

It is with heavy heart that we announce the passing of our Board President Max A. Richman. Max was born in Grinnell, Iowa in 1921. He served his country from 1941 to 1944 in the Navy as an Electrical Engineer. After his time in the service he worked for NRL in Washington D. C., Sperry Gyroscope in Long Island, the Goodyear Company in Ohio, Motorola in Arizona and finally retiring from Ford Aerospace in Palo Alto, California in February of 1981.

Max and his lovely wife, Marlys were blessed with 5 children. Max and Marlys purchased their home in Lake California in 1972 and moved to the community fulltime in 1982. Max and Marlys became very active in both the community of Lake California and the neighboring counties. Max served time on the Property Owner’s Association Board of Directors and Marlys became active with the Architectural Committee. Max and Marlys were instrumental in the formation of a Red Bluff Charter School and the Discovery Center located in Caldwell Park in Redding. Max and Marlys were active volunteers for the STARS program and also helped coordinate the local blood drives for many years. In November of 1985, Max was elected to the Rio Alto Water District Board of Directors and was re-elected consistently to present day. Max served this water district selflessly for over 31 years. He held the position of Board Vice-President for 10 years prior to becoming Board President in December of 1997 and remained President until his passing. During his tenure and under his governance, this District was successful in completing the following improvements:

* Increased water source dependability from 2 old wells located in a flood plain to 6 wells.
* Increased water storage capacity from .6 million gallons to 2.149 million gallons by the construction of two new reservoirs.
* Completion of Tract 1006 infrastructure.
* Completion of 3 new Tracts (Tract 1009, Tract 1018 and Tract 1017) with infrastructure in place.
* Construction of a new boardroom.
* Resolution of a Cease and Desist Order by implementing a project that included improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, installation of a two mile pipeline and creation of wetlands and walking trails for this community.

Max spent countless hours pursuing the settlement of the 504 funds held in Tehama County to fund Well #3, the 1.349 storage reservoir, and the infrastructure for Tracts 1009, 1018 and 1017. At a time when most retirees were relaxing and travelling the countryside, Max was attending the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) conferences to further his education in water and sewer policy and ongoing legislative matters and their potential impact on this District. Max served as the District Representative on the ACWA/JPIA Board of Directors. Max was also an active participant in the formation of the AB3030 Tehama County Groundwater Management Plan.

During Max’s tenure, the build out in Lake California increased from two hundred to over twelve hundred homes. The knowledge, experience, structure, and direction Max brought to the table enabled the District to set policy to accommodate this growth and prepare for the future. His devotion to the District and this community was irrefutable. Max always treated the staff at Rio Alto Water District with the utmost respect and it was an honor and pleasure to work with him. He will be greatly missed.