Chefs Unite to raise funds and awareness to fight racism

Seventeen local chefs are pooling their talents on four consecutive Tuesdays at Liberty Station to raise funds to support a nonprofit’s efforts to educate youth against racial hatred and bias.

Called Chefs Unite, the weekly Tuesday night dinner series will feature four to five local chefs collaborating to create a memorable four-course, prix fixe meal. The month-long event will take place Tuesdays at Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens - Liberty Station.

The charitable, four-week initiative ending June 1 brings together several of San Diego’s top chefs to raise awareness and critical funds for EmbraceRace, a nonprofit that seeks to educate young children on matters of race and bias to help develop a new socially conscious generation.

A growing body of research and evidence indicates children’s racial
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DRE# 00451256
Kathy Groark
DRE# 00451855
Dim Jaccaci
DRE# 01298889

Michele Kitchen
DRE# 00900340
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sensibilities begin to form in infancy, that almost all children develop racial and other biases by kindergarten, and that those biases become fairly entrenched by adolescence. There are too few resources for young children available for parents, grandparents, or other caregivers or for early childhood educators. EmbraceRace, embracerrace.org, a fiscally-sponsored project of the nonprofit Proteus Fund, helps fill that gap.

The Chefs Unite fundraiser is the brainchild of food writer Sabrina Medora, who founded the platform Unplated as a space for chefs and people of the restaurant industry nationally to speak candidly about what matters to them.

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“Recent acts of violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community left me feeling angry, knowing that these injustices were just the most recent examples in a long line of racist and violent acts toward Asians in America that stem from ignorance of other cultures and of what equality and inclusion truly means,” said Medora.

“I wanted to channel my negative feelings into something positive and meaningful. My hope is that this month-long dinner series can provide a space of joy and discovery, an opportunity to break down barriers and break some bread together. It’s amazing what we can achieve when we approach things with positivity, respect, and a thirst for productive change.”

One of the 17 chefs participating in Chefs Unite is Phillip Estaban of Open Gym, who is known for his Filipino and Asian cuisine. He will be cooking at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18 at Stone Brewing along with Brian Redakowski of Kettner Exchange, Cesaria Mezonzi of Cesaria, and Rich Sweeney of Open Gym, who is known for his Filipino and Asian cuisine. He will be cooking at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18 at Stone Brewing along with Brian Redakowski of Kettner Exchange, Cesaria Mezonzi of Cesaria, and Rich Sweeney of Stone Brewing World Bistro & Gardens - Liberty Station.

Estaban discussed why he’s taking part in the culinary happening.

"For me as a Filipino-American, it’s about coming together in a time like this when there is a lot of Asian-American hate going on, to bring awareness of racial bias in the hospitality and food industry," he said, pointing out, for instance, that it was once commonplace for Filipino cooks in the military to be kept segregated. "It was like being made to sit at the kid's table," he said.

Participating in Chefs Unite has made Estaban realize that, “I do have a voice, do have an opportunity, to show our Asian food and to have a seat at the table and have cultural representation.”

Estaban pointed out most San Diegans are unaware of Filipino cuisine, or that there is a sizable Filipino community in National City.

On May 18, Estaban will be cooking a traditional Filipino rice bowl as his contribution to that meal’s menu. Each Tuesday night dinner will feature four to five local chefs collaborating to create a memorable meal.

Will Chefs Unite become an annual occurrence? “It’s really hard to tell,” answered Estaban, noting that, for right now, “It’s really just important for chefs to have their day in the light.”

Tickets for Chefs Unite dinners are priced at $89 per person, with optional beer or wine pairings for $25 per person. Keeping the health and safety of guests in mind, tickets must be purchased in packages (table) of two or four. Table requests of six or more should make inquiries directly with Stone Brewing by phone.

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The City of San Diego will reopen the Ocean Beach Pier after repairs are completed. City engineers say a portion of the pier can safely reopen when repairs are completed. City engineers say a portion of the pier can safely reopen for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.

