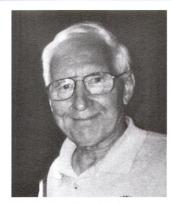
# GOLDEN LIFE MEMBERS (50 YEARS)







Kenneth Gaal



Stephen Gaal

(not pictued)
Thomas White

### IN MEMORIAM



Paul Sylvester



Leo La Rocco



Bob Neilsen



Carla Curtis

# PAUL SYLVESTER 1913-2006 (Joined 8/13/1930)

The club's oldest member and the only Diamond Dolphin (75 years) passed away on April 6, 2006 aged 97. He had been a member of the club since 1930. Paul, who ran a cleaning service for most of his life, enjoyed golf, swimming, bowling and fishing. In 1937, he was the first person to swim the six miles from Sausalito to Aquatic Park. It took him nearly three hours. The newspaper reports at the time said that his friends claim he trains by sleeping in a bathtub full of cold water. At 46, he was only the second swimmer, accompanied by Chuck Pruett, to swim from the club, around Alcatraz, and back. That was in 1954 when the island was still a prison. Most 'phins will remember Paul best as the fisherman who spent many hours sitting on a chair, fishing from the end of the pier. "As you swam by, he would make some kind of stroke correction for you," says Don Harrison. "Everybody loved him." And, says Walt Schneebeli, "He was the only man we ever knew who caught a lobster in San Francisco Bay."

### RAY PASTENE 1916-2006 (Joined 1/18/1967)

Ray, the son of Italian immigrants, joined the club in 1945. During World War II he was in the Merchant Marine and afterwards became a designer and manufacturer of women's shoes of some repute. After he retired in 1989 he spent much of his time at his home in Tiburon overlooking the bay.

#### CARLA CURTIS 1949-2005 (Joined 11/19/1978)

Carla was an aquatics instructor at San Francisco Community College and at the Recreation Center for the Handicapped where she worked with volunteers Frank Drumm and Joe Bruno. She joined the club in 1978 as one of the early female members.

# LEO LA ROCCA 1914-2006 (Joined 10/17/1938)

Leo, a native San Francisco, was the owner of the well known, well-loved North Beach tavern on the corner of Columbus and Taylor, known as La Rocca's Corner. The bar was opened by his father in 1922 during prohibition, and was famous for the eye-catching sign "This Is It!" What it was, was a place for Sicilian fishermen to hang out on rough days. And somewhere for the after-hours crowd—guys with pinkie rings and low-brimmed hats, the glitterati, and the power brokers including John Burton and George Moscone to gather. It was where Gordon Getty met his future wife, Ann. Leo was a champion handball player at a time when the sport was flourishing at the club.

### BOB NIELSEN 1931-2006 (Joined 9/18/1947)

An excellent oarsman, Bob was one of several Dolphins who rowed to Mare Island to deliver a commemorative scroll signed by San Francisco Mayor Elmer Robinson on the occasion of the Mare Island Navy Yard's 100th anniversary.