

KEEP SEDONA BEAUTIFUL

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS SINCE 1972

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Preserving the Wonder™

February 16, 2018

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Landscape Magic



Dear KSB Friends,

James Eaton



1927-2018

Jim Eaton - A Sedona Legend (1927-2018)

by Bill Pumphrey

If you have lived in the Sedona area during the last 30 years, you probably came across Jim Eaton at a community or city meeting. Jim was hard to miss, towering at six feet five inches in his trademark suspenders. Maybe you read his KSB column in the Red Rock News, participated in a Sedona Forum, visited the Sedona Historical Museum or were a KSB member. He was ultimately dedicated to our community.

Jim often said his volunteer work "keeps my blood moving".

He was committed to Sedona since his retirement and arrival here in 1986. His life here ranged from fostering the newly incorporated City in 1988, through his various governance roles, to keeping preservation and conservation forefront via Keep Sedona Beautiful. Other than KSB, his friends and family say Jim was proudest of the Historical Commission, and creation of the Sedona Historical Society.

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Interestingly, Jim was KSB President in the mid 90's just after KSB occupied the Pushmataha Center, the property and building received through Ms. Susan Coleman's will. Years later, the center was granted recognition as a Sedona Historical Landmark No. 15.

He enjoyed other things as well. He particularly favored river cruising worldwide, and woodworking. He beautifully handcrafted nearly all of the furniture in his Sedona home, sizing pieces to fit his large stature.

I met Jim in 2001, during the Sedona Academy Forum of that year, where, as an Academy principal, he was leading citizen groups developing solutions for community growth and tourism challenges. Later, I worked with Jim on several KSB Awards of Excellence Programs.

Recalling one particular case, I welcomed his help organizing the new annual Humane Society of Sedona fund raising auctions. A master at event organizing, and using his high-level computer skills, he upgraded our auction event significantly. I chuckle to myself when I recall Jim wildly suggesting a special video of HSS adopted cats and dogs showing on big screens during the pre-auction walk-in segment at the Elks Club. The pet owners kindly donated money to support their pet's on-screen tribute. Jim also insisted on advertising current adoptable animals in the video. Unexpectedly, Jim's effort raised an additional \$1,000.

An icon of Sedona has departed. Jim Eaton certainly left his mark across our community, the region, and not least, at Keep Sedona Beautiful.

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