The report estimates it could cost up to $50 million to rehabilitate OB Pier's structure. The Moffatt & Nichol inspection found that the pier deck and railing were damaged and closure due to seasonal winter storms may be at the end of its service life. The Moffatt & Nichol report concluded that “corrosion in the pier’s reinforcing steel has initiated and the structure will continue to degrade unless corrective action is taken. Three options for remediation are repair of the structure, rehabilitation, and replacement.” The report estimates it could cost up to $50 million to rehabilitate OB Pier’s structure.

“OB Pier is a beloved local landmark, now prone to structural damage and closure due to seasonal winter storms, may be at the end of its service life,” said Council President Campfield. “We must act to protect this cherished resource for future generations.” The OB Pier is a beloved local landmark that we want to maintain and keep safe for future generations of San Diegans and visitors to enjoy.

We listen, so you can hear
We promise to work closely with you to discover where you are having the most difficulties communicating and to determine the best solution for your hearing needs.

The OB Pier is a beloved local landmark that we want to maintain and keep safe for future generations of San Diegans and visitors to enjoy.

In Memory: Dave Martin
Point Loma Association Chair 2018-2020

David Martin was a loving husband, father, grandfather, proud Vietnam Veteran (USMC), restaurateur (Shades) and dedicated community volunteer.

With a strong leader, a master of gentle persuasion, a savvy negotiator. He brought people together. He got things done.

Dave was a great friend. He praised people who did good. Always volunteered to help out. Often worked quietly behind the scenes to support people and projects.

He had the ear and the respect of City leaders. Always on a mission, Dave followed up until he saw progress, not stopping ‘til he was sure.

Dave Martin will be missed. May his continuing presence inspire and guide us.

- Clark Anthony Burlingame

In-ClasS School Resumes 2021
San Diego Unified School District, of which the Point Loma Cluster and its nine schools are a part, is planning for a full return to full-day, in-person learning, five days a week, for the 2021-22 school year, beginning August 2021.

Read more online at sdnews.com
Big Table helps restaurant and hospitality workers in crisis

By DAVE SCHWAB | THE BEACON

Big Table, which aids restaurant and hospitality workers in crisis, was busy in 2020 helping several more distressed workers than it did in 2019.

“We helped 67 individuals in 2019 and 707 in 2020,” said Jesse Vigil, city director for Big Table, a nonprofit founded in 2009 in Washington state, which expanded to Pacific Beach in early 2019. “Last year was just brutal for the hospitality and restaurant industries for those who were unemployed, and now Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans are about done or going away very soon.”

As federal, state, and local COVID-19 contaminant measures prioritized closed restaurants, bars, and other hospitality businesses, Big Table found itself on the front line of the health and economic crisis.

The magnitude of the task the nonprofit faces this year in continuing to help the COVID-ravaged hospitality workplace is reflected in the sheer numbers of those employed in that economic sector.

San Diego is home to more than 7,000 restaurants and 500 hotels with roughly 186,000 employed in the industry. The average cost of living for a single San Diego parent with one child is $55,000. The average industry pay for a full-time employee is $28,849.

Big Table intervenes on behalf of hardworking individuals in hospitality whenever they experience a temporary setback to offer support, encouragement, and hope.

“Our services are provided through timely interventions, intentional relationships, and transformational care,” noted Vigil. “And in 2020, everyone was in crisis who was out of work, had delays in getting their unemployment benefits, or who had no safety net because they didn’t have a whole lot of savings. We really went into triage-care mode.

“At such times, Big Table helps those in crisis by doing things like helping them pay their rent and their utilities, or by giving them gift cards to local grocery stores,” continued Vigil. “Last year our focus was on helping them with housing sustainability and food security in the midst of the pandemic.”

Big Table works off a referral rather than a hotline model, noted Vigil.

“We help people through emotional or financial rough times with whatever they need including dental care and substance abuse treatment,” he said. “We provide people with whatever resources they are in need of.”

Big Table relies almost exclusively on donations, both corporate and private, to support its mission, said Vigil, who added working for the nonprofit has been gratifying.

“It’s rewarding,” he said. “It’s not about me. It’s about us. We’re just all about making people feel loved, known, and cared for. With our donors and partnerships, we’re blessed to be able to help individuals, with no strings attached.”

