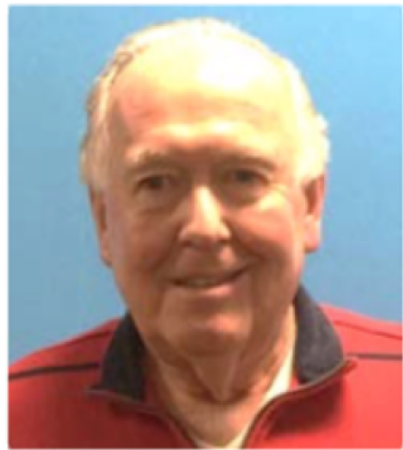


This monthly article highlights one of our branch members. We hope that you enjoy knowing a little more about your fellow members and the interesting life they have had. If you have someone you would like to nominate or if you would like to help author an article, please email the editor, Ron Nakamoto, at [ron.nakamoto\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:ron.nakamoto(at)yahoo.com).

## Bob Taggart – Bowling Activity Co-Chair



On June 1, 1971, Ed Sullivan taped his final TV show on CBS.

On June 6, 1971, Willie Mays hits his record And, on July 1, 1971, Britain and Argentina signed the accord to end hostilities over the Falkland Islands.

*On that same day Elvis' prized custom Stutz Blackhawk car was involved in an accident and the front was heavily damaged. Elvis had sent Sir Gerald, his L.A. chauffeur, out to have the car washed and it ended up in an accident. After that, Elvis put it in storage not to be seen until the court ordered "...that it be exhumed from its grave and entombment at Graceland to be examined for mechanical failure." Bob Taggart was counsel to defendant, London Town Livery (chauffeur employer) in a civil lawsuit wherein the plaintiff filed suit for damages*

*caused by the car accident that severed the plaintiff's ear. Bob took Elvis' deposition in Los Angeles and recalls "...Elvis was a kind and very gentle man who arrived in a chauffeur driven limousine surrounded by three gorgeous girls who looked like Playboy Bunnies. Elvis wore rings on every finger." No mechanical problem was found with the vehicle and the suit was later settled without trial. (Editor's note: The Stutz Blackhawk was a "custom build to" luxury car built on a Pontiac Grand Prix chassis, chosen for the GP's engine placement far back on the frame. It was shipped to Italy to be converted with a new body and coachwork added - by hand, to transform the car into a Stutz Blackhawk. The interior of the Stutz was very luxurious. The floor coverings were made of Australian lambs wool. Twenty four karat gold, plates the bezels and moldings. Only the finest European leather covered the seats, and was used on the dash. The dash also consisted of beautiful English burl. Jules Meyers, the first Stutz-dealer showed up at Elvis' home at Hillcrest with the Blackhawk. Elvis was interested, and Mr. Meyers told him that he could sign a contract, and that the Stutz-Company will build him his Blackhawk during the following months. Elvis wasn't interested in signing a contract he was interested in buying the car, the car standing next to him. Jules Meyers tried to explain that this car was the very first Stutz, that he needed the car to show to potential buyers, to drive around, showing the beauty of the car. Elvis answered with a question: 'How do you think you will sell more cars, when you drive it, or when the people see me driving it around? Well, Jules saw the point ... Elvis got the car. )*

As you can surmise, Bob is a lawyer and has handled many cases as a Public Defender, Prosecutor and Civil Defense attorney.

Born in 1937 in Amsterdam, New York, Bob grew up in Maplewood, New Jersey (*Editor's note: Boyhood home of Dr. Bobby Brown, NY Yankee third baseman in the 1950's and one of Bob's boyhood idols.*) Growing up Bob was active in scouting and became an Eagle Scout. His biggest boyhood thrill was being in the bleachers at the Polo Grounds in New York, watching Willie Mays make the famous game- saving catch of the Vic Wertz hit in the first game of the 1954 World Series aka "The Catch". He attended Gettysburg College graduating in 1959 with a BA in Political Science. Bob recalls attending church services on numerous occasions along with President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who often spent weekends in Gettysburg at their farm near the Civil War battlefield. After graduating, Bob joined the U.S. Army and was commissioned as a second lieutenant and assigned to Fort Ord, CA. Upon completion of his military service, Bob enrolled at the University of California, Hastings Law College and received his JD degree in 1966.

He spent the next ten years in the Public Defenders and District Attorney's offices in Riverside, Santa Barbara and Palm Springs, CA. He recalls winning acquittal for several U.C. Santa Barbara students charged with felony arson in the burning of the Bank of America, Isla Vista during the Vietnam War era. The trial of the seventeen defendants lasted six months with over 100 witnesses testifying, including the President and CEO of the Bank of America who testified behind a bulletproof enclosure. It was one of the longest and costliest criminal trials in California history. (*Editor's note: On the afternoon of Feb. 25, 1970 William Kunstler, a defense attorney who represented well-known defendants in the Chicago Seven trial following the anti-war protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, spoke at the stadium on campus. The Vietnam War was raging and the draft was the law of the land. Authorities anticipated an inflammatory reaction and showed up in full force to control the crowd. As a group of students walked back toward Isla Vista after the speech, police beat 22-year-old student Rich Underwood into submission and arrested him for carrying a bottle of wine they assumed was a Molotov cocktail. Crowd rage resulted in a burning trash bin pushed through the doors of the Bank of America Isla Vista branch. Once the smoke cleared on Feb. 26 — with the Bank of America building in ruins — Gov. Reagan declared a state of emergency. On April 18, a rally was scheduled against the bank. Police arrived in armored trucks, dressed in riot gear and armed with tear gas. Amid the confusion, 22-year-old UCSB student Kevin Moran was shot and killed. Although the police claimed the bullet originated from a sniper in the crowd, a ballistics test determined that it came from a policeman's rifle. The incident was deemed an accident, and the officer was later exonerated. The Bank of America closed its Isla Vista branch in 1981, opting to open an ATM on Embarcadero del Norte instead. Embarcadero Hall stands in place of the bank today. A plaque in front commemorates Kevin Moran. It reads, "For Social Change, Fair Play and Peace"*)

Bob met Carol Jean Wallmark at a dance party in Palo Alto in January 1977. After a reasonable courtship they were married in August 1981. She is a third grade teacher in the Menlo Park schools. Bob enjoys bowling, bird watching with his wife and learning to play golf "...without looking foolish". His favorite bird is the Painted Bunting and he

periodically travels to his favorite bird spots in Costa Rica, Florida Everglades, Corkscrew Swamp and the Naples area. Bob is Co-Chair of the SIR Area 16 bowling league along with Doug Anderson. The bowling league meets at Homestead Lanes in Cupertino every Tuesday at 1pm. There are eight teams and twenty-eight players. Bowlers range from very good to "I hope my ball stays on the lane". All bowlers share in the prize money distributed at the end of each sixteen-week season. Each meeting lasts about two hours and the bowling alley even supplies the coffee for free (they are hoping the old guys stay awake).

Bob's fervent wish is for everyone to enjoy themselves in their retirement and to come and check out the bowling league. There is some exercise, skill and luck involved so everyone should be competitive.