

Ted Harris remembered for community involvement



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Even chemotherapy couldn't stop Ted Harris from finding a good deal.

Late last year, while still recovering from a recent chemotherapy session to treat his terminal gastric cancer, Harris found his wife Mary Lou Harris a bargain on a second engagement ring, in anticipation of the couple's 50-year wedding anniversary.

"He always took such good care of his family, even when he was very, very ill," Mary Lou Harris said. "And he was quite the shopper, always looking for a bargain. That's the kind of person he was. He was so ill, but he still went out to get a bargain."

Mary Lou said her husband must have gone to 18 different jewelry stores and in the end found her a 4-carat-diamond engagement ring. He surprised her with the ring a few days before Christmas.

Harris died Wednesday at his Incline Village home after a long bout with cancer.

He was 72.

The couple, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February, have lived in Incline Village the past 19 years.

Ted was a fixture in the community and was well-known for voicing his opinion on a variety of Incline Village issues, most notably the tax revolt situation and Independent Incline.

He was credited as one of the originators of the tax revolt in 2002, which the Village League to Save Incline Assets oversees. Harris was one of the league's board of directors, and his commitment to the effort recently was documented in the North Lake Tahoe Bonanza's Locals publication.

Incline resident Wayne Fischer served with Harris on the Village League's Board of Directors. Fischer said Harris will be missed by many.

"I admired his tenacity, his drive, his enthusiasm — it's because of him that we are finally getting going with this," said Fischer in reference to the tax revolt. "I learned a lot from Ted. He is greatly to be admired and greatly to be missed at the same time."

Incline resident Maryanne Ingemanson, president of the Village League, spoke highly of Harris, both as a friend and as a colleague.

"He had incredible energy, and he had a very big heart," Ingemanson said. "He really worked tirelessly to help benefit everyone in the Incline

Village and Crystal Bay community. We certainly will miss him and his endless enthusiasm.”

Incline resident Jim Clark has worked closely with Harris on the Independent Incline Committee, as early as 1994. When given the opportunity to comment on Harris’ life, Clark took the opportunity to quote a former Nevada Assemblyman Pete Ernaut.

“He said, ‘Ted Harris has two speeds — stop, and all-ahead full,’ Clark reminisced.

Beside his passion for local issues — Harris also was big proponent of local education — Harris was an avid skier and outdoorsman, friends and family said.

“There was never a dull moment with Ted,” Mary Lou Harris said. “He was always active, and

he loved to ski. That was his great life love, second to his family. He just loved his family.”

Mary Lou said Ted spent the past few weeks fixing things up around the house and taking care of a few things he felt were needed for his family.

“He got our house completely re-stained; he just felt like he needed to fix up everything around the house,” she said. “It was almost as if he was on a trip and trying to get as much done as he could for his family.”

Ted Harris is survived by wife Mary Lou Harris, 73; son Andy Harris, 49; daughter Christy Harris, 43; and granddaughter Demitra Harris, 12.

Memorial plans are pending.

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