Concluded Vigil of the services Big Table provides: “The need will always be there. Our hope is that we can catch individuals before they fall, really provide them with budgetary resources, create a way for them to not be in such a rough situation if this were to ever happen to them again.”
California Wild Ales opens new tasting room in Ocean Beach

California Wild Ales, San Diego’s Sour House, and the city’s only all-barrel-aged American sour brewery, announced the opening of its new tasting room in Ocean Beach at 4896 Newport Ave. The tasting room opened to the public on May 4 and offers a wide selection of its barrel-aged sour ales featuring local and seasonal fruit, as well as the brewery’s first lager, a variety of seltzers and a pale ale made in collaboration with Ocean Beach Brewery.

The new tasting room is an expansion for the brewery and will be an extension of its existing Sorrento Valley brewery and tasting room. The tasting room will be open Sundays-Thursdays noon-10 p.m. and Fridays-Saturdays noon-midnight. The new location has a capacity of 49. Initially, the tasting room will be open with limited capacity due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The fun and funky tasting room features a number of art installations by California Wild Ales co-owner Bill DeWitt. CWA was able to source pennies from the OB community to create a copper penny floor, which took more than 150 hours to complete. The back splash of the draft system was created using Legos, which were also collected from friends and neighbors in the OB community.

In addition, wood planks from Ocean Beach, including old pallets and fences, adorn one of the walls as well as ornate mirrors, following the same style of the Sorrento Valley location. “Designing the new tasting room and creating it the way we wanted was a dream come true and a true community effort,” said DeWitt. “Everyone pitched in to help and a number of community members donated everything from wood, pennies, Legos, and old mirrors. This was truly a community effort.”

DeWitt added: “We have a very clear vision – to be a place where people come to celebrate life in San Diego’s funkiest neighborhood. It’s also exciting to offer an expanded range of beverage offerings including seltzers, and beer flavored beers. Our collab with OB Brewery should be ready in the upcoming weeks.”

In an effort to offer patrons a wider variety of ales beyond sour beer, California Wild Ales partnered with Samantha Brager, co-owner and founder of California Wild Ales. “At the same time, we are happy to now offer ‘clean beer,’ and seltzers, giving people several options and helping to create a welcoming atmosphere for everyone.”

The tasting room will offer a wide variety of beers on tap including Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Carlsbad Blueberry made with blueberries from The Flower Fields in Carlsbad, Rosé made from grapes from Summer’s Vineyard in Escondido, and a number of other small batch beers made with local fruit and ingredients. The brewery will also introduce new beers regularly on an ongoing basis.

In addition, California Wild Ales can ship its beer to Alaska, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. For more information, visit www.californiawildales.com.

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CAUTION - DO NOT USE IF YOU ARE OR THINK YOU MAY BE PREGNANT, NURSING, OR HAVING CHILDREN.
New electric bike shop rides the wave into Point Loma

By DAVE SCHWAB | The Beacon

EZE Ryders in Point Loma is doing more than just catching the growing wave of popularity in the electric bike industry.

“We’ve already been riding it,” said Devin Raymond, owner of the new ebike shop at 4051 Voltaire St., Unit C. “It’s definitely surging. Last year we saw a huge surge with the pandemic. There are companies that went up 200%, 300% because of COVID.”

EZE Ryders, named for the ’60s movie and the ease of electric-assisted bicycling, handles electric bike sales, rentals, and services.

Raymond noted the United States is just starting to catch up with ebikes, which are manufactured mostly in China and Asia and have been popular for years in Europe.

“We’ve been a little slow to adapt,” said Raymond, who shifted gears – and careers – eight years ago in San Clemente to get into the ebike trade.

“I started out on the wholesale side importing,” he said noting he had a full-time job in the logistics industry while operating on the side out of his girlfriend’s garage.

“I had connections in China, understood the supply chain,” he said adding, “People were starting to take ebikes to go surfing. It was the perfect confluence of people with disposable incomes buying bikes that were their whole family, even kids buying bikes to ride to school who don’t want cars anymore.”

Next for Raymond in his business progression came creating and selling his own brand, Coastal Cruiser, which includes fold-up models. “I provided these to bike, surf and skate shops as additional revenue sources for them,” he said. “Our ebikes were designed more for hills, where you want to be able to haul your gear.”

