

# Gratitude

Creating a healthy community. Together.

SEQUOIA HOSPITAL FOUNDATION | SPECIAL EDITION | SPRING 2022



## Sharing of Appreciation

Dear Friends of Sequoia,

We are honored to dedicate this issue of Gratitude to an individual who is so near and dear to the hearts of Sequoia Hospital and the Foundation — Gloria Kennett. As current and former Foundation Board chairs, we are honored to join in the celebration of Gloria's 100th birthday.

Gloria has been part of the Sequoia family since the beginning. Her late husband, William Kennett, MD, began his career in obstetrics at Sequoia in 1951. Through Gloria's involvement with the hospital, she and a group of friends founded the Sequoia Hospital Foundation in 1982. She and Bill not only organized the first Invitational Golf Tournament, but Gloria also co-chaired the New Sequoia Hospital Campaign to build our beautiful patient pavilion that opened its doors in 2014.



Gloria has always generously given her time, talent, and treasure, serving on our board and as board chair from 7/1/12 to 6/30/14. Most notably, after Bill's passing, she began to focus on raising scholarship funds for nursing students in his memory. To date, this program has raised \$2,250,000 and awarded \$1,350,000 in scholarships.

If Sequoia Hospital had a matriarch, Gloria would be the grande dame. We raise our glasses to celebrate and thank Gloria for her dedication and love for our Sequoia Hospital.

Bob O'Donnell

Joan Ulibarri

Ken Tehaney

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Chair

Ken Tehaney

#### Vice Chair

Beverly Joyce, MD

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Paraag Marathe

#### Members-at-Large

Lisa Brennan  
Thomas Cortopassi  
Ivette Esserman  
Sandy Ferrando  
Mara Giattina, MD  
Bill Graham  
Ted Hannig, JD  
Sylvia Nelson  
Bahman Nouri, MD  
Julie San Filippo  
Marisa San Filippo, JD  
Marylue Timpson  
Darlene Woodson

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Bonnie Addario  
Marty Bernard, RN  
Denise S. Brown, MD  
Luis Castro, MD  
Andrew A. Cresci  
Robert Dean  
Deanna S. Dooley  
Nancy Goldcamp  
Frank L. Hannig, Jr.  
Gloria Kennett  
Melissa H. Kong, MD  
David Larwood  
Jane B. Marmor, MD  
Martin S. Miller  
Guillermo (Memo) Morantes  
Julie O'Callahan, MD  
Robert O'Donnell  
Frank C. Parcell, III  
Michael E. Pitts  
Paula Uccelli  
Joan Ulibarri  
Marie C. Zahn

### EMERITUS DIRECTORS

Arthur J. Faro  
Vincent Gaudiani, MD  
C. Thomas Gilman  
Malcolm MacNaughton, Jr.

### FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

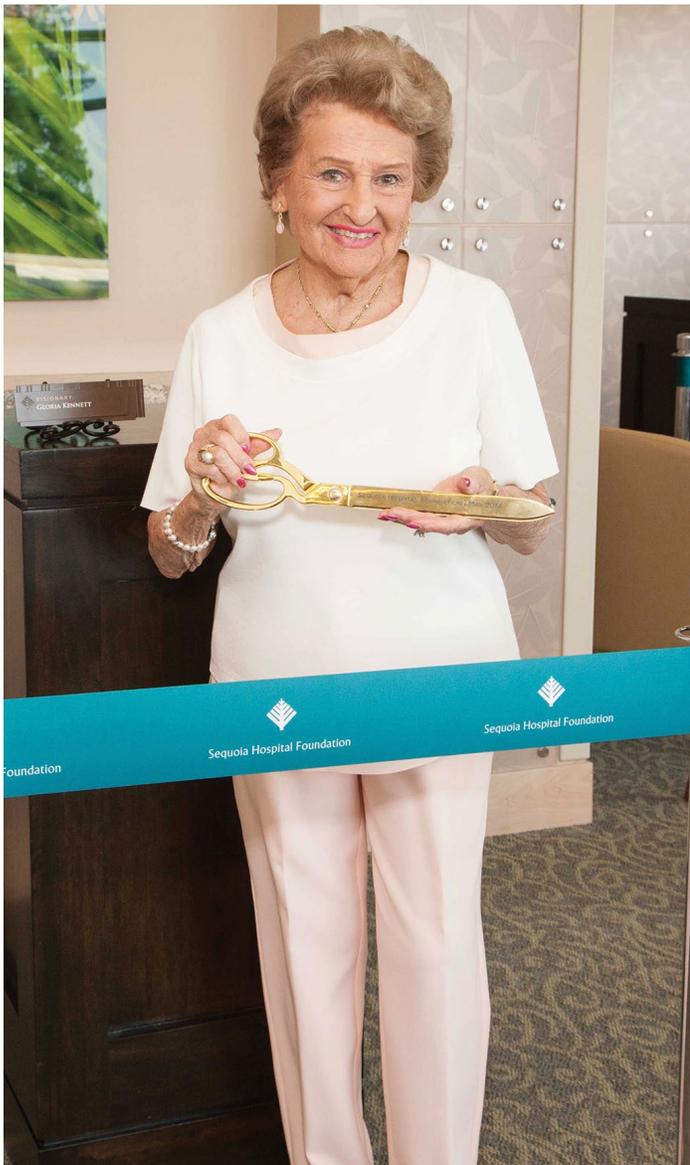
Jennifer Svihus, CFRE

## Stay Connected!

@SequoiaHospitalFoundation

#SequoiaHospitalFoundation





Dear Friends,

Sequoia Hospital is honored to celebrate Gloria Kennett's 100th birthday, and to recognize the decades of support she has provided to our hospital. Gloria has accomplished so much for our community over many years — so on behalf of the Sequoia Hospital board, Dignity Health and CommonSpirit Health, we are honoring her with Sequoia's Lifetime Achievement Award, for her many acts of humankindness..

One of Gloria's most significant contributions to health care was the creation of the William Kennett Memorial Nursing Scholarship, through Sequoia Hospital Foundation. What started as a single scholarship in 2005 has continued to grow, and this year we awarded our 122nd scholarship.

A person like Gloria only comes around once in a lifetime. Our sincerest wish for Gloria's 100th birthday is that she knows just how much she means to all of us at Sequoia Hospital.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink on a teal background, appearing to read 'Bill Graham'.

Bill Graham  
President/CEO  
Sequoia Hospital

## Celebrating an Extraordinary Philanthropist

**Sequoia Hospital Foundation honors Gloria Kennett's milestone 100th birthday and her leadership role in keeping the hospital at the forefront of excellence.**

Devoted to family, friends and the good of the community, Gloria is the best example of a good citizen. She has been a dedicated and generous donor to the Sequoia Hospital Foundation for many years while serving on the board or leading campaigns to improve healthcare services.

When Gloria blows out the candles at her 100th birthday celebration in March, she will be surrounded by family, friends and the hospital community at an event to raise funds for nursing education hosted by the Sequoia Hospital Foundation. It's a fitting tribute for a community leader who has devoted much of her life to benefit nurses, hospital patients and their families.

"It's an honor to celebrate Gloria and her milestone birthday. Her belief and investment in our hospital mission have made a profound difference for our patients, staff and physicians," says Jennifer Svihus, President and Chief Philanthropy Officer of Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

Gloria has been closely involved with non-profit Sequoia Hospital for all of its 72-year history. Her late husband William Kennett, MD, began his career in obstetrics and gynecology at Sequoia in 1951. In 1982, the Kennetts, along with friends, founded the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

Reflecting on reaching age 100, Gloria says family and friends mean everything. She has six children, twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren including many who live locally. Watching them grow has brought her great joy and purpose. Gloria's secrets to a long life include taking care of herself which includes daily exercise and never to over-indulge. She also credits having good genes. "But it's also important to maintain a positive attitude and take an active interest in the community and broader world."

**"My interest in philanthropy began when I started my own family. Being a parent opened my eyes to needs in the community and projects seeking support including schools, libraries, and healthcare," reflects Gloria.**

"My husband's role as a doctor made me aware of the vital importance of helping to care about patients by ensuring that Sequoia Hospital offers the latest equipment and facilities."

Gloria's commitment to philanthropy is rooted in her sincere desire to care for people who need help. While she supports many charities in this region, her favorite is Sequoia Hospital.

"I take pride in telling friends and potential donors that the entire staff at the hospital goes the extra mile to make a special effort to take care of patients. It sets us apart from other hospitals in the region. Our fine reputation is a mix of outstanding services and a genuine caring spirit."

When reviewing her fundraising efforts, Gloria declares her role leading a patient pavilion campaign as her most important philanthropic achievement. She also takes great pride in the Foundation Golf Tournament and the Dr. William Kennett Memorial Nursing Scholarship Program, which Gloria established following her husband's death in 2004. The program has raised more than \$2 million, supported 122 nurses, and is now endowed to ensure funding of four scholarships perpetually.

Gloria named computers the most significant invention during her 100 years. "Technology has changed the entire world and also brought many improvements to life-saving medical care, all the more reason we need significant philanthropic support to keep Sequoia Hospital equipped with the latest tools."

