

# *Grand Marshals - 2023 - Wade and Marilyn Roberts*



*The Swiss Days Grand Marshals for 2023 are Wade and Marilyn Roberts. Wade and Marilyn have spent many years in Santa Clara. They love being a part of such a great community and have given back in many ways.*

*L. Wade Roberts was born in Cedar City, UT to Lester and Lura Roberts. He enjoyed growing up in Cedar City and especially enjoyed playing sports. He attended Cedar High School, and went on to play football for Southern Utah University as a freshman. He then decided to join the army at age 19 and about nine months later he was sent to Vietnam, where he was in the 101st Airborne Division.*

*Meanwhile in Ivins, UT, Marilyn Ence was born into the family of Floyd and Enid Ence. Marilyn was one of the few kids in Ivins that were bussed to West Elementary. She went on to attend Dixie High School. Wade and Marilyn met at a dance. They fell in love and were married on May 7, 1971.*

*Wade and Marilyn started their married life living in St George. Wade started attending Dixie College when he was asked to umpire one of their baseball games. It was a double-header and between games he*

*went from umpire to being asked to coach third base! Soon after that, he was asked to help coach the college football team. This turned into a long coaching career of 27 years at Dixie College, coaching with Lee Bunnell and Greg Croshaw. Wade was also instrumental in helping start the World Senior Games. He was in charge of the basketball and baseball events in the first years.*

*In 1977 Wade and Marilyn moved to Santa Clara in a home they built on Santa Clara Drive. They raised their two children, Travis and Kaci, in this home and lived there for 33 years. Marilyn had been working as an aide at Santa Clara Elementary and after 8 years was able to move into the position of school librarian. She felt so lucky to have this job as she got to know every student that attended that school over her 24 years as librarian.*

*Fifteen years after finishing his army service, Wade decided to once again join the military and take a full-time position with the National Guard. He was a part of the 2-222nd Field Artillery Battalion, aka the "Triple Deuce." He spent a year in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although Wade officially retired in February, 2007, he still provides much service assisting with military funerals, proper flag burnings, and various ceremonies and memorials. Wade and Marilyn helped establish the Santa Clara Veterans Memorial at the Santa Clara Cemetery. They participate in Wreaths Across America, and place flags on military graves for holidays.*

*Marilyn has enjoyed bowling for many years. She is part of a league, and competes each year at the World Senior Games. Marilyn was part of the group that started the Swiss Days 5k, which has grown into a much loved tradition for many people. She also volunteers at the Santa Clara History Museum. Wade and Marilyn enjoy spending any time they can with their children and grandchildren. They feel so lucky to have them all in Santa Clara!*

*Wade and Marilyn both agree that it's the people of Santa Clara that make it such a great place to live. From the time they first moved here, they often walked out the front door to find tomatoes, corn, peaches, and all sorts of goodies left by neighbors. Now that they have moved to a different neighborhood in Santa Clara, they have found that the same sense of community exists there as well. They agree that the community spirit is strong in Santa Clara, and feel grateful to be a part of such a wonderful city!*