Raymond realized it was time for him to open his own bike shop. So he made the move to San Diego, and the Peninsula, where he really wanted to be.

“I wanted to be hands-on,” he said. “I gravitated to Point Loma, a beach community with homes, hills, garages, and the beach. That’s perfect for what we’re doing. We made the decision to come here with this bike, and this community, in mind.”

Of his location, Raymond noted, “At the end of the day we’re an electric mobility shop. We’re always looking for new products, like electric skateboards with hand controllers.”

Raymond pointed out ebikes, along with being easier and faster to ride, can cover a greater range than a traditional bike. “You can go an easy 10 mile radius, there and back,” he said. “I had a customer who drove to Oceanside on one ride, and back, but I had a customer who drove to Oceanside on his bike.”

“Also wanted a place for people to get their ebikes repaired,” continued Raymond. “A lot of traditional bike shops don’t want to touch an electrical bike, which we fix along with all kinds of other bikes. We’ll do brakes, tires, tune-ups, troubleshooting, whether they’re our brand or not.”

Most of EZE Ryders’ ebikes are in the $1,000 to $2,000 price range. The least expensive model right now is $999. Rentals run from $30 to $69 for a half-day, $55 to $89 for a full day, and $45 to $79 per day for multi-day rentals.

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Duce Gourson has hit 10 during his four-year varsity career to lead the team. He and junior Kien Vu each have six this season while sophomore Duke Ekstrom clouted his first last week.

Imagine the thrill and lifetime memories for a young player to hit one over the Petco Park fences. Prep players have the strength and one or more just may accomplish this feat Saturday.

**LOMA PORTAL SIGNS**

Don’t forget to get your Loma Portal Elementary School yard signs. Quantities are limited. Decorate your yard and show school spirit and support. There are two signs to choose from. One is a “Home of a Dolphin” sign. Both are in stock and available right away. Purchase at local school and pick up at the school at 3341 Browning St. during drop-off or pick-up periods.

**PLANTING IDEAS**

The San Diego CIF office said a limited number of tickets, believed to be 200, were given to each school for distribution meaning attendance will be severely restricted.

This year’s Pointer team has already blasted 19 home runs. Senior Duce Gourson has hit 10 during his four-year varsity career to lead the team. He and junior Kien Vu each have six this season while sophomore Duke Ekstrom clouted his first last week.

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**LIBRARY SEEDS AVAILABLE**

Spring in San Diego is a great time to start a garden and the San Diego Public Library can help. Through a donation from Vlad’s Seeds of Life and Ahern Seeds, San Diego Public Library is offering free seed packets that will allow residents to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for their tables. The seeds are available at all San Diego Public Library locations open for in-person and contactless pickup services. Every library location has several different types of seed packets including varieties of melon, carrot and squash.
Friends of Famosa Slough help maintain important salt marsh

By DAISY SCHWARZ | The Beacon

As volunteers of Friends of Famosa Slough, Jim and Barbara Peugh are caretakers of the 37-acre wetland between Ocean Beach and Midway District. The slough is a transitional zone between saltwater and freshwater, as well as being a prime habitat for numerous plants and animals. It’s also a birders’ paradise.

The goals of Friends of Famosa Slough are to help restore the slough and to promote public awareness of the importance of wetlands. Asked if he feels obligated to care for the high-profile salt marsh, Jim Peugh answered, “It’s just what I do.”

The Peughs are frequent visitors to the slough (pronounced sloo, according to American Heritage Dictionary). Jim typically carries a bucket to gather ever-present trash, which collects in the slough like stormwater runoff that drains into the marsh endangering its delicately balanced habitat.

Equal parts gardeners, planners, and advocates for the riparian environment, the Peughs are also willing tour guides detailing the virtual—and threats to the treasured wetlands posed by urban encroachment.

On a recent Saturday afternoon, tour of the slough, Jim noted he and his wife were early members of the now 500-strong friends organization created in the 1980s to protect and preserve the slough’s natural environment.

“Originally this whole area was wetlands, but much of it was filled in in the ’50s,” noted Jim, adding salt kills vegetation, except for a few specially adapted species. “Salt marshes are really important in biodiversity and there are a number of endangered species there,” he pointed out.

