

City of San Leandro

Civic Center, 835 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, California 94577
www.sanleandro.org



**SAN LEANDRO
NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 10, 2011

CONTACT: Office of the Mayor
(510) 577-3355

Former City Councilmember Edwin “Ed” Suchman Dead at 99

The City and community of San Leandro were saddened to learn that former San Leandro City Councilmember Edwin J. Suchman passed away quietly yesterday, surrounded by family in Manteca; he was 99. Suchman served on the City Council from 1982 until 1990, and was appointed Vice Mayor in 1985 and 1986. He also served as a reserve police officer with the San Leandro Police Department before being elected to the City Council.

“Ed Suchman served on the City Council during a period of great change and development in San Leandro,” said Mayor Stephen Cassidy. “His participation in a number of important projects approved by the City Council shaped much of what San Leandro looks like today. We honor his memory and are thankful for all that he did for this community.”

One of Suchman’s passions was youth sports, and he and former City Councilmember Bob Glaze were instrumental in having the score boards at Stenzel Park illuminated, along with other improvements at the ball field, doing much of the work on their own time. He was a strong supporter of the City’s golf courses and was influential in having a foot bridge built over the flood control channel between the two courses.

Former Councilmember Glaze remembers Suchman in this way: “Ed was one of the greatest advocates for kids, golf and public safety. Ed had that friendly down to earth way about him and accomplish a great deal through friendship and perseverance. When Ed put his mind to a project, there was no stopping him. If there was no money, he would ask for volunteers, donations and

(continued)

put his own sweat into it. When kids needed additional playing fields, score booths, equipment or snack shacks, Ed was there. He was a good friend, colleague and someone that you could count on to be true to his word. Ed's legacy is not in the structures that he built or awards he attained but in the quality of life of the children he served.”

Other community projects during Suchman's term in office included: Davis Street was widened and soundwalls were installed; San Leandro Boulevard and Halcyon Drive widenings were begun; the City's Corporation Yard was relocated from Davis Street to its current location on Chapman Road; the Greenhouse Marketplace shopping center was built; conversion of the former Caterpillar Tractor factory into the Westgate Center was begun; development of the former Marina High School property began for the Marina Vista neighborhood; and the City and San Lorenzo Unified School District agreed to create the Marina Community Center from a portion of the former school building.

Also during Suchman's term, the City's Business Retention and Expansion Program was developed and implemented to help the City and the Chamber of Commerce build a stronger relationship with, and provide assistance to, San Leandro's business community. Suchman was very involved in this program and felt that it promoted goodwill between the City and the businesses.

Former Mayor Tony Santos said, "I served with Ed Suchman on the San Leandro City Council for six years. Ed was a tireless leader who worked hard in making certain San Leandro had a quality of life equal to none."

Former Mayor John Faria had this to say about Ed Suchman: “Ed was very likeable and loved by all. He really cared about San Leandro, and we will miss him.”

Former City Councilmember and former State Assembly Member Johan Klehs remembers Suchman as being an energetic and hard working elected official: “He completed his eight years on the City Council at the age of about 78; as active as ever. Ed remained active in civic affairs the entire time he lived in San Leandro.”

(continued)

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 1:30 p.m. at Chapel of the Chimes in Hayward. (photo provided)

About San Leandro

Among the best cities in the Bay Area to live, raise a family, and operate a business, San Leandro is a city of nearly 85,000 residents centrally and strategically located in one of the most dynamic regions in the world. The city maintains a safe, small town feel where neighbors care for each other, while offering a wide range of shopping, dining, recreation, family activities, miles of shoreline, and easy access to nearby regional parks and nature areas. Over the past decade the community has invested more than \$250 million in renovating and modernizing its public schools and building state-of-the-art facilities for students, including a performing arts theater and 9th grade campus. San Leandro's entrepreneurial spirit and large commercial, technological, manufacturing, and clean business base, along with its close proximity to the Oakland International Airport and the Port of Oakland and service by two BART stations, rail and two major highways, make the city a prime location for businesses seeking to expand or establish their operations.

For more information on the City of San Leandro and its programs and services, visit the City's website at www.sanleandro.org. To register to automatically receive press releases, meeting agendas or other electronic notifications, go to <http://www.sanleandro.org/portal/default.asp>.

#

