



News
For Immediate Release

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A Legendary Star Revisited

*Verdugo Hills Hospital Board chairman
invited to Switzerland to speak about the early days of space*

(GLENDALE, CA – September 21, 2007) – Aeronautic mastermind. Community leader. Dedicated family man. These are just a few words that describe Carl W. Raggio, chairman of the Verdugo Hills Hospital Board of Directors.

A Glendale resident since 1963, Raggio has served on the Verdugo Hills Hospital Board for seven years. “This is just a great Board selection that we work with, and very bright people,” he says. “I thoroughly enjoy working with them.”

A retiree of Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Raggio has been invited by Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne to travel to Switzerland on October 4 and 5, 2007, to lecture about the early days of space conquest. The seminar – titled “Early Days of Space Conquest and Visions for the Future” – celebrates the 50th anniversary of the launch of the world’s first artificial satellite, Sputnik.

“The seminar will stimulate people to be innovative – that’s what the beginning of space is all about,” he says.

Raggio’s work on Explorer 1, the United States’ first earth satellite that launched in 1958, has earned him worldwide recognition and numerous honors throughout his career. He has worked at JPL since 1951 and retired in 1990. During his time at JPL, Raggio participated in all of the deep space programs, including Pioneer, Mariner, Voyager, Ranger, Viking and Galileo. In addition to managing the design of major spacecrafts, Raggio also introduced computer aided design (CAD) to JPL.

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“I’m one of the few remaining people living who worked on Explorer 1,” he says. “It was a great time for learning because we didn’t know a great deal, and there was a lot of risk management.”

Raggio strongly believes that “your community is only as good as what you put into it.” Raggio has even seen Verdugo Hills Hospital being built, and he says the hospital is now “more integrated with the community and more culturally mixed than it was before.”

Raggio says the most significant change that occurred for Verdugo Hills Hospital in the last several years was the decision to continue as an independent community hospital. This decision, he says, has proved to be very beneficial to the hospital.

“At that time, we didn’t know whether we were going to merge or be taken over,” he says. “We decided to go alone and it’s been a positive experience ever since. This was the recommendation of (Verdugo Hills Hospital President and CEO) Len LaBella who guided us through the process. It was risky, but I think it was the right thing to do.”

Raggio’s public service to the community dates back to the 1970s. He has served two terms as Mayor of City of Glendale. He was President of the Glendale Unified School District, Board of Trustees Board. He is also a past member and president of the Glendale Community College, Board of Trustees. In addition, he sits on the Southern California Presbyterian Homes Board of Directors.

He has been married to Lynne Raggio for 56 years. Lynne, who also acts as Raggio’s editor and administrative assistant, will accompany him to Switzerland. The couple met in art class after World War II. They have two sons, one daughter, 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild. They have one more great grandchild on the way.

“The Raggios are a role model for young aspiring couples as well as senior members of the community,” says VHH President and CEO Len LaBella. “They have given back to their community through public service, Carl as former mayor and as VHH and Presbyterian Homes Board member and Lynne through her work with the Soroptomist.”

“We are blessed to have them as part of our hospital family,” says LaBella.

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Verdugo Hills Hospital is a 158-bed nonprofit primary care facility nestled in the foothills between Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge. The hospital features all private rooms, 24-hour emergency services, comprehensive inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and treatment facilities, and a family birthing center. It is the only independent, free-standing hospital in the greater Foothills community and was voted “Foothill’s Best Hospital” for 2007 by readers of the *Glendale News-Press*. Several physicians on staff also received recognition as the best in the community, including: Dr. Scott W. Beeve, Foothills Best Ophthalmologist; Dr. Allan W. Perry, Jr., Foothills Best Plastic Surgeon; Dr. Richard L. Rupp, Foothills Best Podiatrist; Dr. William F. Schubert, Foothills Best Family Physician; Dr. Jane S. Wada, Foothills Best Dermatologist; and Dr. Ronald D. Woodard, Foothills Best Obstetrician/Gynecologist. For more information, please visit www.vhhospital.org.

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