The passing of Club President Lillian (Lilli) Freeman brings the end of an era for the LADWP Golf Club. Lilli fought long and bravely against illness before finally succumbing. However, her spirit lives on in the memory of Club Members. Feisty, cantankerous, opinionated, talkative and endearing, Lilli could be a handful, but was always sincere in her desire to see that the Club succeed and its Members enjoy that success.

Club Vice President Dave Ho provides the following comments:

Regarding the Club, Lilli “was president for over 25 years and a member nearly 50 years. When she joined the club, there were only four women out of 255 members, about 1.5%. Today, there are 17 women in the club out of 150 members, over 11%. We last saw her at the 2015 Awards Banquet in January. She managed to play some golf even in her early 90’s, still very feisty, a well-known fact to all who knew her. Her patented comment, "Oh sh_t" could be heard all over the course.

Lilli was very out-spoken. She was a strong advocate for women in a "man's game" starting as far back as the early 1970's. She was the oldest president of an SCGA golf club consisting of over 1200 clubs, private and public.”
Yes, that is Lilli with famed golf coach Hank Haney. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Haney at a public event at the TPC Valencia in 2012. Haney was giving those in attendance instruction, including an eager nonagenarian, Lilli. Lilli’s love of the game of golf knew no bounds. For many years Lilli had been responsible as Club President for the planning of the yearly one-week “go-aways,” dear to the hearts of countless attendees.

Club Member Dolly Berry sends along this remembrance:

“George and I met Lilli in the 1970’s when we joined the Golf Club. At that time there were only 2 women in the club. George always remembers when we played in Lilli’s 4-some many years ago and she hit her ball into ice plant. Her partner suggested she take the ball out and take a penalty. In true Lilli fashion she was not about to take a penalty, she was going to hit it out of the ice plant. If anyone has hit their ball into ice plant I am sure you know that hitting the ball out would be a miracle. But Lilli kept on, stroke, stroke, stroke. We don’t remember how many strokes she had or if she finally took a penalty. Lilli had her own mind!

When I began golfing I eventually got to be pretty good (a lot different from today!) and started to win trophies. The first year I won a trophy we were at the banquet and Lilli and I noticed that all the trophies had “men on top.” We said we didn’t want a trophy with a man on top and that women should have a trophy with a women on top. The club began to purchase trophies with women on top. So the women in the club can thank us for the type of trophy they get.

Lilli was one of a kind. She was a very special person and loved being part of the golf club. She will be missed.

In loving memory from Dolly and George.”
As a relative latecomer to the LADWP Golf Club most of my memories of Lilli are from her last, difficult years. However, I played golf with her several times on several golf courses around the country and her indomitable spirit was ever willing, even when the flesh might be a little weak. Many times my wife, Marsha, and I would encounter Lilli shopping at the grocery store. We would stand in the vegetable aisles while Lilli regaled us with the latest in her daily trials and tribulations, sorrows and joys. Both of us, orphans for many years, appreciated the motherly, OK, grandmotherly commentary. Lilli was dear to us both as I know she was to countless Members of the Club whose lives she touched and influenced.

The LADWP Golf Club says “hail and farewell” to its President and spirit.