

Summers will be 100th RB Hall of Fame inductee

BY ELIZABETH MARIE HIMCHAK

With the 100th induction into Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame set to occur next spring, its membership has decided to change its selection method and celebration.

Instead of seeking nominations of longtime volunteer leaders from the community this fall and honoring two or three with membership, the group has decided to mark the milestone event by selecting only one individual for the 2010 honor — Harry Summers.

The founder of Rancho Bernardo will receive an “honorary” membership, said Bob Wells, a 1993 inductee, adding he came up with the idea to make the 100th induction special a decade ago.

“We want to make (reaching 100) something special,” said Wells, the gala committee’s chairman. “For the last 34 years, the group has gotten together ... and 50 to 60 show up (at the luncheon). Half are relatives of the new inductees.”

He said there have even been times when some former inductees have opted to play golf rather than attend the luncheon.

“It is seen as not important and we as a group want to change (that perception) so it’s a major event in the eyes of the community,” he said.

To do this, Wells said the induction ceremony will be changed from its traditional luncheon open to the entire community to a black tie optional gala at Bernardo Heights Country Club, limited to 100 invitation-only attendees.

“This will be the number one social event in Rancho Bernardo,” Wells



Harry Summers, left, will be inducted as an “honorary” member in the Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame in April. At right, Robin Kaufman, Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame president and 2004 inductee, and Bob Wells, gala chairman and 1993 inductee, holding plaques bearing the names of the 99 Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame members.

Photo by 2002 inductee Larry McIntyre

said.

He is estimating about half of the 100 tickets will go to Hall of Fame members and their guests because 42 are still living in the area. The remainder will be divided among the gala’s six sponsors and key members of the Rancho Bernardo community.

So the gala is free to attendees, Wells said six gala sponsors have each contributed \$1,000 to cover its costs. They are American Trust Company, Casa de las Campanas, the Dokmo family, Sue Herndon with Prudential California Realty, Joe and Mary Karscig and the Summers family.

As for honoring Summers, Wells said that was a suggestion by 1998 inductee Nick

Anastasopoulos and unanimously approved by the nominating committee.

“He will be an honorary inductee because he does not fit the pattern, but we wanted to make this very special and he is very special to us,” Wells said.

The organization will be honoring Summers for his work in the early 1960s to create Rancho Bernardo.

Rancho Bernardo Hall of Fame selected its first members in 1974. In 1988 and 1991 no inductees were selected. In recent years, honorees had to complete at least six years of combined volunteer service with one or more qualified Rancho Bernardo organizations, with at least three of those years in a leadership position.

Wells said next fall the group plans to return to its traditional call for nominations and membership criteria for its 2011 inductees.