



CITY OF LA PALMA NEWSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release
June 3, 2008

Duane Schuster –Former La Palma Mayor and Long Time Resident Passes Away

LA PALMA, Calif. – The City of La Palma sadly announces the passing of former Mayor and Councilmember Duane Schuster. Mr. Schuster, a 38-year resident of the City, peacefully passed away with his family at his side on June 1, 2008. "Duane was the soul of La Palma... and we will never be the same, caring city without him," stated Councilmember Larry Herman upon hearing about Mr. Schuster's passing. He went on to say, "I feel fortunate to have known Duane as my friend. I will truly miss him and I appreciate the invaluable legacy he has left to the City of La Palma."

Duane Schuster was born in 1931 and raised on his family's farm in Badger, Iowa. He was a Korean War Veteran, having enlisted in the Air Force at the age of 17 and serving from 1948 to 1968, retiring with the rank of Master Sergeant. After leaving the Air Force, Duane relocated to Southern California where he worked as a meat cutter for eight years and then as a purchasing agent at the Hebrew Academy School.

Duane was elected to the City Council in 1992, serving as Mayor Pro Tem in 1995 and as Mayor in 1996. During his tenure he was instrumental in the establishment of such programs as Volunteers in Policing (VIP), Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and the original Police K-9 program. Over the past 30 plus years, Duane volunteered an average of 500 to 1,000 hours per year to this community in various capacities, which are too numerous to list in their entirety, but include, Kiwanis; Senior Club of La Palma; Chamber of Commerce, Toys for Tots; and City events, including the Halloween Carnival, Fitness Run for Fun, La Palma Days, Meals on Wheels, Red Ribbon Week, Easter Fantasy, Santa Makes House Calls, Arbor Day, and Holiday Tree Lighting. He was also influential in

securing funding from the County of Orange for the construction of the City's Central Park softball field restrooms.

Duane received the Americana Award as La Palma's Citizen of the Year from the Cypress College Foundation in 1991; KNX's Citizen of the Year in 1993; Recreation Services Volunteer of the Year in 1998; Lyons Club Merit Foundation Vision Award in 1995; California Parks and Recreation District X Volunteer of the Year in 1999; the President's Call to Service Award; and the 2007 La Palma Police Department's Volunteer of the Year.

Duane is survived by his wife, Jesse Schuster; his daughter Cathy Sabatini; his step daughters, Lisa Chattler and Bonnie Dukes; his grandchildren, Hilary Chattler, Andrea Chattler, Michele Dukes, Angela Knight, and Ricky Sabatini; and his sister, Darlene.

Mayor Charoen reflected that, "La Palma is one of the best cities in the country because of the volunteerism and leadership provided by Duane Schuster as a former Mayor. The entire City Council and all of La Palma's citizens will truly miss him." Duane Schuster justly earned the respect, admiration, and high regard of all with whom he came in contact and this community has sustained a great loss in his death. The City of La Palma extends its deepest sympathies to the entire Schuster family.

The City's flags have been lowered to half-mast in his memory and a moment of silence will be recognized at the City Council meeting on June 3rd. Services are scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 12:00 p.m., at Mt. Sinai in the Hollywood Hills.

About the City of La Palma

The City of La Palma is a 1.9 square mile general law city in northwest Orange County, consisting of 16,081 residents and 482 commercial and industrial businesses. The City was incorporated in 1955 under the name of Dairyland and has 65 full-time and 53 part-time employees.

Contact Information

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