

Gale M. English - February 28, 1935-March 13, 2011
General Manager - South Indian River Water Control District

Gale English, General Manager of South Indian River Water Control District since 1981, has passed away after a brief illness.

Mr. English had just recently celebrated his 30th year with the District on January 14 and will be profoundly missed by the District's employees, Board of Supervisors, staff, landowners, family and friends.

Mr. English presided over the District from 1981, when the road system was comprised entirely of dirt roads and the drainage system was virtually non-existent. As the District experienced dramatic growth from the 1980s to today, he worked closely with the Board of Supervisors and District Engineer on the construction of the District's drainage systems and on landowner-initiated roadway improvement projects.

Mr. English was instrumental in helping to secure nearly \$6 million in Federal grants for the District from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Federal Emergency Management Agency after hurricanes damaged the District's infrastructure in 2004 and 2005.

Besides his position as District General Manager, he was extremely active in many governmental organizations and agencies. He was currently serving as vice-chairman of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative and the Loxahatchee Council of Governments, and was serving on the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council. He had recently been appointed to the Water Resources Task Force by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. English also was a Circuit Court Mediator for the last seven years and was certified and appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to conduct pre-trial alternative dispute resolution sessions.

In addition, Mr. English had served four years as president of the Florida Association of Special Districts from 1992-1996; was a past-president of the Gold Coast League of Cities and on the board of directors of Florida League of Cities from 1996-1998; was the chairman of the Intergovernmental Coordinating Element for 16 years; was a past-president of Palm Beach County Municipal League; and was a member of the Safety Council of Palm Beach County Executive Board. He was a committee member on the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee and Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan. Furthermore, Mr. English had been appointed by the governor to a two-year term in 1996 on the Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, and served on the board of the Florida Institute of Government. Additionally, he served as Mayor of Mangonia Park through most of the 1990s.

Also, Mr. English completed the Florida League of Cities Leadership Program from the Leadership Florida Institute.

Mr. English was active in the community as well, serving on the Fern House Board of Directors from 1991-1998, and he conducted fund-raising auctions for charitable and civic organizations. He was also very dedicated to his church, Beacon Baptist Church in Jupiter.

Tom Powell, president of the District's Board of Supervisors said, "Gale English was dedicated to the District and worked tirelessly on behalf of its landowners over the last 30 years. We extend our deepest condolences to his family on their loss."

In a recent article for the District's newsletter looking back at his 30 years of service, Mr. English said, "...there has not been one day that I have ever considered leaving the District. I have been privileged over the years to work with excellent and dedicated Board members, as well as outstanding staff and employees. I am honored to have contributed a small part in the development of a unique place to live, which I feel will only get better with time."

Mr. English was a Florida native, born in Fort Meade in 1935. He has been a resident of Palm Beach County since 1951. He served in the U.S. Army as an assistant regimental radio chief during the Korean War from 1954 to 1956.

Mr. English is survived by his wife, Betty English; sons Andrew (Renee) of Salt Springs, FL and Lee of Georgia; stepdaughters, Rhonda (Dan) Gibson of West Palm Beach and Cheryl Smith of Jupiter; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Gale was predeceased by his daughters, Mary Ellen English in 1978 and Cynthia S. Hammer in 2010.

Funeral Arrangements are as follows:

Friends are invited to meet with the family on Friday, March 18 from 3:00-8:00 pm at Royal Palm Funeral Home at 5601 Greenwood Ave, West Palm Beach (just north of 45th/St. Mary's).

The Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 am at Beacon Baptist Church, 11616 Indiantown Road, Jupiter, FL with a viewing from 9:00-10:00 am.

Interment to follow at Royal Palm Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers contributions can be made, to Gideons International, P.O. Box 8373, Jupiter, FL 33468.

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