



## A.J. (Tony) Coco

Tony was born in Rochester, N.Y. He completed his sophomore year at the University of Arizona in Tucson, then decided to see the world “while he was young”. He served for three years as an Electronic Technician aboard the battleship USS Iowa and has traveled to Europe, Africa, China, Australia, New Zealand, South America, and the Middle East.

After receiving his BS in electrical engineering, Tony married, moved to Burbank and earned his commission as a naval intelligence officer, retiring as Lieutenant Commander some years later. During employment by Collins Radio and later Hughes Aircraft, Tony and his wife moved to Costa Mesa and then to Tustin, where his daughter and son were born. He was elected to Tustin City Council the next year (1964, still in his mid-20s,) and served eight years on the council including four consecutive years as Mayor. He created the familiar signs “Work Where You Must but Live and Shop in Tustin”. In 1976, Tony was selected as Tustin Area Man of the Year.

LCDR Coco earned a California RE Broker’s license and the MBA from CSU Fullerton, and passed the California Bar Exam and the federal Patent Attorney exam both on the first try. He was awarded an Outstanding Alumnus honor by the U of A and is a Life Member of Mensa. He ran a patent law practice, retiring from that on doctor’s orders to enjoy his community service as board member and/or officer of several Tustin Area organizations including Tustin Area Historical Society, Tustin Host Lions Club, and Order of Sons of Italy in America.

Tony was blessed with two stepdaughters, and now has seven grandchildren from the four children. Tony currently does the Sunday NY Times crossword, home grows tomatoes, avocados and figs, and takes enrichment courses (Hebrew, bagpipes, music history, computers, Tai Chi, etc., (not all at the same time)) to keep the ol’ brain active.

