Dedicated in Appreciation of Tom Broz



Tom Broz
Mabury Ranch Homeowners
Association Board President
1992-1993 & 2020-2023

Tom Broz served the community of Mabury Ranch in various capacities, both formal and informal.

Tom relocated to Bryce Avenue in September 1981 with his wife, Colleen, as “original owners”. That phase of Standard Pacific Homes consisted of the homes on Mabury and Bryce Avenues from the West Greenbelt to Yellowstone Avenue. In fact, Tom slept out for a week to hold their place in line when the homes went on sale in April of that year. When they moved in, their lot was bare, as were all new lots in those days, and Tom set about putting in all of the hardscape and plantings himself. He built a 1,000 square foot lattice patio cover around the back of the house and laid all of the herringbone brick walkways still in place today. From the beginning, Tom had a pride of ownership and commitment to the Mabury Ranch community. He was an involved and DIY kind of a guy.

There was an issue to be addressed by the City early on and when contacted, the City refused on the grounds that Mabury Ranch was in the unincorporated County of Orange. Tom was one of the homeowners who invited City Council members to a coffee and donut meeting on Serrano Avenue one Saturday morning to walk the property with the County map and confirm that Mabury Ranch was indeed within the city limits. Since then, the City has been responsive to our community.

When the West Greenbelt was initially reinforced for erosion protection, Tom, a registered Civil and Structural Engineer in California, Indiana and Illinois, warned that it was insufficient for anticipated water runoff. He was right. The first major storm washed all that work away. He then became involved in the redesign and installation of the current rip rap system of rock which has remained intact and protected the West Greenbelt since.

The two pedestrian bridges in the West Greenbelt were installed under Tom's guidance. He specifically worked for a design that would be compatible with the natural area made from material that is durable and virtually maintenance-free.

Tom spent years working with the Environmental Committee to influence the development of the areas surrounding Mabury Ranch. He worked hard to keep development on the south side of Santiago creek but in the end, was unable to overcome the popular vote.

When the median was installed on Serrano Avenue, he worked with the City on its design. When Cannon Street had to be widened to provide a second northbound right turn lane, Tom again worked with the City traffic engineers and representatives of the Orange Park Acres Equestrian community to ensure that removal of the soil horse trail would not pose a hazard for riders and horses in the future. To accommodate this, the transition material, which looks like regular sidewalk concrete, is really a special surface that provides safe traction for horses.

In support of the areas surrounding Mabury Ranch, Tom volunteered his Sundays to be the docent at the neighboring Santiago Oaks Regional Park Visitor Center and to serve along Serrano Avenue as a Fire Watcher with the Irvine Ranch Conservancy.

Residents would recognize Tom driving a 1974 orange and white VW microbus or walking his family's beloved Corgi, Ozzie.

At the time of his death in October 2023, as Mabury Ranch Homeowners Association President, Tom was wrapping up renovation of the entryways to the development.

For his contributions to Mabury Ranch and to the community of Orange, Tom was honored with a Memorial Adjournment by the Orange City Council on January 23, 2024.

Written By: Colleen Monahan (Broz)

Memorial Adjournment

Thomas Anthony Broz

1950 – 2023

It is a privilege to recognize Thomas "Tom" Broż, a valued Orange resident who recently passed away.

Tom was born in Chicago, Illinois as an only child. He attended Catholic primary and high schools, where the impact of friendships made inspired him to coordinate a reunion with his Divine Providence Grade School classmates, 50 years later! He was admitted to the University of Notre Dame and majored in Civil Engineering and competed on the Crew Team. He met a lovely undergraduate student, Colleen Monahan, and they were married. Tom went on to complete his master's degree in civil engineering at the University of Illinois.

From grad school, Tom was recruited by Bechtel Power Corporation and earned his Structural Engineer license, a rare certification in the United States. He performed seismic analysis and design work in the U.S., Taiwan, Japan, and Spain. After 20 years with Bechtel, he worked for various companies in the LA Basin as a construction manager for churches, schools, and his favorite – fire stations! Tom was active in his professional organizations and enjoyed mentoring young engineers. In 2019, Tom was honored by the American Society of Civil Engineers with their Lifetime Achievement Award. He was proud of his profession and felt blessed to have found his calling.

When Tom's only son, Tim, was born, his journey as a father became a defining chapter in his life adventure. His commitment to shaping young lives extended beyond family as he dedicated himself to being a Boy Scout troop leader, imparting valuable lessons of leadership, camaraderie, and resilience. He became his son's soccer coach for 11 years, instilling in his son and others the virtues of teamwork and sportsmanship.

Tom had been active in his community since moving to Orange in 1981. He served on the Orange County American Society of Civil Engineers, the University of Notre Dame Orange County Club, he was a docent for Orange County Parks at the Santiago Oak Park Nature Center, a wildfire Fire Watcher and CERT volunteer. He was an OC Tracker for the Irvine Ranch Conservancy and worked with them to identify over 10,000 animal photos for the Conservancy's database. He was one of the original Maybury Ranch homeowners and spent many years working to help the community as an HOA board member and later president.

It is with gratitude that the Orange City Council extends its sincere sympathies to Tom's family, as it adjourns this meeting in reverence and tribute to Thomas Anthony Broz, a devoted father, beloved husband, devout Catholic and dedicated community member.

Dated this 23rd day of January 2024.

Daniel R. Slater, Mayor

Arianna Barrios, Mayor pro tem

Jon Dumitru, Councilmember

Kathy Tavoularis, Councilmember

Denis Bilodeau, Councilmember

Ana Gutierrez, Councilmember

John Guillenhammer, Councilmember