



**SUPERVISOR LISA BARTLETT, FIFTH DISTRICT**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SUPERVISOR LISA BARTLETT SPEARHEADS EFFORT TO HONOR THE LATE DON HANSEN**

*Supervisor Bartlett collaborates with Dana Point Harbor to name the Courtyard located at Dana Wharf in Dana Point Harbor Hansen Plaza*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGE COUNTY, CA (02/18/2022 – The courtyard located at Dana Wharf in Dana Point Harbor will soon be named Hansen Plaza in honor of the late Don Hansen (1934-2022), founder of Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching.

Since the passing of Don Hansen of January 5, Fifth District Supervisor, Lisa Bartlett, has been working closely with Dana Point Harbor Partners to find a way to permanently honor Don Hansen for his many contributions to the community.

*“Don Hansen was synonymous with whale-watching and sportfishing in Dana Point,” said Supervisor Lisa Bartlett. “His passion for sharing his love of the ocean and these amazing creatures with residents and visitors alike, put Dana Point on the map and left an indelible mark on our community.”*

While the renaming of a street in Dana Point Harbor was originally discussed, the proximity of Hansen Plaza to Dana Wharf Sportfishing & Whale Watching seemed more fitting and is supported by the Hansen family.

*“Our family loves the idea of a Hansen Plaza in honor of our father Don Hansen,” said Donna Kalez, Hansen’s daughter. “Friends, family and visitors alike can gather at the Hansen Plaza and a plaque will explain to all what his contributions meant to the community,” she said. “Our family wishes to thank Supervisor Bartlett for her constant support to make sure that our dad’s memory is very meaningful and ensures his legacy will live on forever through the Hansen Plaza.”*

Hansen founded Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching in 1971 and was a pioneer for whale watching and sportfishing in Southern California. The Hansen Plaza will be dedicated to memorializing Don Hansen and sharing the deep impact he had on the Dana Point community and beyond. A bronze plaque will be placed to officially rename the area Hansen Plaza.

Visitors to the Harbor, and guests departing on whale watching or fishing adventures, will be able to read the plaque and learn about Don Hansen's legacy.

*"It is important that visitors know the story of Don Hansen, and that much of what they see today in the Harbor would not exist without him." said Bryon Ward, President of Burnham-Ward Properties and Partner of Dana Point Harbor Partners. "We will ensure that the plaque we create to honor Mr. Hansen will be incorporated into the Harbor revitalization so that future generations know Don Hansen's story and the legacy he left behind."*

A dedication ceremony for Hansen Plaza is being planned, details of which will be forthcoming. This year's Festival of Whales on March 5 & 6 is also dedicated in memory of Don Hansen.

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*Supervisor Lisa Bartlett represents the Fifth Supervisorial District which includes the cities of Aliso Viejo, Costa Mesa, Dana Point, a large portion of Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Newport Beach, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, as well as the unincorporated communities of Coto de Caza, Emerald Bay, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, Rancho Mission Viejo, Stonecliffe and Wagon Wheel*