

The Paul Thomas* Factor—His Special Day April 28, 2003

By Steve Laub, President of the College Area Community Council

To have a neighbor who cares, to know a neighbor that responds to a challenge, to work with a neighbor who is a bundle of energy; well, the name Paul Thomas comes to the mind.

One could document Paul's community accomplishments via a recount of leadership positions held, i. e., the President of the College Area Community Council (CACC), the President of Alvarado Estates, or the chair or active participant in many, many neighborhood committees. I feel a more appropriate recount of Paul's impact on his community lies in leadership qualities none greater than promoting a positive change in the relationship between the Town and Gown folks of this College Area Community. Today a visitor to a CACC meeting observes constructive cooperation with all parties working toward creating a revitalized community.

Paul Thomas was at the table making hard and sometimes painful decisions, but always with love and the goal to bring our community together, away from negative or self-directed tracks.

Paul Thomas guided the community through critical times such as trolley alignment, as the College Redevelopment Program was crafted, and as the design guidelines for the campus village were created. Some folks just talk about the "City of Villages." Paul Thomas helped put this planning concept in place and today can observe its realization.

No project was as dear to Paul Thomas as the construction of medians on Montezuma Road. The medians are now close to reality, and without Paul's involvement would still be a collector of butts.

The future residents of the College Area may never recall the name Paul Thomas, but just say "I wonder who made this a place that deserves our affection?"

The answer whispered in the wind shall be the name Paul Thomas, a man who cared to give back to his community and the beautiful place we call home—San Diego.

Thank you, Paul, for just being Paul.

**Paul Thomas, M.D., is a past president of the CSA (1983-1984). This article appeared in the May 2003 edition of the monthly newsletter of the College Area Community Council in San Diego.*