Noting the City’s Parks Department manages the slough, Jim said one of many restoration projects he and Barbara have participated in has included “turning this back into wetlands, which we did with two grants for $45,000. Now we have so many projects going, it’s hard to maintain them all. It’s really hard because there’s just maintenance everywhere.”

The Famosa Slough is bisected by West Point Loma Boulevard and bordered by Famosa Boulevard on the west. The channel portion of the slough extends from West Point Loma Boulevard to the San Diego River. The slough is flushed with saltwater from the river channel and also collects rainwater from the surrounding neighborhood.

The 12-acre channel portion and the 25-acre southern portion of the slough are owned and maintained by the City of San Diego. The southern portion was acquired by the city in September 1990. Both portions are accessible by the public, and benches are located in view areas.

Continuing his tour of the slough, Jim notes that rehabilitation efforts reclaiming wetlands there have taken the environment back in time. “This shows what the coastal area looked like before people were here,” he said adding Native Americans previously “used a huge percentage of these (marsh) plants.

The tour winds its way through walking trails. Peugh stops on the West Point Loma Boulevard channel section of the wetlands, which ends at Interstate 8. He points to a bridge remnant there. “This used to serve the trolley that came from downtown San Diego to Ocean Beach,” he noted.

Back on the other side of West Point Loma Boulevard, Jim points out two problematic spots: the so-called M&M alley, and the end of the salt marsh containing ponds which collect and treat stormwater runoff, preventing it from contaminating and harming the slough’s environment.

The M&M alley is distinguished by a large patch of black plastic tarp. “What happened was stormwater runoff has started cracking this bank, which was washed into the slough.” Jim said. “What we really want to do is build a spillway down there. What really needs to be done is to put in a catchment basin to collect the stormwater runoff.”

Jim goes to another section of the slough with treatment ponds, an area that was once proposed to be eliminated.

“Part of the enhancement plan for the slough was to come in here with bulldozers and turn it into the salt marsh,” he said. “But the biologist we had on our friends’ board said, ‘No, we should do what’s called adaptive management.’ We should make a big change, then wait and see the results. So we did. And it worked out. The treatment ponds are doing what they’re supposed to do. We didn’t need to build them. We saved a lot of money. And we also have a healthier wetland because of it.”

For Jim, all the time spent reclaiming the wetlands has been worth the effort. “That’s the funny thing about the slough, you do something and hope it will work. And it works better than you thought,” he said. “Everything we’ve done worked better than we’d hoped. And it’s really fun place to work.”

Service organizations, compa- nies, schools, or scout troops seeking an environmental project can contact friends for ideas on how they can help at Famosa Slough, or to join the support group. Visit famosaslush.org to become a slough friend. For more information, call 619-224-4591, or email info@famosaslush.org.
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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

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Join us to learn more about the proposed Central Mobility Hub, project alternatives, the environmental review process, and how you can participate.

Get more information at sandag.mysocialpinpoint.com/CentralMobilityHub

The Public Scoping Meeting will be held in Spanish and English. For special accommodations or to have copies of workshop materials mailed to you, please contact the project team.

Date: May 11, 2021 | Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Join the Scoping Meeting!

ONLINE: https://zoom.us/j/95057843752
PHONE: 619-510-9282 (Waki n’ ID: 950 814 3752)

COMMUNITY

Obituary: Jim ‘Mouse’ Robb – legendary surfer, lifeguard, and waterman

Some called him a legend, we called him Jim, Mouse, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle, and dear friend. On Thursday, April 22, he rode the heavenly waves into the great beyond, completing his 88 year mission among us. No doubt he had that peeling right wave all to himself!

Jim Robb was born in Ohio to his Scottish father Hugh Robb and his American mother Helen. With two older sisters, Bessie and Bonnie, the arrival of Jim completed their family. It didn’t take long for Hugh and Helen to find their way to a sweet bungalow, three blocks from the beach on Narragansett Avenue in Ocean Beach. This fortuitous move came to shape and define the remaining years of Jim’s life. The beach was his playground and anything ocean was his passion.

