

“A Fine Gentleman” According To Those Who Knew Him

By Deb Frisby

HISTORY STORIES

Reflections of Pine Knoll Shores

Additional posts by various authors on the history of Pine Knoll Shores appear on the History Committee blog at pineknollhistory.blogspot.com.

Clarence Reese Musgrave (he went by Reese and signed official documents C. Reese), born July 25, 1930, in Toledo, Ohio, served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War, then graduated from the University of Rochester in 1955



C. Reese Musgrave, who served Pine Knoll Shores from 1991 to 2002, first as a commissioner and then as mayor—Photos courtesy of Pine Knoll Shores History Committee

with a degree in psychology. He worked for Proctor & Gamble, then had a career with Lehar-Friedman, a publisher of industry-specific magazines and newsletters for the retail market. He had four children—two sons, William and Scott, and a daughter, Diana, with his first wife, Joanne (Froebel), who died in 1968, and another daughter, Melissa, with his wife Sandy, whom he married in 1969. They lived in New Jersey and vacationed in the Poconos. Sandy, later, came with Reese to Pine Knoll Shores. Melissa and Scott also lived in NC for a time.

In the 1970s North Carolina became a destination for the Musgraves while William attended and graduated from UNC—Chapel Hill. Reese and Sandy traveled on to Pine Knoll Shores for trips to visit friends Marge and Andy Turney and quickly fell in love with the area. They rented at Beacon's Reach, then purchased a condo at Genesis. When Reese retired in 1989, they decided to relocate from New Jersey. Pine Knoll Shores was the perfect place to start the next chapter. They both found part-time employment, but Reese felt the need to do more in the community and won a seat on the Board of Commissioners in 1991.

For five years Musgrave served as police commissioner. In 1996, after Mayor Hasulak stepped down, board members chose Musgrave to complete Hasulak's term. He was sworn in on January 6, 1997, taking Hasulak's place alongside Bob Gallo in dealings with Carolina Water Service as the years-long conflict

continued. Mayor Musgrave communicated with the NC Utilities Commission in Raleigh, writing at least one letter, published in *The Shoreline*, voicing the town's opposition to proposed rate increases. He supported his position with data showing that the cost of water in Pine Knoll Shores was significantly higher than in surrounding towns.

In the summer of 2000, the board decided to hire an Emergency Services Manager to lead as well as coordinate the administrative and legal responsibilities of the town's police and volunteer fire and rescue departments. An announcement in *The Shoreline* said: "This position will replace no volunteer. This individual will be a professional experienced in the areas of EMS, Emergency Management, and Fire."



From left, Mayor Musgrave with former Mayor Ken Hanan and wife Yola at the celebration of the town's 25th anniversary in 1998.

This was disheartening to a team of volunteers (read more about Squad 65 at pineknollhistory.blogspot.com) who had given 25 years of extraordinary service to the town and who had become more than a group of co-workers. But Mayor Musgrave supported the board's decision, putting consideration for the safety of a growing town ahead of any personal feelings, even amidst festering divisions within the town.

"He was a forward thinker, a fine man, who took care of business without a lot of publicity," according to Betty Carr, a longtime employee at town hall who worked alongside the mayor. She said Mayor Musgrave is "the reason we have the public safety building on Highway 58." She shared that emergency services volunteers were outgrowing their space on the top floor of town hall and that the board began looking into new accommodations for the fire and rescue workers who slept and stored their equipment in a portion of the town hall building. When Wachovia Bank decided to close their branch in Pine Knoll Village, Musgrave went personally to the bank to negotiate for the building it was leaving. The "Wachovia Public Safety Building" might have sounded nice, but

(Continued on page 23)