



Jack McKillop Class of 2009

If local people know a way to serve the community they love, it is a good bet that the late Jack McKillop did some form of that service during his life. Jack's "day job" for 40 years is listed as an insurance agent with Bankers Life Nebraska (Ameritas).

After that job was done for the day, he went to work at his "second jobs" like 11 years as a member of the Oroville City Council ('51-'62), 14 years on the Butte County Board of Supervisors ('62-'77), the Butte County Association of Governments, ball player with the Oroville Olives, site committees that found the present locations of Butte College and Table Mountain Golf Course, President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Fiesta Days Parade, the Oroville Economic Development Committee, and high school football referee.

Jack was not tired by all this public service so, he joined organizations such as the Rotary Club, the Elks, the Eagles, the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and on a slow night he would have an hour or two for a city league game of softball or basketball.

Many of the important things accomplished in this community had Jack's hand on them. Because of his work as a County Supervisor, we can be thankful that he supported the naming of Oroville Dam and Lake Oroville. Otherwise, local historians can assure you that the town of Oroville might be sitting at the base of 'Brown Lake', had the Sacramento political reign during the era had its way. His servitude also included reestablishing roads around Lake Oroville and securing funds to build a sewer system in Thermalito.

A 1940 graduate of Oroville High School, where Jack was an excellent athlete in football, basketball and baseball, he was honored with a full-ride football scholarship to Santa Clara University.

But Jack had to do more so he enrolled in ROTC at the college. Then in '43 that group was called to active duty in World War II. On a ship sailing to Japan, Jack and his mates were redirected at the last minute as the War came to its abrupt end. Instead, he was shipped to the Philippines. There his duties as chief of the motor pool were interrupted when his commanding officer learned that, before the call up, the Oroville man had been studying Political Science at Santa Clara. Jack was shifted to a detachment organized to investigate war crimes.

Jack married Norma Jean Wilson in '43. They were together 60 years and have a daughter named Jill and a son named Jack.

He graduated with a BA from Santa Clara in '48 and returned to live in Oroville. He earned a secondary teaching degree from Chico State in '51.

His outstanding career and fairness while performing public tasks are testimony to the fact: Jack got it done.