He was named Jim, but for most of his life he proudly carried the name “Mouse.” As he told the story, he was a kid on the beach hanging out with the lifeguards… he was small of stature but mighty in spirit and strength so he was named Mighty Mouse… it stuck, and Mouse, the Ocean Beach legend, was born.

Mouse attended Ocean Beach Elementary, Dana Junior High and graduated from Point Loma High School in 1951. Right out of high school, Mouse joined and served as a crewman in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. Upon his return to Ocean Beach, he became a San Diego Lifeguard. His dream job!

His great smile, kind nature and friendly personality laid the groundwork for a lifetime of friendships. It was also on the beach that a pretty gal caught his eye. Mouse and Carole Welshans were married in November 1957 and celebrated 63 years of water fun, family, friendships and travel together.

With a wife and children on the way, Mouse left life guarding and worked at Western Electric until his retirement. Mouse was an audacious water man, filled with the spirit of Aloha. He surfed, dived, kayaked, paddle boarded, wind surfed; he also loved snow skiing and golf.

Mouse competed in tandem surfing with Judy Dibble in the 1966 World Championship at Ocean Beach and, along with legendary surfer Linda Benson, was instrumental in bringing the Women’s World Long Board Championship to Ocean Beach in 2005.

In 1999, he competed in the U.S. Lifesaving Association National Lifeguard Championships in Cape May, N.J., earning a gold medal in the 800 meter paddleboard race – super veterans category. And he participated as a rowing partner of Rod Luscomb in the Dory Race. During his long tenure as the “Ambassador of Ocean Beach,” Mouse formed the Sunset Cliffs Surfers, which was later organized as the Sunset Cliffs Surfing Association, to promote the spirit of camaraderie, family, community and environmental preservation focusing on surfing and its heritage.

He was honored as the grand marshall of the OB Christmas Parade. He was celebrated by the City of San Diego with a “Jim (Mouse) Robb Day” declaration.

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The 23,000-square-foot indoor/outdoor space is located in the Arts District. It was formerly home to Crown Ace Hardware from 2008 to early 2019.

Read more online at sndnews.com
MOUSE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Mouse was featured on the cover article in the Reader magazine in 2016. He was a tireless community volunteer, and during his illness: “Your upbeat, positive nature always made a surf session a better experience.” Mouse treated every one as a valued human being. “He embodied good vibes, mentoring many.” “The ultimate waterman whose humility and kindness touched so many lives.” “Your truth was in your daily example.”

“He suggested that when the OB Pier was replaced they name the new one OB like Mouse. We have lost a beloved grandfather to James Richardson, Brittany and Casey Robb, Trevor Singer (Kauai) and great-grandfather to Elijah Singer. He will be greatly missed by his adoring nieces Lori Castellanos, Aimee Welshans and Anna Welshans Sorensen, as well as his devoted in-laws, David and Nora Welshans, all from San Diego. Mouse held great love and affection for his countless friends who enriched his life beyond measure. Aloha dear friend and Malaho for sharing your journey with us. In the tradition of surfers, there will be a paddle out this summer to commit Mouse back to the water. A Celebration of Life paddle out is scheduled for 9 a.m. on July 17 at Luscomb Point at Sunset Cliffs.

Mouse is survived by his loving family, wife Carole, son Darren Robb and his wife Tiffany of Carlsbad, daughter Kathleen Robb of Lihue, Kauai. He was the beloved grandfather to James Richardson, Brittany and Casey Robb, Trevor Singer (Kauai) and great-grandfather to Elijah Singer.

Never will you be forgotten in the history of San Diego Lifeguards through his work for the San Diego Lifesaving Association and was instrumental in helping erect the bronze Lifeguard Memorial in Ocean Beach.

Many kind notes and letters have been received and were read to him during his illness: “Your upbeat, positive nature always made a surf session a better experience.” Mouse treated every one as a valued human being. “He embodied good vibes, mentoring many.” “The ultimate waterman whose humility and kindness touched so many lives.” “Your truth was in your daily example.”

“If you question how long you can enjoy the water, Mouse pedaled up to me one morning and told me he had just gotten his new stand up board for his 80th birthday!” “No one personified OB like Mouse. We have lost a truly larger than life legend.”

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