

T O R R A N C E



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City of Torrance Sadly Announces the Passing of Former Torrance City Councilwoman Gene Drevno

Torrance, Calif., Sept. 2, 2008 – With sadness and joyous memories, the City of Torrance announces the passing of former Councilwoman Gene Drevno on Monday September 1, 2008 after battling cancer. Gene Drevno passed away surrounded by her nine children, grandchildren and close friends. She was 78 years old.

“Gene Drevno was truly a remarkable woman who loved life... loved Torrance... loved serving Torrance and loved to laugh. It’s an honor to have known her and for the Torrance community to have been served by her in a variety of roles. Our hearts, thoughts, and prayers go out to the family of Gene Drevno at this time. She will surely be missed,” said Mayor Frank Scotto.

Born in Arizona, Gene Alice Drevno moved to Torrance with her husband Harold in 1956, becoming the mother of nine children and an active Torrance community member. As a full-time mom, she still found time to volunteer in classrooms and hold elected offices in Parent Teachers Association’s throughout her children’s matriculation at South High School. In 1975, she was hired by Torrance Unified School District as an instructional assistant at Hull Middle School then as Special Education Liaison for Southern California Regional Occupation Center (SCROC).

At forty-three years old, upon the death of her husband, she experienced the love and support of the community during this tragic time; thus, she became committed to helping those in greatest need, particularly the youth. She became an advocate for students and youth, getting involved with the Torrance Green Team program, the Summer Youth employment Training Program, and often saying, “everyone needs a hug... some children just need to be hugged a little longer...”

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Even as a busy mom, a full-time employee, a caring friend, she found time to volunteer in organizations such as the American Field Service, Hospice Volunteer, Salvation Army, and her passion, the Torrance Education Foundation wherein she served as president.

Her impact to the community grew through her roles as city commissioner for Torrance. She served on the Civil Service, Parks and Recreation and Planning Commissions.

On August 8 2006, Gene was appointed to the City Council and served with zeal, dedication and integrity, often bringing levity to City Council meetings with her wit and candor. As a council member, she served as chair of the Community Planning and Design Committee, member of the Transportation and the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committees, and the alternate voting delegate to the Independent Cities Association. She retired from the City Council in July 2008, ending a term that may have been brief, but one marked by excellence, authenticity and ability to show that serving the community can be a fun endeavor.

She is survived by her nine children Michael (Linda), Mark (Carol), Gregg (Edel), Gary (Carole), Brian (Diana), Brad (Holly), Ann Drevno Arnold (Scot), Wendy Drevno York (Darrell), Tim (Shannon) and her 29 grandchildren David, Nichole, Jessica, Rachel (Josh), Peter, Christopher, Emily-Jean, Steven, Matthew, Clay, Cody, William, Kimberly, Michelle, Wesley, James, Olivia, Lianna, Jeffery, McKenna, Robert, Harrison, Katy, Zachary, Cory, Lily, Baylee, Anna, and Liam.

A gathering of family and friends will be on Sunday, September 7, 2008 from 4:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. at Rice Mortuary (5310 Torrance Boulevard). Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, September 8, 2008, 10:00 a.m. at St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church (1900 South Prospect Avenue Redondo Beach) followed by the burial at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Torrance Education Foundation; checks may be made out to the Torrance Education Foundation (TEF) and sent to P.O. Box 1397, Torrance, 90505.

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