When seeking charitable support for Sequoia, Gloria tells donors that their families and friends are all going to need the hospital at some point in their lives. "Every new idea and invention that improves healthcare costs money. My advice to younger donors is to learn as much as you can about the cause you're supporting. With knowledge comes a clear understanding of the needs and the passion to help."

Reflecting on a lifetime of helping others, Gloria says giving is a fulfilling and rewarding experience, as you always get more than you give.

"Working with so many others, we have greatly improved the hospital. Fundraising success comes when you believe in the cause, the project, and believe in yourself. Our collective service on behalf of the hospital is a great achievement and gives me great joy," adds Gloria. "I'm pleased that my son Ken Tehaney now serves as chair of the foundation board and hope other busy community leaders will come forward to help the hospital thrive in the future."

"Through the extraordinary generosity and leadership of Gloria, philanthropy is providing an important source of funding for our exceptional caregivers to bring medical advances to our community," Sequoia Hospital President Bill Graham adds. "Her long-time caring, giving and active involvement is an inspiring legacy that has helped transform Sequoia. Her tremendous generosity, goodwill, community spirit and service are greatly admired by the entire hospital family and the patients we serve."

*"Thank you Gloria for the opportunity you provided me over 10 years ago. It remains with me today as I go about my daily patient care. It remains with me in wanting to pay it forward and give towards the scholarship fund so future students can come through the program and come to work at Sequoia and continue to provide family oriented care."*

**Elissa Hirschmann, RN  
ICU Nurse, 2010 – Present  
Kennett Scholarship Recipient 2009**

## **We Appreciate Your Support**

To make a gift please use the enclosed form or scan this code with your mobile device to make an online donation at

[sequoiahospitalfoundation.org](http://sequoiahospitalfoundation.org)



## 2021 Dr. William Kennett Memorial Nursing Scholarship Awards Reception

The Sequoia Hospital Foundation was honored to celebrate the sixteen recipients of the 2021 Dr. William Kennett Memorial Nursing Scholarship awards with a virtual reception on January 23, 2022.

The event, which also recognized the generous donors who made their scholarships possible, brought together the Foundation and hospital boards, San Francisco State University, clinical educators, and family of this year's recipients.

The evening's scholarships, totaling \$200,000 were granted in Dr. Kennett's name and in the name of the individual awards' sponsors. Since the program's inception in 2005, 122 scholarships have been granted for a total of \$1,352,000 in support of education for the next generation of community nurses.

Before the awarding of the scholarships, Gloria addressed the evening's guests to talk about the history of the scholarship program as well as her late husband, Dr. William Kennett for whom it is named. Elaine Mussleman, RN, PhD, CNE, Director of the San Francisco State University School of Nursing, spoke briefly about the students' education and training. The recipients were then given the opportunity to connect with their scholarship sponsor in individual break out rooms.

**Questions about the application process?** For more information on the Dr. William Kennett Memorial Nursing Scholarship please contact Taylor Liberator at [Taylor.Liberator@DignityHealth.org](mailto:Taylor.Liberator@DignityHealth.org) or visit [sequoiahospitalfoundation.org/kennettscholarship](http://sequoiahospitalfoundation.org/kennettscholarship)



## Reach Your Philanthropic Goals with a Planned Gift

By including Sequoia Hospital Foundation in your estate plans, you are also leaving your thumbprint on the future of the hospital.

Your legacy will help Sequoia Hospital write its next innovative chapter so we can continue to live up to the high standards of care set forth by its founders decades ago.

When you make a gift from your will or trust, you'll be welcomed into the 1950 Sequoia Society. Join other supporters and friends in our community who have provided for Sequoia Hospital's future and important mission through an estate or planned gift.

Let us help you make the gift that's right for you. Contact Jennifer at [Jennifer.Svihus@DignityHealth.org](mailto:Jennifer.Svihus@DignityHealth.org) or call (650) 367-5657.

## Upcoming Events

**August 27, 2022:** Sequoia's Hearts of the Hospital presents Boots and Bling



**September 12, 2022:** Annual Steven San Filippo Memorial Invitational Golf Tournament



\$4M GOAL

\$3.8M RAISED

## Imaging for Tomorrow — Campaign Update

# 95 percent of the goal raised

in support of Sequoia's initiative to purchase a Siemens SOMATOM Drive Dual-Source CT Scanner, providing advanced imaging across specialties.

Our Imaging for Tomorrow campaign is nearing completion and is a wonderful example of our community coming together to make a difference. We thank you for ensuring our caregivers can continue to provide exceptional health care, now and in the future. If you wish to make a gift to help raise the final \$200,000, call Jennifer at (650) 367-5712 or give online at [sequoiahospitalfoundation.org](http://sequoiahospitalfoundation.org)