Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

President Harry S. Truman once said, “It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit.” With that in mind, let me recount some of the accomplishments at the Lakewood Water District over the last 38 years:

--7 water storage tank upgrades
--7 new treatment facilities and wells
--5 new wholesale contracts (for Steilacoom, Summit, Rainier View, Spanaway, and Fergrove)
--Acquisition of the Abitibi water rights (6 million gallons per day)
--Inception and completion of the Ponders water treatment facility, using EPA grants
--Inception and approval of a 50-year program to upgrade and replace 180 miles of water mains
--Inception of the multi-million-dollar wholesale transmission line, which will be completed soon and result in millions of dollars in wholesale water sales for the District, helping us to keep rates low for our Lakewood customers. And with all of that, the Lakewood Water District has the lowest water rates of any utility in the state with more than 16,000 connections.

That represents some great achievements, with credit to many. One who should receive a great deal of this credit at the LWD is the man who has been a Lakewood Water Commissioner for the last 38 years and presided as president for 33 of those years. He won re-election 6 times. And yet Lawrence R. Ghilarucci, Jr. (Larry) does not, will not, and has not taken any of that credit. Ask him, and he’ll deflect to everyone but himself. Larry was serving his community, doing the best he could on behalf of Lakewood’s water customers.

But all good things must end, and Larry’s remarkable 38-year tenure as a Lakewood Water Commissioner has concluded. We could not be more thankful for all that Larry did for the District, and for Lakewood in general.

With Larry’s resignation this past June 7, the remaining board members voted unanimously to appoint Gary Barton to serve the remainder of Larry’s term. Gary is retired from 30 years as a hydrogeologist and is excited to bring his knowledge of water resources to the District. After his appointment, John Korso, Jr. was elected the new President of the Board of Commissioners.

Larry didn’t care who got the credit. But today, we remember all the hours Larry Ghilarucci devoted to the Lakewood Water District and all the progress made during his time in office. And we say, “Thank you, Larry.”

Larry left big shoes to fill and footsteps to walk in, but he taught us well in word and deed; so we are well prepared. We continue to be committed to you, our customers, and to our mission to provide you “...with water service that meets or exceeds all water quality standards, maintaining policies and practices that benefit the health and welfare of the community.”

Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners
Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr. Tank Dedication & Reception

The District Board of Commissioners, staff, friends, family, and colleagues gathered at the Lakewood Water District tank site on Steilacoom Boulevard on Friday, September 13, at 2 p.m. for a very special and historical occasion—the dedication of that tank to Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr. (Larry). This honor was bestowed upon Larry by the Board of Commissioners in tribute and gratitude to him for his 38 years of service on the Board, first as Vice President and Assistant Secretary, and then as President for the last 33 years.

A commemorative bronze plate was unveiled, reading ...

Prior to the unveiling, Mr. Ghilarducci was presented with a replica of the bronze plate.

A reception followed at the District office, featuring a rolling PowerPoint presentation and many stories, tributes, and sharings, all depicting and reflecting the impacts and accomplishments of Larry’s tenure with the District. At the conclusion of the reception, the General Manager and Board of Commissioners presented a clock to Mr. Ghilarducci, mounted in an old 1 ½-inch Neptune meter. The inscription on the brass plate mounted on the base read, “L. R. Ghilarducci, Jr., with great respect, admiration, & appreciation from your Lakewood Water District Staff Family.”

The Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr. Tank was constructed in 1986, just months after Larry was elected as President of the Board of Commissioners. How apropos for the first tank constructed under Mr. Ghilarducci’s leadership as President to be dedicated to him in his honor 33 years later at the time of his retirement. This 3.52M-gallon tank, as the life and service of Mr. Ghilarducci, has been and will continue to be pivotal to the District’s system and operations. Amongst other things, the Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr. Tank supports two of the District’s major pressure zones and its wholesale water supply, serving our retail and wholesale customers now and for years to come.

Stay tuned...

New changes coming in November to our front office addressing safety concerns for staff and customers!