



## **ELAINE HAGIN**

### **PROFILE**

Elaine Hagin acquired a love for bowling from her mother, Amelia. In fact, they teamed to win the Oakland City Doubles Championship in 1941 when Hagin was 12. She married, moved to Castro Valley in 1962 and soon began passing on her passion to her sons Michael and Peter.

Hagin, who died at age 92 in 2021, spent most of her adult life serving as one of bowling's greatest ambassadors. From getting appointed to the Women's International Bowling Congress Board of Directors in 1973, to being elected the first president of the California Women's Bowling Association, to becoming president of USA Bowling, Hagin held almost all of the sport's highest positions, which eventually led to induction into the United States Bowling Congress Hall of Fame in 2000.

Once dubbed "Bowling's Ultimate Volunteer" by a national magazine, the Castro Valley resident met many famous people on her journey. None bigger than President Bill Clinton when he personally congratulated her for her role in the success of the Bowlers to Veterans Link at a special Veterans Day ceremony at the Arlington Cemetery in Virginia.

The event became even more memorable when Hagin shook her finger at Clinton over his failure to deliver on a promise to take a photo with the BVL group on the bowling lanes at the White House. As the collective ears of the President's Secret Service perked up, cooler heads prevailed.

Three weeks later, a member of the White House staff rang the Hagins' Castro Valley doorbell and hand-delivered a photo of Clinton on the lanes.

In more recent years, Hagin teamed with Billie Jean King to petition the NCAA to make women's bowling a Division I sport for the first time. That task was successfully completed in 2010. "In the (early) Title IX days, she was always doing stuff for women," son Peter recalled

Hagin also found time to bowl some. In 1980, when Peter was a senior at Castro Valley High, they teamed to win the California state title in an event in Moraga called the Family Twosome. Mom and son traveled to Virginia for the nationals, where they placed third, setting a record for cumulative scratch score.

Mom also played a big role in son's future in bowling; Peter is currently the Tournament Director at Earl Anthony's Dublin Bowl.