Retired Helicopter Aerodynamicist Ray Prouty was a private consultant for the helicopter industry with more than 50 years experience. He began his career at Hughes Tool Company and later at Sikorsky Aircraft as a helicopter aerodynamicist. Other positions he held include: Stability and Control specialist, bell Helicopters; Group Engineer-Helicopters/McDonnell Douglas/Boeing Helicopters. He was the author of the "Aerodynamics" column of Rotor and Wing, magazine for more than 20 years and more recently a column in Vertiflite.

Prouty also wrote Helicopter Performance, Stability and Control, a college textbook. He was an honorary fellow of the American Helicopter Society, a member of the board of directors of the Professional Helicopter Association and taught helicopter aerodynamics course throughout the world after retirement.

Prouty held a BS and MS in aeronautical engineering from the University of Washington and an Engineer's degree from Caltech.

Ray was born in 1926 in Boise, Idaho and married Joyce Hoffman of Portland, Oregon. Joyce survives her husband of 56 years. They had two children, Jenny, a dancer and college student who passed away in 1999 and a son Dave, a teacher in Moorpark. Ray's avid interest in local history, geology and botany culminated in a book published last year titled Westlake Village: A City in the Country. Joyce and Ray served as historians of Westlake Village for 25 years.

A luncheon to honor Ray will be held at the First Neighborhood Community Center, 31830 Village Center Rd., Westlake Village, on Sunday, November 16, 2014 from 1-4 p.m. RSVP to raysproutycelebrationsvp@gmail.com

If you wish to make a donation in his honor, please contact the Botanical Garden, 400 W. Gainsborough Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.

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