

BRANDENBURG'S LEGACY: I was blindsided by the news that developer **Lee Brandenburg** had died at age 87 on Dec. 28, just months after the death of his son, **Eric Brandenburg**, at age 61 in March. His name was well known in business circles because of the properties developed by Brandenburg, Staedler & Moore and later, with his son, Brandenburg Properties, but I got to know Lee and his wife, **Diane**, through their contributions to local nonprofits and the arts.

You could spend a year rattling off all the contributions the Brandenburg family made to support the valley over many decades, but whenever I think of Lee Brandenburg, a few things always come to mind. First, there's his golf memorabilia museum at Cinnabar Hills Golf Club, said to be the biggest such collection west of the Mississippi. If you're a fan of golf — or of history — it's a great reason to make the trip to the South San Jose course.

Also on the museum front, the Brandenburgs were also passionate supporters of the plan to create a San Jose Fire Museum. The Brandenburgs donated \$1 million to the museum nonprofit to secure old fire station No. 1 on Market Street in 2015, and Lee and Diane were there personally to deliver an oversize check, even though the ceremony was held on their wedding anniversary. (Lee serenaded his bride there with "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes.") Which brings up my third memory. The Brandenburgs loved big band music, and back when Symphony Silicon Valley had its free Summer Pops series, they would sponsor one of the outdoor concerts and dance on the San Jose State lawn to the sounds of Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller.

Lee Brandenburg's loss will be felt by the community, but he certainly gave us a great deal.