



Ron Graves, Sr.
Class of 2019

Ron Graves graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1956 and earned a four-year scholarship from Rotary International. He lettered in basketball all four years and was a four year member of the Block O Society. He also served as student body president his senior year and was a speaker at commencement exercises.

Following his graduation from OHS, Ron went to work for the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a member of a survey crew that surveyed for the construction of the Oroville Dam. That same year he was recruited by the State Game Warden as one of the first Hunter Safety instructors in the state. He then passed the state test for engineering aide I and II, civil engineering technician I and II and civil engineering associate.

In 1959, Ron was sworn in as a reserve police officer for the City of Oroville and attained the rank of sergeant and commanded the police reserves. Among his duties was supervising teen dances every Saturday night. He served the city for 12 years and was also a scuba diver for the Butte County Search and Rescue Unit.

Serving as a survey party chief in 1965, he was promoted to chief of surveys on the Thermalito Forebay, Afterbay and power canal where he supervised five four-man crews and three office personnel. As a result of these surveys, Ron asked the DWR to sell the state-owned surplus land to the Feather River Recreation Department for one dollar. That land is now the site of the Thermalito Little League and softball fields.

The State then requested a transfer of Ron to Palmdale, but he declined and remained in Oroville where he operated Moseley's Blueprinting and Copy Service which he later purchased. The owner of Kendall Engineering of Auburn met Ron through Moseley's and asked if he'd like to get a Kendall office up and running in Oroville. Ron accepted and managed the Oroville office for four years.

In 1973, Ron passed the state exam to be a licensed land surveyor and went into private business with Bill Geddis. He remained with the Graves and Geddis Land Surveyors for three years before starting Ron Graves Associates.

He sold this business in 1982 and assumed management of the Oroville Airport for the City of Oroville. He also purchased a motorcycle shop, but after one year, resigned from the airport job, sold the motorcycle shop and returned to Ron Graves Associates.

Ron's community service, that actually began when he was 20 years old, continues on a large scale. He served on the Thermalito Union School District Board of Trustees for 27 years, and the OUHSD Board for one full term, not seeking reelection. He also served on the Butte County School Attendance and Review Board for three years. Other activities included chairman of United Way, 12 years on the Butte County Building Code Board of Appeals and the Butte County Land Development Review Board.

Ron was appointed by then Governor Ronald Reagan to serve on a statewide 17-member committee, "Project Safer California", where standards for law enforcement personnel were developed leading to the establishment of the Police Officers Standard Training (POST).

He also assisted Gene Chappie in his being elected to as a Representative to the United States Congress by flying him to various remote Northern California communities and received a written

invitation to attend the inauguration of Ronald Reagan when he was first elected President of the United States in 1980. Ron displays this invitation in his office today where he continues to serve as a professional land surveyor marking 63 years in surveying.

Ron served as minister of a newly formed Christian Church in Thermalito for 14 years and still lives with his wife of 58 years, Kathy, six blocks from the house in which he was born in Thermalito. He quips, *"That is about one block every 13 years."*

Throughout his life, Ron was offered very good jobs out of the area, but he chose to remain in his beloved Oroville and to this day, continues to serve its citizens.