

SWISS DAYS 2025

Grand Marshals

DOUGLAS HORACE & JILL JENSEN MCARTHUR



Douglas Horace and Jill Jensen McArthur have been cherished residents of the Santa Clara community for decades. Doug grew up helping his mother run the Santa Clara Mercantile, which his parents purchased in 1945 from Ethel's father, Adolph Hafen, while his father, Horace, served as the County Treasurer. One memorable afternoon, when Doug was just eight years old, he was left in charge of the store while his parents went fishing. A moment that foreshadowed a lifetime of service and responsibility.

Jill Jensen McArthur grew up in Las Vegas, Nevada, but her mother's sister lived next door to the McArthurs in Santa Clara, allowing Doug and Jill to meet at an early age. Their first official date came when they were seniors in high school. Doug's Aunt Ruth bribed him to ask Jill out by offering her 1956 Ford convertible so he could take Jill to the drive-in movie. Their connection grew strong, and they were married on June 30, 1960. At the time, Santa Clara had a population of approximately 300, and Doug and Jill became the town's youngest married couple for the next decade. Together they raised four children. Natalie, Wendy, Holly, and Tim, and are now the proud grandparents of twelve and great grandparents of eighteen. They were so happy to be able to raise their family in a place where everyone looked out for each other.

Service and community have always been at the heart of Doug and Jill's lives. Doug continued running the "Merc" until they sold it in 1986, cherishing the camaraderie with his customers. The store was truly the social hub of the town. Doug recalls carrying charge accounts for the people of Santa Clara, never losing a penny because everyone was honest and always paid what they owed. What he missed most after selling the store was visiting with the people. Jill worked alongside Doug on Saturdays while raising their family, always finding time to help others. She organized and helped prepare many funeral dinners for local families. Both Jill and Doug became known for visiting the elderly, something they joke about now because they are the same age as those they once visited. They have assisted neighbors, helped shuttle grandchildren and great-grandchildren to countless activities, and Doug has even tilled fields for neighbors with his Kubota tractor. They have also been deeply involved with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving two missions at Heber Valley Girls Camp and one at Deseret Industries in St. George. Doug even learned how to tie quilts, and together they have made hundreds for those in need.

Doug also served twelve years in the National Guard and later as a city councilman under Mayors Earl Tobler and Shelby Frei, helping bring the water line through town and shaping housing policies that remain in effect today. A proud patriot, he deeply loves his country. Jill, meanwhile, is well known for her beautifully decorated front porch and window display which continues to make people who drive by smile. Together they have volunteered at the Santa Clara Museum, continue to visit the sick and lonely, and share a great love for their side-by-side four-wheeling group. They are especially proud of their new side-by-side, which makes outings even more enjoyable.

Jill and Doug embody a life of dedication, service, and charity. Through their example, they have instilled in their children and grandchildren the values of hard work, kindness, and community spirit. Their enduring love for Santa Clara and its residents, along with their unwavering commitment to helping others, make them the perfect Grand Marshals for the 2025 Swiss Days celebration.