

# The **MONTEREY COUNTY** Herald

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## Farr's impact felt all over Peninsula, state

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He will be 86 in August, but Fred Farr has lost not a trace of enthusiasm for fighting the good fight. His commitment to a righteous cause remains as firm as his politician's handshake.

Now three decades removed from his 11-year tenure as state Senator from the area, Farr continues to lend not just his name, but considerable political savvy to

### FACES OF CARMEL

a host of worthy causes.

He is self-effacing and quick to share the credit for his many achievements. But Farr, the father of Congressman Sam Farr, D-Carmel, is widely known as an effective champion of the environment and historic preservation.

"This entire area — not just the city of Carmel — would not be the same today, were it not for Fred Farr," Carmel Mayor Ken White says simply.

Among his many successes, Farr:

■ Led the fight to deny a use

permit for a huge oil refinery that would have been built at Moss Landing;

■ Spearheaded a grass-roots campaign to purchase agricultural land at Carmel River and Highway 1 that was slated for intense residential and commercial development;

■ Helped save poet Robinson Jeffers' landmark Tor House as a public trust;

■ Fathered California's scenic highway system;

■ Sponsored legislation to save the mountain lion from extinction at the hands of bounty hunters.

Farr also wrote the legislation that added Pacific Grove's Asilomar Conference Grounds to the state parks system and fought to end capital punishment in California. He was a charter member of the California Coastal Commission.

"I just got involved in things that I thought needed to be done," he said recently. "People need to get involved."

Born in Piedmont, Farr graduated from the University of California at Berkeley and married his college sweetheart, who died in 1969. He practiced law in Seaside



Alan McEwen/The Herald

### Fred Farr

and Carmel and only recently closed his longtime office in the village. He lives quietly in a Hugh Comstock-designed house a few blocks from Carmel Beach.

Sitting in the sunshine on his patio ("I'm allergic to cold weather") Farr observed, "Things are better now than they've been." He added, "but I'm an optimist — I couldn't live in this world at my age as a pessimist.

"Younger people are going to do just fine. We just have to give them the chance."