



County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors



SUPERVISOR BURTON W. CHACE

Term: 1953 -1972
District: Fourth
Date of Birth: July 6, 1900
Death: Aug. 22, 1972

Burton W. Chace was appointed to the Board of Supervisors on March 20, 1953, by Governor Earl Warren following the death of Raymond V. Darby. He was elected to the office in 1954, and re-elected in 1956, 1960, 1964 and 1968.

Born on July 6, 1900, Chace was a native of Nebraska. Following graduation from the University of Nebraska, he began his business career in the municipal bonding field in Omaha. He moved to California in 1923, and with his father established the Chace Lumber Company and other business ventures.

His public career began in 1933 when Chace was elected to the Long Beach Board of Education, where he served for eight years. In 1945 he was elected to the Long Beach City Council, and in 1947 was elected to his first of three terms as mayor -- the longest tenure of any mayor of Long Beach.

As county supervisor, Chace served on the Coliseum Commission and was its president during construction and dedication of the Los Angeles Sports Arena. He also played a role in making the Coliseum the original home of the Los Angeles Dodgers when the team moved from Brooklyn. Later Dodger Stadium was built and the team relocated.

Some say Chace's major accomplishment was the Marina del Rey small craft harbor. The Marina project converted waste marshland, which was costing the taxpayers \$87,000 annually in mosquito abatement and returning little in tax revenue, into a sound investment for the County. His long-standing faith in its potential and his work spearheading its development earned him recognition as "Father of the Marina".

During his years with the County, Chace's philosophy on spending was "pay-as-you-go" whenever possible. His experience in the bond business helped him in determining the best financing arrangements on capital projects.

Chace believed in the decentralization of public services. He continually pushed for the building of governmental offices and courthouses containing county branch offices at key locations throughout the sprawling Fourth District, which covered the coastal cities from the Orange County line at Long Beach to the Ventura County line. Examples of these projects included the Long Beach-County Courthouse and Civic Center, Torrance-County Courthouse and Civic Center, Malibu Civic Center, Santa Monica Court Building and the Compton County Civic Center.

In 1969 Chace spearheaded the effort to separate the operation of the county's beaches from

the Department of Parks and Recreation and create a new Department of Beaches and Harbors. The results of this action proved a boon to the Southland in the form of 8.5 miles of "new" beaches (increasing Los Angeles County beach areas by 20 per cent), complete with lifeguard service, beach maintenance, additional restroom facilities, beautification through the removal of all telephone and power poles and overhead lines, and beach patrols.

His credits included membership in the Kiwanis Club, Long Beach Builders Exchange, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce, and many other business and civic organizations. He was a lay leader of the California Heights Methodist Church and president of the Armed Services YMCA.

Chace and his wife, Pauline, had two daughters.

On Aug. 22, 1972, Chace died in a car accident. He was 72.

Sources: Los Angeles County records