

# Diablo Honors.....

## Bob & Lyn Tiernan

**By Marsh and Mugs Freeman**

Bob and Lyn Tiernan have been leaders in the club, community, tennis activities and governing of Diablo since they and their four young sons arrived in 1963. When Bob promised Lyn they could move to Diablo if she found them a lot with a tennis court, she did! The court was in the middle of a vacant lot and very ancient, but they restored it, and Bob became a Club Tennis Champion. Bob tells their story:

"Lyn and I were both born in the Midwest, Lyn in Michigan in 1929 and me in Illinois in 1928. We met at the U. of Michigan while I was finishing up my last year in Law School in 1951. Lyn was a nurse, an airline stewardess and "Miss Lake Erie." I was ordered to active duty in the Navy upon graduation in 1952. We were married in the U. of Michigan Chapel in December of 1952—a (Korean) War Bride and Groom!"

Bob's tour of active duty took them to California where Mark and Bob were born. Upon release from active duty in 1956, they started their "professional lives" with the Kaiser companies in Oakland and Walnut Creek; Bob as a corporate attorney for Kaiser Aluminum and Lyn as a nurse in the ER at the Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek. They built a home in Walnut Creek in 1956. Scott was born later in 1956 and Bart was born in 1957.

"We (Lyn) found a lot in Diablo in 1963 adjacent to the 17<sup>th</sup> Fairway of the Diablo Country Club (DCC) with a tennis court! We couldn't pass up such a dream location. We bought the lot in 1963 and built a house around the tennis court at 1747 Calle Arroyo."



**The Tiernans in 1962**

Their new home was built on a part of the old Ransom Estate, which stretched from about the Diablo Country Club 17<sup>th</sup> Fairway green to the 17<sup>th</sup> Fairway tee. There were no houses on this stretch of Calle Arroyo at this time, nor was there any development of Canada Via. Their first neighbor was the Ives Family (Larry & Connie, Cheri and Chris), who started building their home in early 1964. "Great Neighbors!"



**Bob and Marsh  
Freeman at the 1976  
DCC Tennis Finals**

"Our first welcome to Diablo was by the Diablo Property Owners Association (DPOA). The 'Welcome Wagon' was driven by Ed La Cava, President of the DPOA. Rett Turner, President of the Diablo Country Club (DCC), although not a Diablo Resident, welcomed us to Diablo and invited us to join the Diablo Country Club. (We did.) We also joined the DPOA. The DPOA dinners in January at the DCC were great! It seemed like a (huge) family dinner as we were meeting and joining the 'Diablo Family'. We soon met the Diablo Tennis Community (the La Cavas, Gordons, Reis, Mehrans, Cuenins, Stones, Rubys and more). They continued to be our Diablo friends and neighbors."

The family's tennis activities as well as relationships with new families moving into Diablo deepened their attachment to and appreciation for Diablo. The Fairmans, Freemans, Sconyers, O'Neills, Osmers and others added to their Diablo Family. "There was never a day that we ever thought there was a better place than Diablo to live and raise a family. Diablo had it all: privacy, safety, beauty, schools, DCC, DPOA, tennis, weather and a very special community 'feel'."

"Things seemed to move fast for us in the mid 1960s in Diablo. I followed Ed La Cava as President of the DPOA in 1967 and our neighbor Larry Ives followed me in 1968. Together we dealt with security and speeding issues in Diablo. While Diablo had the Diablo Public Utilities District (DPUD) to deal with our roads and utilities, the DPUD had no powers to effectively deal with security and road safety. Upon receiving support from the DPUD, Larry and I petitioned California to form a new service district for Diablo to deal with security (burglaries) and road safety—merging with the DPUD. The Diablo Community Service District (DCSD) was thus formed in 1969. The first Board of the DCSD was Bill Cronin (President), me, Jim Stone, and old DPUD members Ray Ragusa and Jack Imrie. Larry Ives was the Manager. Speed bumps and Security Guard patrols soon answered our road safety and security problems."



**Lyn in 2014 at DCC 's 100th party**

"The Diablo of the 60s and 70s was cohesive living, socializing and competing in athletics as a community. The DPOA, DCC, and DPUD/DCSD cooperated and coordinated with each other and were always 'on the same page' when Diablo-wide challenges arose."

During their 58 years in Diablo, Lyn has devoted herself to their four sons, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren, but she has also found time to play tennis, continue her nursing career, earn a degree in Public Health at Holy Names, become a Public Health Nurse in Oakland, serve as president of The San Francisco Women's Breakfast Club and the California Club of California, participate enthusiastically in Diablo's Historic Preservation Committee, bake homemade treats for their board meetings and raise chickens and goats in her own backyard.

Bob's favorite Diablo event was the DPOA Annual Dinner (attended by over 100 each year). His favorite non-family-related Diablo memory was "when Chris Ives, son of Larry and Connie Ives, sought my assistance in joining the U.S. Navy. He applied and was accepted to Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida (Flight). I swore Chris into the Navy. He became a designated 'Top Gun' among Navy fighter pilots! Chris later was selected for the U.S. Navy's Blue Angel Flight Team!!"

We thank and honor Bob and Lyn for their many contributions to Diablo over the past 58 years and for sharing their stories of these 58 years as our Diablo neighbors.



**RADM Robert P. Tiernan,  
USN (Ret)**



**Mark, Bart, Scott, Bob Sr, Lyn and Bob Jr in 1994**