

# David Greiner says his father was a 'driven kind of guy'

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VICTORVILLE • Bob Greiner, 80, founder of Greiner Buick GMC of Victorville, has died.

News of Greiner's passing spread throughout the business community shortly after he died Thursday morning at Sterling Commons with his wife, Christine, at his side.

"During (the) High Desert Opportunity (conference), they had a moment of silence for my father, which was very thoughtful of them," David Greiner said Thursday afternoon. "My dad was not the same after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's three years ago."

David Greiner said his father was a "driven kind of guy" who was active and disciplined, and known not only for his fiery temper, but for his generosity, humility and support of the community.

"During the recession and when George Air Force Base closed, he helped quite a few people by giving them jobs," David Greiner said. "He supported quite a few schools and helped build the Holy Innocents (Catholic Church) building."

David Greiner said his father was a man who did not mince words, but told people exactly how he felt, even if they did not want to hear it.

First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood said because of Greiner's passing, it is a sad day not only for the Greiner family, but for the whole Victor Valley.

"Bob Greiner truly will be missed," Lovingood said. "We're fortunate to have his son and family still in the valley. Bob and Christine have been tremendous supporters and philanthropists."

Community leader Joseph W. Brady said Bob Greiner was not only an icon, but a man with a strong work ethic that helped him rise to the top.

"He had a stature about him, but there was no ego," Brady said. "He worked hard, loved people and always had a handshake for you — you look up to people like that."

Ron Frame, 68, said he met Bob Greiner in 1985 and worked for him as a manager for many years, forging a friendship that included motorcycle riding and several vacations.

"He was a good friend, and I was impressed by his commitment to business and to the community," Frame said. "They don't make men like Bob anymore."

Bob Greiner, who was born in Mt. Clemens, Mich., attended Purdue University instead of following in his father's car dealership footsteps.

During the Korean War, Bob Greiner was drafted into the Army, but his 240-pound body could not take the punishment of jumping out of planes, so he was sent to Boulder, Colo., where he served as a Military Police officer and played football on the side.

"After he got out of the Army, my dad tried out for the Detroit Lions during the days of Alex Karras and Wayne Walker," David Greiner said. "My dad finally ended up working for his father before he came out to Victorville in 1985 with the intention of purchasing Monte's Chevrolet."

Bob Greiner purchased Love Pontiac Buick on Forrest Avenue and Seventh Street before moving uptown in 1991 to start Greiner Pontiac Buick and eventually Greiner Buick GMC on Civic Drive.

"We've lost some great community leaders, every generation does," Brady said. "These leaders set the stage for the next generation, it's just part of the evolution of life."

A viewing will be held from 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Sunset Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary, 24000 Waalew Road in Apple Valley.

A mass will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Holy Innocents Catholic Church, 13230 El Evado Road in Victorville, followed by a graveside service at Sunset Hills.