

STAFF REPORT

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: ROBERT PERRAULT, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: MAYOR'S COMMENDATION HONORING LONGTIME COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS – TRAVIS AND KATHERINE EVANS

BACKGROUND

Mayor Shoals has initiated a program to recognize residents and citizens who have substantially contributed time and resources to the City. The Mayor has decided to honor Travis and Katherine Evans who have been long time community members and business owners.

DISCUSSION

Travis Evans was born in Ada, Oklahoma in October 1922. His family came to California in June 1936, with his parents and brothers. He graduated from 8th grade in Farmersville, the same school as Lloyd Qualls, husband of former Grover City Mayor Juanita Qualls.

A few years later, Travis fished albacore tuna out of Avila Bay in 1944. He fell in love with the area and the people.

Katherine Kostaras Evans was born in Chehalis, Washington, in June 1926 and came to Watsonville, California, as an infant with her parents, two sisters, and a brother.

Travis and Katherine met in 1940 while attending the same Nazarene Church in Watsonville where Travis often arrived on bicycle before ever owning a car. They married during World War II in June 1942.

In 1951, Travis built a 45-foot trawler and named it "Katherine". He eventually moved the family to Avila in February 1952.

The Evans family attended a little church on Ramona Avenue, located next to what is currently the Exploration Station. In 1946, the church pastor, Mrs. Hammond, contacted the Nazarene Home Mission Board and they agreed to furnish the pay for a full-time pastor at \$25 per week. Travis became the Youth Leader of that church in 1959 with only two teenagers in attendance. That number grew to more than 30 within the first year.

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING



**ROBERT PERRAULT
CITY MANAGER**

Please Review for the Possibility of a Potential Conflict of Interest:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Identified by Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Bright |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoals | <input type="checkbox"/> Molnar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nicolls | <input type="checkbox"/> Peterson |

Meeting Date: November 19, 2012

Agenda Item No. 2

In the early 1960s, Travis helped build the Grover Beach Community Church on Ramona Avenue between 8th and 9th Streets. The two buildings (one the church and the other the parsonage) were chapels brought from the dismantling of the Camp Cooke military base in Lompoc. Colonel Ben Jacobs of Arroyo Grande and Attorney Clifford Clark of Grover City were instrumental in acquiring these two buildings.

Travis joined with several local folks who all helped in building the "Recreation Hall" on Trouville Avenue (now known as the Grover Beach Community Center) with some of the Camp Cooke surplus. Volunteers included: Joe McGowen, Ford Davidson, Lloyd Qualls, Henry Stultz, Alf Mintz, and the Beck Brothers, and there were many others.

In 1959, Travis and Katherine bought the T & G Market at 834 Grand Avenue in Grover City. They rented one of the buildings to the Grover Street & Water Department. Morgan Page was the foreman with one full-time employee. The City rented the building from them for several years. In 1965, Travis and Katherine closed the T & G Market. Eventually the property became the Lighthouse Fish Market, operated by Travis and Katherine's daughter Jan and her husband. Later, another daughter, Susie, and her husband ran the fish market until 1993. Today, daughter Jan now owns Lickety Split Cupcakes and Gourmet Bakery in Grover Beach.

Travis has continued to fish all these years. They raised a family of four boys and four girls, unfortunately losing the youngest son to drowning in 1956. Later, Travis and Katherine raised two young teenage boys, each who had lost a parent.

In June 2012, Travis and Katherine celebrated 70 years of marriage. They have more offspring than can be counted, somewhere around 88, with more on the way!

Travis served two terms on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, two terms on the National Marine Sanctuary Council, and 10 years on the California Seafood Council. He was one of four men who were responsible for starting the Harbor District at Port San Luis. He is also a licensed Captain with the U.S. Coast Guard and conducts funerals at sea for bereaved families at no charge.

Katherine has been PTA President, Harbor Commissioner, Camp Fire Girls Leader, and has worked as a fish filet instructor. She has also served on the San Luis Obispo County Elections Board for nearly 50 years, recently working the polls at the Ramona Garden Community Center for the November 2012 Presidential General Election. She has participated in many of the local parades over the years, mostly by making costumes for area children. She made her family very proud when she earned her GED Diploma at Arroyo Grande Adult School in 1977 at age 51, after having raised 8 children.

Katherine and Travis raised their family in the Nazarene Church at all three of the church locations, the latest being New Life Community Church in Pismo Beach. They both have served for years on the church Mission Board, as well as serving as Sunday school teachers. Their children and grandchildren have attended Nazarene colleges.

Katherine and Travis recently said they try to live by example and love their community.

RECOMMENDATION

No Council action required for this item.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The agenda was posted in accordance with the Brown Act.

Attachment

1. Mayor's Commendation



Mayor's Commendation

Presented to

TRAVIS & KATHERINE EVANS

*In recognition and appreciation for
your many years of service and contributions
as civic pioneers and business owners to
the City and residents of Grover Beach.*

*In witness thereof, I hereunto set my hand and cause
the seal of the City of Grover Beach to be affixed
this 19th day of November, 2012.*



John P. Shoals, Mayor

Attest: _____

Donna L. McMahon, City Clerk