

I LEARNED WITH SADNESS OF the death Tuesday of one of Blackhawk's most honored citizens, Maj. Gen. G. Walter Titus. A lifelong soldier and community volunteer, he was 81.

"This gentle man, beloved by so many, is now with many of his World War II buddies and friends who went before him. He will, for all eternity, be with his soldiers at Arlington," said Lucie Marx Titus, his wife, in an e-mail. Lucie said Walt had Parkinson's Disease and had recently suffered a serious fall from which he never recovered.

Walt was named Blackhawk Homeowners Association's Outstanding Citizen of 2004. Michael Marchi, president of the board of directors at that time, called him "an individual who has provided tireless service to the community, well beyond the call of duty." Walt was a member of the homeowners board since 1994 and served as secretary and vice president. He also served on the Architectural Review Committee, the Gate Committee and the Emergency Committee, and was a founding member of the Emergency Planning Committee.

For the first time in the history of the Blackhawk community, the flags at Blackhawk will fly at half-staff in memory of a resident. On Friday, flags were lowered for one week to honor Walter, said Mark Goldberg, community manager of the Blackhawk Homeowners Association. "He's going to be sorely missed here — he was the only one left from the original board that hired me," Mark said. "He was a tireless volunteer and was keeping up his work even while he was in the hospital. We are all very, very fond of Walter and Lucie."

Lucie said Walt started his military career as a private in the 354th Infantry, 89th Division, during World War II, earning the Bronze Star, the Combat Infantry Badge and ribbons for American Defense, European Theatre, Victory and Occupation. After Japan surrendered, he was honorably discharged at the rank of staff sergeant.

In civilian life, Walter returned to Oregon State University and joined ROTC, completing his studies as a Distinguished Military Graduate and receiving his commission as a 2nd lieutenant. His active duty included stints at Fort Polk, La., and Baumholder, Germany.

He joined the California National Guard where, after steadily progressing in various leadership roles, he eventually achieved the rank of colonel, serving as the Commandant of the California Military Academy and retiring in 1981 after a stint as commander of the Troop Command, Lucie said.

While a member of the California State Military Reserve, he received promotions from the governor to brigadier general and major general. He was a lifetime member of the Association of the U. S. Army and an honor graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College.

His major awards included the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (third award) and the Order of California, said Lucie. As a Registered California Professional Metallurgical Engineer, Walt prepared and collaborated in the preparation of 18 technical publications.

Lucie is president of the William F. Dean Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army. Between them, they have two adult children — a son, Matthew Titus, and a daughter, Chris Marx.

A military church service/celebration of life will take place at 10 a.m. on July 1 at the Base Chapel of the U.S. Army Combat Support Training Center/Camp Parks in Dublin. His remains will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery. The family requests that contributions in Walt's name be made to Wounded Warriors, Association of the U.S. Army, 305 Sequoia Terrace, Danville, CA 94506-4545.

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