



COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES
DISTRICT

PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT

Making Lives Better!

Zehnder Park History

Born in 1927, John Zehnder grew up on his family's Elk Grove dairy ranch. John graduated from Elk Grove High School in 1945 and married his wife Nancy 5 years later. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and was a stockbroker for Emmett Larkin Brokerage House. John has always taken community involvement very seriously. He is a past president and lifetime member of the Elk Grove Lions Club which recognized him with the Melvin Jones Award. He has been an Elk Grove Fire Department volunteer for 43 years and was president of the Firemen's Association.

John's love of sports is reflected in his active involvement with Elk Grove High School football for the past 50 years; he still operates the scoreboard timer during Thundering Herd games. He has been president of the Elk Grove Softball Association; a Cub master for Boy Scouts of America; has coached Pop Warner, Little League, soccer and basketball; and helped start the Western Festival Parade. John is member of the California Cattlemen's Association, the Knights of Columbus and Valley Hi Country Club. John served on the board of directors of First Security Bank of Elk Grove for 20 years, and was a member of the Cosumnes College Agricultural Board and the Northern California Peace Officer Association.

He was named Elk Grove's Citizen of the Year 1969 and is in the Elk Grove High School Hall of Fame. John and Nancy enjoy traveling throughout the world, lured by remote scuba diving sites and world-class fishing tournaments. He also finds time for skiing, softball, bowling and golf. Undoubtedly, however, his greatest joy is his large family, for John and Nancy have 7 sons: John Jr., Tom, Mike, Dan, Steve, Brian and Paul. All are pursuing careers and raising their own families in Elk Grove, continuing their father's tradition of community involvement and passing it on to his 23 grandchildren.

The information within this document was created at the time of park dedication and may not be current.