

Fond Farewell: Colleagues remember Cal Holman



Submitted photo

Calvin Holman, 76, and wife, Elizabeth, stand in their driveway last summer before preparing to go on vacation. Mr. Holman, who served as a state legislator from 1975-1985 in what was then Legislative District 24 in North Phoenix, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale, was killed Dec. 28 when his vehicle was struck by two motorists travelling more than 70 mph on Scottsdale Road near Eastwood Drive.

Police investigate collision

By Zach Colick

Independent Newspapers

Former and current colleagues as well as town officials expressed gratitude and sympathy toward a former state legislator who was killed in a three-car accident Dec. 28, while turning onto a street that led to his home.

An investigation is still ongoing concerning the exact speeds of the drivers who police suspect were traveling in excess of 70 mph northbound on Scottsdale Road when they slammed into a 1973 Camaro driven by former state Rep. Calvin Holman. The speed limit on that stretch of Scottsdale Road is 45 mph.

Mr. Holman, 76, who served as a legislator from 1975-85 in what was then Legislative District 24 in North Phoenix, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale, was ejected on impact and died at the scene while attempting to make a left-hand turn on Eastwood Drive.

The Scottsdale Police Department's vehicular crimes investigator said the speed of the motorists involved in last month's three-car fatal collision is still under investigation and "racing" has not been listed on the report, according to Officer Dave Pubins.

"The investigation revolves around the speed," Mr. Pubins said. "I asked the investigator whether he is going to list (racing) and he said 'no.'"

Drivers Robert Van Brakel, 42, of Phoenix, and Travis

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— John Wintersteen, Paradise Valley Police Chief

Aronica, 25, of Michigan, were each arrested on one count of second-degree murder. A white Mercedes sedan, driven by Mr. Van Brakel, came to rest in the roadway about 75 feet from the intersection. He was not seriously injured, according to a report on the Scottsdale Police Department's Web site.

The report stated a Ford Mustang, driven by Mr. Aronica, careened over the east sidewalk, landing upside down in the ditch east of Scottsdale Road. He sustained a broken arm and a 25-year-old female passenger also sustained a minor injury.

Mr. Van Brakel was arrested when he was released from Scottsdale Healthcare-Shea and Mr. Aronica was arrested when he was released from Scottsdale Healthcare-Osborn. They each posted \$25,000 bond and were released from county jail, the report stated.

Town officials said Mr. Holman was someone dedicated to his constituents, and who will be missed for his hard work and personal relationships he developed over the years.

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in what he thought ought to be done," said Paradise Valley Police Chief John Wintersteen. "He was very pleasant even when he disagreed on things."

The police chief, who served as a staff member with Mr. Holman under the town's now defunct Fire Protection Review Committee, said his death is a loss for his family as well as a tragedy for the two suspects' families.

"He was still a productive citizen, but this is one of those cases where tragedy is spread through three families that was absolutely ridiculous," he said.

District 11 Sen. Barbara Leff (R-Paradise Valley) said Mr. Hol-

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