



## Lawrence Park History

Dolore "Larry" Lawrence and his wife Belle, moved to Elk Grove in 1954. Proud parents of 4 boys, Stanley, Ricky, Steve, and Larry, the Lawrences operated the Larrybelle Dairy for over forty years. A prominent figure in the statewide Portuguese fraternal organization, Sociadad do Espirito Santo (S.E.S), Dolore Lawrence was bestowed the highest honor by being named their first Fraternalist of the Year for his dedicated service. In 1959, he formed the local Council No. 76 in Elk Grove.

Dolore was the statewide President of the S.E.S. Hall in the old Bob Batey Chevrolet building on Elk Grove Boulevard. Years later, when the group had outgrown the Bob Batey facility, Dolore spearheaded a drive to acquire the land and build the current facility on East Stockton Boulevard. The facility was constructed to provide a place for Portuguese families to gather and celebrate their annual Portuguese Festa, and to provide the community with a facility to hold community events. This facility today serves the local community as well as surrounding towns and areas.

Dolore also served as a spokesman and liaison for the Portuguese population in local and statewide community affairs. He served 2 terms on the Street Joseph's Catholic Church parish council. He was a member of the Western Dairyman Association, and was a member of the board of directors of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association. He was also a member of the Hay Growers of the San Joaquin Valley for 20 years. Dolore sponsored immigrants from the Azores Islands to this country, and employed and taught these immigrants dairy and farm work to help them find employment.

Dolore Lawrence passed away on July 4, 1990.

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