

SENIOR KING & QUEEN

Paul Blackwell ~

2008 Strawberry Ball King

Nominated by H. Louis Lake Senior Center



Paul Blackwell ~ a man with a sweet soul and caring heart ~ spent 20 years, four months and 6 days (his count) in the U.S. Navy. He enlisted a week after graduating Inglewood high school and served on the Air Craft Carrier Constellation & the sub-tender U.S.S. Protus. A few of Paul's stations were Japan, Australia, Thailand, & Guam. While stationed on Guam with his family he volunteered as Troop Leader for his daughters Girl Scout Troop. One "volunteer" job while on the Constellation came about quite unexpectedly and unwillingly. As the jet fighters were landing, Paul was blown overboard by the blast. Fortunately he was in full safety gear. As the

helicopter rescued him the entire incident was being caught on camera and to this day that film has been shown in all safety training classes for carrier duty.

Paul's years as a Naval Security Office served him well. He has been employed by "Tustin Village II" as chief security guard for the past 18 years. In the same vein Paul has volunteered as the Inspecting Officer in charge of the voting poles for the past ten years at Irvine Intermediate School in Garden Grove. Paul has lived in Garden Grove since 1991 and raised his three girls alone since '89. Due to an illness that befell his youngest daughter Elizabeth, Paul began donating blood platelets for cancer patients every month at Choc Hospital. This process takes almost three hours. Paul has been doing this for 18 years.

Besides his interest in deep sea fishing, travel and baking, Paul was looking for other things to peak his interest. He heard about the need for volunteer drivers for the Meals on Wheels program at H. Louis Lake in 2001 and the rest is history. His five days a week routes serves 25-30 people each day that he deeply cares about. Even when he's completed his routes & another one needs a driver Paul will step in. His daughter Bethy also became involved as a driver. Paul's commitment to serving others is steadfast & true and we cannot thank him enough!

Hail to our new King ~ Paul Blackwell!



Patricia Brees ~ 2008 Strawberry Ball Queen

Nominated by Woman's Civic Club of Garden Grove

A native Californian, Patricia "Trisha" Breese has lived in the same family home in Garden Grove that once belonged to her parents since she was nine years old. It was on that street where she met a young neighbor boy, Darwyn, who was to become her future husband. In that home Trish and Darwyn raised two sons, welcomed five grandchildren & three great grandchildren. A graduate of Garden Grove High School (her dad too!) she worked in the family business – Brees

Quality Meats – on Valley View & Chapman. Trisha remembers when “little” Tiger Woods would come to the store with his folks. The business is still family owned & celebrating its 50th year.

Happily retired Trisha has found many causes & interests to fill her time. Among the organizations she serves are: Woman’s Civic Club of Garden Grove, Teen Challenge, Stanton Chamber of Commerce Women’s Division and Stantonites. She has held numerous offices in all of them.

Dear to her heart is the “Teen Challenge” Program that helps youths to fight drug & alcohol addiction. She has given hundreds of hours planning and organizing the four events held each year to support this program. Teen Challenge is now world wide & 50 years old.

Trisha has served on the Woman’s Civic Club Board for several years & “chaired” many projects that raise money for charities & the yearly scholarship for Garden Grove High School. She designs & teaches card making at the Club & has won many awards at the Orange County Arts Festival.

To quote the Woman’s Civic Club: “Trisha is a lovely & unassuming woman. She is always there to help in any project which if for the betterment of her community. She is efficient & organized and is especially devoted to projects for our youth & senior citizens.” That says it all!

Hail to our new Queen ~ Patricia Brees!

