

DAVID A. SPENCE BIOGRAPHY

David A. Spence served on the La Cañada Flintridge City Council for the past 25 years, having first been elected to the City Council in 1992. During his tenure, he served a record six terms as Mayor. “Dave” was born and raised in Southern Ohio and attended Ohio Wesleyan University. He was married to the late Alice Hoyt Spence, a Home-Economics major, also at Ohio Wesleyan. Dave graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in Pre-Medical Sciences.

In 1959, Dave and Alice began their lives together in Glendale, CA where Dave began his career in the pharmaceutical industry as a sales representative with Parke-Davis, a division of Warner-Lambert. In 1960, their first child, Betsy was born, followed in 1961 with their first son Steve and, 4 years later, son Andy came into the world. The three children were special needs children and, thus, began a challenging but deeply rewarding parenthood journey for Dave and Alice. Both Dave and Alice became actively involved with the Lanterman Regional Center (later, the Los Angeles Regional Center), the main hub involving a state agency addressing the needs of handicapped and disabled individuals throughout California. Dave was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Regional Center and served in that role for 8 years.

The Spences moved to La Cañada Flintridge in 1969, motivated in large part by the stellar reputation of the La Cañada Unified School District, especially as it pertained to the infrastructure of programs designed for special education students. Dave believed the school district's special education programs were critically important for his children. He always credited the life-skills acquired at La Cañada High School with enabling them to succeed with jobs that Steve and Andy secured and loved at Vons, Sprouts and Ralph's Grocery Stores.

As Dave's pharmaceutical career continued to grow, he transferred into the optical division of Warner-Lambert where he served for many years in key sales management positions of various contact lens divisions. The Spences became embedded into the family and community life of La Cañada Flintridge. As active members of the La Cañada Presbyterian Church, Dave taught Sunday school to mostly 3rd and 4th graders and Alice organized the first full Family Summer Camp that remains in existence to this day. Dave and Alice were awarded the distinction of “La Cañadans of the Year” in 1994 for the continuing and selfless dedication to community and volunteerism.

In 1988, Dave was appointed to serve on the La Cañada Flintridge Public Safety Commission. Little did he know that this would serve as the beginning of a life-long service to the community over the course of the next 29 years. In 1992, he was encouraged to run for City Council. From the time he took office, Councilmember Spence established himself as an advocate for the concerns of residents by offering common sense solutions to many emotionally charged issues. Perhaps his most noteworthy cause was to help bring sewers to the City of La Cañada Flintridge. The vast majority of City residents were using septic tanks when he first assumed office in 1992. Today, most residents, with the exception of the Flintridge area, have sewers thanks to Dave's strong advocacy.

Former Mayor and Councilmember Spence distinguished himself in City service by representing the City in many significant regional capacities. He was President of the California Contract Cities Association. He served as the City's representative to the Arroyo Verdugo Steering Committee and the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Board of Trustees, the Los Angeles County Local Agency Formation Commission, and the Southern California Association of Governments Transportation Committee. He served as the City's delegate to the National League of Cities and California Small Cities representative. He was a Board of Director and Executive Board member of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, and served on the County of Los Angeles' Local Government Commission, the SCAG Transportation Committee, and the Los Angeles County Liability Trust Fund Claims Board and Oversight Committee. He was the Chair of the Los Angeles County Sanitation District # 28. He was the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments representative to the Metro Service Sector Board. Within the City, Mayor Spence served on the Economic Development City Council Subcommittee, the Sewer/Septic Subcommittee, and the Soundwalls Subcommittee and he was an active member of the Kiwanis Club of La Cañada and the La Cañada Presbyterian Church, and a Board of Director for Valley Water.

In 2002, Alice was diagnosed with early-stage Alzheimer's Disease. For eight long and difficult years, Alice's health declined until her passing. Dave remained a dedicated husband and father while serving with distinction on the City Council. Following Alice's passing, Dave continued to tirelessly represent the City and its residents in numerous ways while still caring for his adult children. In 2016, he completed his precedent-setting sixth term as Mayor and was bestowed the title and distinction of “Super Mayor” by the City Council and staff.

While Dave was busy and committed as ever to the City, he did find time for a significant personal relationship in his life. Her name is Jacky Hollingsworth, a La Cañadan with Midwestern roots, like Dave. Jacky and her late husband John were

City of La Cañada Flintridge

City Council History

David A. Spence

the closest of friends to Dave and Alice for over 50 years. Dave passed away peacefully at home on May 16, 2017.

Terms of Office

#	Election Date	End of Term	Elected
1	4/14/92	4 years/1996	David A. Spence
2	3/4/97	4 years/2001	David A. Spence
3	3/6/01	4 years/2005	David A. Spence
4	3/8/05	4 years/2009	David A. Spence
5	3/3/09	4 years/2013	David A. Spence
6	3/10	4 years/2014	David A. Spence
7	3/17	4 years/2021	David A. Spence

Terms as Mayor

#	Beginning of Term	End of Term	Mayor
1	1994	1995	David A. Spence
2	2000	2001	David A. Spence
3	2002	2003	David A. Spence
4	2007	2008	David A. Spence
5	2011	2012	David A. Spence
6	2015	2016	David A. Spence