

Monterey County  
**The Herald**

## Ex-P.G. Mayor Schaefer dies at 81

**Served on council from 1988-95**

By KEVIN HOWE  
Herald Staff Writer

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Former Pacific Grove Mayor Florence Beckman Schaefer, 81, died Tuesday at her home in Issaquah, Wash., of cancer.

Born Sept. 7, 1926, in Brooklyn, N.Y., she was raised in Buffalo, N.Y., and lived in Whittier from 1960 until she and her husband Jack moved to Pacific Grove in 1986.

Mrs. Schaefer graduated with a bachelor's degree from California State University-Northridge and earned a master's degree from Pacific Oaks College.

She was a teacher for 30 years, working as a special education instructor and trainer of teachers at the Dubnoff Center for Child Development in North Hollywood, and for the Whittier Area Cooperative Special Education Program until her retirement.

Mrs. Schaefer was appointed to the Pacific Grove Architectural Review Board in 1987 by then-Mayor Morris Fisher.

"I didn't agree with her philosophically about a lot of issues, but I've got to give her credit," Fisher said. "She was a hard worker, she studied the

subjects. The bottom line is that her true interests lay in the betterment of Pacific Grove."

She ran successfully for a two-year City Council term in 1988, and then ran for mayor in 1990, defeating longtime resident and former fire chief Don Gasperson. She again ran for City Council in 1992 and served until she resigned in 1995, pleading health reasons.

"We didn't always agree," Gasperson said, "but I had to admire her dedication to the projects we worked on, and she always paid close attention to city business. She was always prepared. Her heart was in it and she believed in what she was doing."

During her time in city government, Mrs. Schaefer was instrumental in the creation of the Monarch Grove Sanctuary in Pacific Grove, the acquisition of Rocky Shores off Sunset Drive and in the updating of the city's general plan.

"She was an inspiration to me and (husband) Danny when we first moved to the Monterey Peninsula," said former Pacific Grove Mayor Sandy Koffman, now a resident of Camano Island, Wash.

"Flo was a very strong woman who was very sure of her decisions, very committed to her decisions. I think she did great things for the community. She had a lasting, positive impact on the city of Pacific Grove and the Monterey Peninsula."

She moved to Issaquah in 2001 and continued to be active in city government, serving on Issaquah's Urban Village Development Commission. She helped organize Democratic Party residents at Providence Point in Issaquah.

Mrs. Schaefer is survived by her daughters, Gail Shaefter Sorensen of Issaquah and Linda Kluge of Aptos; two sisters, Dr. Roberta Beckman Gonzalez of

Monterey County  
**The Herald**

Jim Thorpe, Pa., and Sandra Beckman of Santiago, Chile; a brother, Ron Beckman of Paris, France, and two grandchildren. Her husband died in 1998.

The family prefers that contributions in her memory be made to the American Cancer Society or Death With Dignity. Private family services are planned. Friends are invited to share memories and sign the family's on-line guest book at [www.flintofts.com](http://www.flintofts.com).

Kevin Howe can be reached at 646-4416 or [khowe@montereyherald.com](mailto:khowe@montereyherald.com).