

COACHELLA

Former Coachella mayor dies at age 69

BY XOCHITL PEÑA
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Lester "Butch" Cox Jr. — a Coachella pioneer, business owner and former mayor — died Wednesday of natural causes.

He was 69.

Cox followed in his father's public service footsteps and served as a Coachella councilman for eight years and as mayor during 1976-77.

His father, Lester Cox Sr., was elected to Coachella's first City Council in 1946.

Cox Jr., described as a "generous" man, was also instrumental in ensuring parks and recreation for the youth of Coachella.

"I think he was involved in and pushed for youth way back when not too many people were pushing," said Coachella Councilman Dick Macknicki, who was a member of the Indio Elks Lodge 1643 with Cox Jr.

Cox Jr. was also owner of Cox Oil in Coachella as well as Sunland Screen and Awning before

retiring in 1996.

He most recently resided in La Quinta.

He is survived by his wife, Katherine "Kitty" Cox; two daughters; three sons and nine grandchildren.

His son Mike Cox of Washington said his fondest memory of his father is hunting and golfing with him.

"He loved the outdoors and would include me as much as possible in his life when I was growing up. His daughters and family will tell you he always had a joke and kept the room in great spirits wherever he was," said Mike Cox.

A memorial will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday at Fitzhenry's Funeral Home at 82-975 Requa Ave. in Indio. It will be followed by an 11th hour celebration at 2:30 p.m. the Indio Elks Lodge.

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