken soon immersed himself in the affairs of the newly formed city.

After several years of frustration in 2005 Ken and a few similar minded friends formed PVP Watch. They did not feel the local media was fully and fairly reporting local political issues, including council races, bond measures and taxation matters. The PVP Watch newsletter would offer another perspective to the local editorials, which always supported spending the taxpayers' money on the politicians and media "wants" rather than the residents' "needs."

Some of the various issues this group brought to the attention of the public over the years was the storm drain user fee and possible alternative solutions; the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District bond financing and its long term costs and implications; the costs and possible solutions associated with the Palos Verdes Drive South land movement; and the implications for the community if the Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) is adopted. Last November PVP Watch campaigned against the passage of Measure B, the hospitality working conditions ordinance aimed at Terranea Resort and Trump National feeling it would do harm to the community.

Ken wanted the public to know that on all important issues there was normally more than one point of view and when he determined what that alternative was, he would present it... to educate the electorate. And he did just that year after year...issue after issue.

Four days before he succumbed the following took place, "The Mayor and City Council of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes take great pleasure in honoring Ken DeLong with a Certificate of Recognition which reads: In recognition and in appreciation of your more than 20 years of dedicated service to the local community as evidenced by your active involvement with local organizations over the years, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes thanks you for your dedication and for making our community a better place to live with the presentation of this certificate on March 4, 2020."

Ken was too ill to attend the city council meeting where the presentation was made, but rest assured it brought a smile to his face when it was read to him.

And now PVP Watch will do something it has not done since its inception, continue without the wise guidance of Ken DeLong. We will do our best to carry on the service Ken provided to the community by offering our views and insights into issues that affect the Peninsula and its residents, mainly through our newsletter.

Oh yes, one last thing. We are all aware of the yard signs seen throughout the community each election. If you were a candidate, or cause that Ken supported, he would help you assemble and place them. And then the day after the election Ken would drive his weathered and worn pickup truck, with the help of other PVP Watch members, throughout Palos Verdes picking up hundreds of campaign signs of friend and foe alike to be disposed of properly.

We thank you Ken for your years of contributions...you will be missed.

The Editorial Committee