

A Fond Farewell

Board Harbor Commissioner Nao Takasugi Retiring

It is with sadness but also with honor that we announce the retirement of our great friend at the Oxnard Harbor District, Board of Harbor Commissioner Nao Takasugi.

Commissioner Takasugi has been a commissioner at the Port for the past eight years and is retiring at the conclusion of his second term, which ends in November.

Commissioner Takasugi has been involved with the Oxnard Area politically since 1976. He served 16 years on the Oxnard City Council, the last ten of which were as the Mayor of Oxnard. He was first elected as a Republican representative to the California State Assembly in 1992. Takasugi was first elected to the Board of Harbor Commissioners in November 2000.

Commissioner Takasugi has been to the east and back throughout his life. In the fall of 1941 Nao was a 19-year-old studying business at the University of California Los Angeles, when his life and the life he had back home in Oxnard, California took an unexpected turn.

The day was Dec. 7. Hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Takasugi's family, along with thousands of others of Japanese descent; most of which U.S. citizen, were forced to "relocate" under Executive Order 9066.

Nao recalls being interview by Tom Brokaw for his World War II retrospective, *The Greatest Generation*. "I had to leave UCLA because all persons of Japanese ancestry were placed on a very tight curfew and their travel was restricted."

He managed an early exit from the internment camp. The Quaker relief organization, American Friends Service Committee, sent a representative to his camp urging young Japanese-Americans to apply for security clearances to attend colleges on the East Coast.

Nao would make arrangements to attend Temple University, staying in the home of a West Philadelphia minister.

He would finish his studies at Temple, and continue on and earn his MBA at Wharton College. After completing his studies, work didn't come easy for Nao, so he decided to move back to Oxnard and continue working at the family market.

Nao didn't always assert himself with politics, but when he tried to expand his business, the city turned down his plans for a new sign. After this rejection, he learned that there was an opening on the planning commission and decided "they needed a businessman" to cut through the bureaucracy.

That was just the beginning of a long tenure in politics for Commissioner Takasugi. All-in-all, more than 22 years, he has served the community as the voice of the people. Nao will surely be missed at the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Harbor Commissioners. He was a great asset to the Board and to the community of Oxnard. Thank you for all that you of done Commissioner Takasugi and we hope you enjoy your retirement.

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