MROSD Board President Mary Davey remembered

Los Altos, California [October 4, 2010]  –Mary Davey, one of the Peninsula’s foremost environmentalists who dedicated much of her life to public service and community activism, passed away Saturday in Redwood City at the age of 80 due to heart complications. Davey was a community leader who worked to improve the lives of people and protect the natural environment.

Davey helped form the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in 1972, and served as one of its publicly-elected board members since 1994, most recently as president, representing Los Altos Hills and portions of Los Altos, Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Stanford and unincorporated Santa Cruz County. A director will either be appointed by the board to serve the remainder of Davey’s term, or a special election will be held.

“We are mourning the loss of our board president whose involvement with the District goes back to its formation. Mary was a great inspiration to everyone at the District who she unfailingly referred to as the ‘world’s greatest staff.’ Her tireless energy, unbounded enthusiasm and clear sense of purpose will be deeply missed by all of us,” said Steve Abbors, the Open Space District’s general manager.

Davey was instrumental in preserving the green hills surrounding the Peninsula. In addition to her work with the Open Space District, Davey served on the boards of the Committee for Green Foothills since 1962; the Sempervirens Fund, which preserves redwood forests; the Peninsula Conservation Center Trust; and Hidden Villa, a non-profit environmental education center.

Davey also cared deeply about people and was an advocate for the community. She held a seat on the Los Altos Hills Town Council from 1966 until 1973 and served on the boards of the Midpeninsula Citizens for Fair Housing and the Silicon Valley United Way. She chaired the Santa Clara County’s project to create a 2-1-1 phone system to answer non-emergency information and referral calls.

Davey’s many recognitions for her selfless community service include the Humanitarian Award from Hidden Villa, Woman of Achievement Award from the Santa Clara Commission on the Status of Women, and the Environmental Service Award from the Committee for Green Foothills.

Born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Davey earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Government from Smith College. Later, while working full-time, and out of a desire to bring a level of professionalism to her non-profit work, she earned her Masters in Business Administration from Santa Clara University. She is survived by her husband and three children.

“We were privileged to have known and worked with Mary. Her commitment to preserving and protecting the natural environment will continue to inspire our work into the future,” Abbors said.

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