

ADJORUN IN THE MEMORY

BILL FURNISS

February 28, 2012

Board of Supervisors Regular Board Meeting

William Wallace Furniss of North Tustin, known as “Bill,” passed away peacefully on February 4 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Orange. He was 92.

Born in 1920 in South Plainfield New Jersey, Bill was raised in Waverly, New York. He attended the University of Michigan where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1942.

Bill served in the U.S. Navy in WWII and was stationed at Pebble Beach, where he developed his love of golf. After leaving the service, Bill attended the University of California, Berkeley where he earned a BA in 1947 and MBA in 1948. At Cal, Bill met Patricia Ann Meier, the woman who would become his wife of 49 years. She passed away in 1998.

He had a 24-year career as a sales engineer with Standard Oil of California. This job would take Bill and his family to numerous cities before finally settling in North Tustin in 1964, where Bill lived until his death.

Many know Bill as the patriarch of "Orange County's First Family of Swimming." He fathered four prolific aquatic sons, who each attended Foothill High School and USC.

His son Steve won a bronze medal for the 200-meter individual medley at the 1972 Games in Munich and competed in the 1976 Olympics. His son Bruce went onto win two gold medals in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal in the Men's 200 metre freestyle and the Men's 4x200 metre Freestyle Relay, both in world record time. Steve Furniss went onto to co-found the swimwear company TYR (tear).

Bill is survived by his four sons, their spouses, and eleven grandchildren.

Please keep Bill, and the entire Furniss family in your thoughts and prayers.