

# Former Capitola official John Dixon dead at 65

John Dixon, former Capitola city councilman and county planning commissioner, lost a long bout with cancer Thursday, dying at Stanford Medical Hospital. He was 65.

Mr. Dixon was born in San Francisco, but had lived in Capitola and Aptos for many years. He was an insurance agent and broker for 30 years and owned Farley Insurance Agency in Campbell.

Mr. Dixon last served in the local political arena in 1980 when he finished a two-year appointment as planning commissioner for former Second (Aptos) District Supervisor Marilyn Liddicoat. He declared himself a candidate for the post when Liddicoat decided not to run for re-election, but later withdrew.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for Aptos supervisor in 1976. At the time, Mr. Dixon was a Capitola city councilman, having been elected in 1974. He served there for four years and combined forces with fellow conservative Tom Mason to form what

would become known as the Mason-Dixon line.

Mr. Dixon also served for four years on the Local Agency Formation Commission and was a member of the Central Coast Regional Coastal Commission. He was a trustee for nine years on the Campbell Union High School District Board and twice served as its president.

It was in 1974 that Mr. Dixon first learned he had cancer. He underwent major surgery for removal of a knee tumor that left him minus most of his left leg.

Liddicoat lauded his courage in still being active in public office. "That type of dedication is rare," she said.

While Liddicoat said her former planning commissioner could be labeled a conservative, she added, "John was more of a realist. He was a businessman and looked at running government like a business. John's was a very well-balanced approach."