

## Mike Eggers

Thomas Michael “Mike” Eggers of San Juan Capistrano passed away at his home Tuesday evening, February 16<sup>th</sup>. He was 61.

A local leader, political consultant and member of the press-corps, Mike was elected to the first City Council of Dana Point in 1989 and as the City’s Mayor. He also served as the chief petitioner for Cityhood. During this same time, Mike served as District Chief of Staff for Congressman Ronald Packard (ret.) from 1983 to 1996 working primarily on natural resource, tax, military construction, and constituency matters. He was the chief political consultant for the historic *write-in* campaign which elected Packard in 1982, marking only the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the history of the United States Congress that a successful *write-in* campaign elected a Member of the House of Representatives. Mike began his distinguished career in the press-corps serving as a press-photographer at age 18, working the regional “beats” as a reporter in the South Bay, and finally rising to become one of California’s youngest Editor-in-Chief of a major newspaper publishing company before the age of 35. After moving from Dana Point to San Juan Capistrano, Mike served on the Planning Commission in San Juan Capistrano and was a past president of Capistrano Animal Rescue Effort.

Politics became a passion for Mike and characterized his private endeavors as well. Involved in over 165 federal, State, regional, and city political campaigns, he most recently had his own public relations firm “The Creative Connection” and provided campaign and public affairs consulting within several jurisdictions in Southern California. Prior to this, Mike was an executive with Southern California Edison’s Public Affairs Department where he dealt with federal, state, and local legislative policies.

Over his storied career, Mike received over 60 awards and commendations for his community service work including being named Dana Point’s *Citizen of the Year* in 1988; the U.S. Jaycees’ *Outstanding Young Men of America*; as well as commendations from the Capistrano Unified School District for his work to equalize state funding among California school districts. He is also listed in *Who’s Who in the American West*.

Born March 22, 1948, in Longview, Washington, Mike had a zest for life and found humor as a staple of his career and personal achievements. Mike was a true “Renaissance Man”... he was able to attend a black tie event and enjoy it... then put on his jeans and cowboy boots and go “kick it out” at the Swallows Inn... And then, there was Golf...

Mike was well known for his love of Golf. Mike had a rule when playing Golf: “No Business To Be Discussed; Let’s have fun and enjoy the day”. Those that played Golf with Mike had to know and follow The Rules! For 10 years, Mike embarked on an annual trek with a group of his closest friends to play golf in Tucson during the hottest of months. He will be greatly missed by many friends and his close Golf Buddies.

Topping all of his professional accomplishments, more importantly, he was a devoted husband and loyal and giving friend. He is survived by his loving wife, Kathi (“Sleepless in Seattle”); Mike’s children, Jennifer, Vincent, Ryan and Catherine; Kathi’s children, Nancy Hubbs, Kathy

Vickers, and Mike was preceded in death by Kathi's daughter, Sherry Farris. Mike enjoyed 7 grandchildren with Kathi. Mike will also be missed by his little girl, "Emily", his and Kathi's dog... who was his pride and joy – next to Kathi.

A Celebration of his life will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010, 3 p.m., El Adobe Restaurant, San Juan Capistrano. Western or Golf Attire encouraged. In-lieu of flowers, the family suggest that donations be provided to Capistrano Animal Rescue Effort (CARE), 32240-B Paseo Adelanto, San Juan Capistrano, 92693 ([capoanimalrescue.com](http://capoanimalrescue.com))