

# Former Santa Cruz mayor dies

mayors R.P. 11-22-11  
Scott Kennedy co-founded

✓Resource Center for Nonviolence

By TARMO HANNULA

OF THE REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

Scott Kennedy, a two-time Santa Cruz mayor and co-founder of the Resource Center for Nonviolence, died Saturday at his Santa Cruz home. He was 62.

A long-standing major figure in the political arena and in the community of nonviolent agendas in Santa Cruz and around the world, Kennedy served on the City Council from 1991-98 and 2001-04, and served as mayor



Kennedy

in 1994 and 2004.

"I was on City Council together with Scott for eight years," councilwoman Katherine Beiers said. "He was very involved and he was very smart, one of the smartest people I've ever met. This is a terrible loss. He was determined and sometime abrupt, but he moved things along. And Scott had incredible wit — he was just so clever. His passing is a huge loss to his family and the whole community. I'm sure we'll reflect on it tomorrow in our council meeting."

Beiers said she once traveled to Vietnam with Kennedy

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## KENNEDY

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in a delegation of seven people based on an invitation from Vietnam veterans. Their goal was to take medical supplies and money to help children at an orphanage who were dealing with medical issues stemming from Agent Orange, a defoliant used by the U.S. military in a decade-long herbicidal warfare program in Vietnam.

Kennedy co-founded the Resource Center for Nonviolence in 1976 with Peter Klotz-Chamberlain. The two met as freshmen at UC Santa Cruz.

"Scott meant the world to me," Klotz-Chamberlain said. "We really developed our understanding of nonviolence together — I mean nonviolence as a world view and a way of life. Ever since I met him, we have strategized many nonviolent actions together. He had many gifts and amazing energy. Scott would interrupt work to respond to anybody's personal need, day or night."

Klotz-Chamberlain said work had just wrapped up on major renovation of a new location for the Resource Center just a few

blocks away from the current Broadway Street address.

"Scott was very happy about getting a better facility," Klotz-Chamberlain said. "And we just completed the renovation Thursday."

The Resource Center is now located in a former church at 612 Ocean St.

"It's going to be a great location for continuing our community organizing and events," she said. "There's an auditorium in the building that can hold 150-200 people."

Klotz-Chamberlain said the mission of the Resource Center is to promote and engage in nonviolent action as advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King and Gandhi and to serve as a resource and training center for local and international nonviolent movements.

Assemblyman Bill Monning said Kennedy led more than 38 delegations to the Middle East to help promote dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis.

"He was a peace-maker and a war resister," Monning said. "Our hearts go out to his wife and children. I've considered Scott a friend for over two decades. He will be missed."

Klotz-Chamberlain said Ken-

nedy had had recent medical issues, including hip problems, but his passing came as a sudden shock.

"Our dear friend, co-worker, and co-founder of the Resource Center for Nonviolence Scott Kennedy died Saturday of an apparent heart attack while he was sleeping beside his wife, Kris," a post on the Resource Center's website stated. "He collaborated with many of you in active nonviolent struggles for freedom and justice."

The site also included a message from singer/songwriter and Resource Center for Nonviolence co-founder Joan Baez.

"Scott Kennedy's death is a loss to not only family and friends, but to the larger family of nonviolent soldiers he has taught, shared with, laughed with, and loved," she stated. "I'm fortunate to consider myself a member of his compassionate and passionate army. Not many people manage to make a dent in the world of conflicts, but Scott's work in the Middle East defies all cynicism and hopelessness. May he make the crossing smoothly and joyfully."

Kennedy is survived by his wife, Kris; and three children, Peter, Benjamin and Megan.