

# GRAND MARSHAL

## Bobby Acquistapace



In 1961, the year Clarence Minetti was the Exalted Ruler, Bobby rode his horse in the Elks Rodeo Parade as the Jr. Grand Marshal; now 50 years later, he is honored to be the Grand Marshal of the Elks Parade.

Bobby traces his roots back to the pioneer Campodonico Family, who settled in Guadalupe in 1886. Bobby graduated from high school at The Thacher School in Ojai in 1968 and University of California, Davis in 1972. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army and was discharged as a Captain after 8 years in the Reserves.

After college and his short stint in the Army, Bobby joined his father in the insurance business, Acquistapace Insurance, in 1973 on Church Street. In 1997, he joined with Pollard and Cossa and formed InWest Insurance Services. In 2005, InWest merged with Tolman & Wiker in Ventura, forming the 60th largest independently owned insurance agency in the United States.

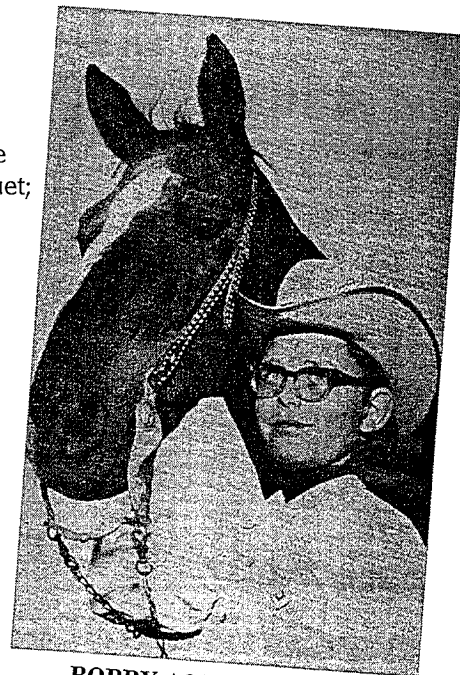
Thanks to Clarence Minetti, Butch Simas and Bobby's father, Leo; Bobby became the Chairman of the Elks Rodeo Parade in 1977, a job he held until he officially retired in 2009, after 33 years. In 2004, he was instrumental in reinstating the Kid's Mini-Rodeo that is enjoyed by thousands of 3rd and 4th graders from throughout the local area. Since 2002, he and his Parade Committee have donated more than \$125,000 from the Parade proceeds back to the community for youth recreation and education.

In addition to 40 years as a Elks Member, Bobby has served on the Elks Recreation Board from 1995 to 1999 and 2006 to 2009.

Bobby has been married to his wife, Wanda, for 38 years. They have three children, a son, Bobby married to Autumn, who is a cattleman in Tepusquet; and 2 daughters, Abby, a research analyst in Culver City, and Christy, a restaurant manager in Pasadena.

In addition to his involvement with the Elks, and membership of many community organizations, his activities include:

- President, The Rotary Club of Santa Maria
- President, Los Alamos Valley Men's Club
- President, Santa Maria Riding & Roping Club
- President, Santa Maria Valley Economic Development Association
- Member, Vaqueros do Los Ranchos
- Waiting List, Rancheros Visitadores



**BOBBY ACQUISTAPACE**  
Junior Parade Marshal and Horse