

PACIFIC REMEMBERS

Two beloved Pacificans passed away in January 2009. Pacific Review pays tribute to their lives and contributions.

Robert Monagan



Pacific alumnus and former Chair of the Board of Regents Robert T. “Bob” Monagan ’42, passed away Wednesday, January 7, 2009 in Sacramento. One of the most influential regents in shaping the future of the University, Monagan served as co-chair of a successful fundraising campaign in the 1990s and provided steady leadership during the presidential transition in 1994–95. He served sixteen years on the board from 1991–2007, nine years as chair. Monagan had a profound love for Pacific and cared greatly about its programs and its people. His extensive service to the University includes the National Commission, the Sesquicentennial Committee, the Jacoby Center Advisory Board, the Alumni Center Campaign Committee and President of the Alumni Association Board.

Robert Monagan’s career in public service was a model of citizen-leadership. The former mayor of Tracy, Calif. was elected to seven terms in the California State Assembly. He was Speaker from 1969–71. Monagan received several presidential appointments, including Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Department of Transportation, the Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Transportation Safety and the President’s Advisory Committee for Private Sector Business. He also served as

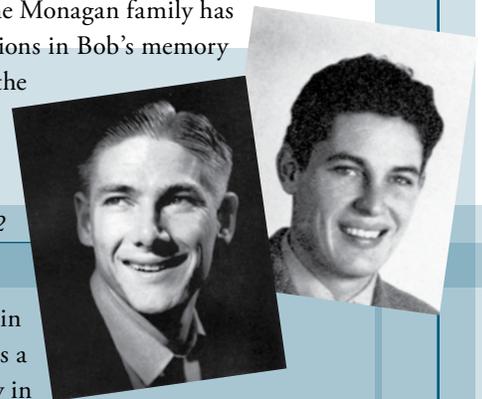
President of the California Manufacturers Association, President of the California Economic Development Corporation and Chairman of the California State World Trade Commission.

At Pacific, Monagan was student body president, wrote and edited campus publications and lettered in baseball and basketball. He was active in Omega Phi Alpha fraternity. In 2002 the fraternity awarded him the inaugural Robert T. Monagan Award for Distinguished Service, established in his honor to recognize alumni who uphold a standard of excellence through lifetime service and achievement.

Monagan received many Pacific alumni awards, including Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award, the Medallion of Excellence and induction into the Pacific Athletic Hall of Fame. A new residence hall on the Stockton campus was named Monagan Hall in 2001 in honor of Bob and his wife, Ione ’45. At Commencement 2007, he was awarded the President’s Medal of Achievement for his contributions to the University and the community.

The University community honored the life of Bob Monagan at a memorial service in Morris Chapel on the Stockton campus on Thursday, January 29. The Monagan family has asked that any contributions in Bob’s memory be made to University of the Pacific, to be used for student scholarships.

*Bob Monagan ’42
Far Right: Bob Nikkel ’42*



Robert Nikkel



Robert “Bob” Nikkel ’42 passed away on January 9, 2009 in Sacramento after a series of health setbacks. Nikkel served as a Pacific Regent from 1992–2006. He supported the University in many ways, including participating on the Campaign Feasibility Study and the Eberhardt School of Business Campaign Committee and the Pacific Alumni Association Board from 1997–2003.

Nikkel earned a BA degree in Physical Education from the College of the Pacific. He was senior class president and the President of Rho Lambda Phi (Rhizomia) fraternity and was instrumental in setting up the Rhizomia Endowed Scholarship Fund. A star in basketball and track, he led the basketball team in scoring in 1942, winning the Easterbrook Award as top free-throw shooter of the season. In track, he set the 1941 league record for 220-yard low hurdles and won the 120- and 220-yard low hurdles at the 1942 Far West Conference Championships. He was inducted into the Pacific Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

After graduation Nikkel spent four years as a Naval officer before returning to California to begin a career in the wood moulding manufacturing business. He was President of The Nikkel Corporation until his retirement in the late 1990s.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers that contributions be made in support of scholarships at University of the Pacific.