

SERVED ON CCSF BOARD MORE THAN 29 YEARS

Trustee Robert E. Burton dies suddenly

By Pat Moore

CCSF Public Information Officer

Robert E. Burton, member of the Board of Trustees of City College of San Francisco died Sunday, March 18, 2001. He was 72 years old.

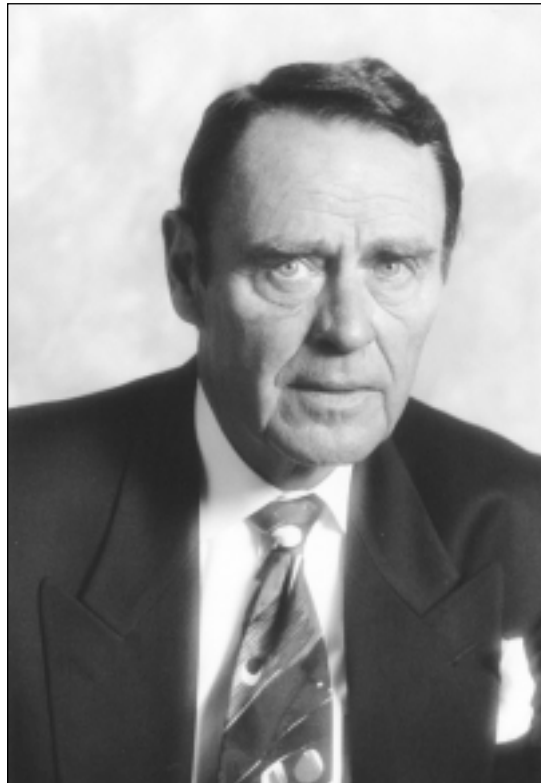
Mr. Burton was first elected to the San Francisco Community College District Board in 1972. He was the longest serving Board member in the history of California community colleges.

A graduate of San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a holder of a General Secondary Education Credential, Mr. Burton was employed as a faculty member at San Quentin Prison from 1957 through 1976.

Mr. Burton was a lifelong Democrat and founding member of the San Francisco Democratic League. He was co-chairman of the voter registration efforts for the California Democratic Party from 1962 to 1982.

At the time of his death, Mr. Burton was a commissioner on the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. He also had served for 15 years on the Prison Industry Board and on two parole boards for the state. Former Gov. **Jerry Brown** appointed him to the adult parole board in 1976, after two commissioners were removed for voting to release **Robert Kennedy's** killer, **Sirhan Sirhan**.

Mr. Burton is survived by his brother, Senator **John Burton**, and a niece, San Francisco Public Defender **Kimiko Burton-Cruz**. His wife of more than four decades, **Shirley Burton** preceded him in death.



ROBERT E. BURTON

Photo by Joyce Benna

"This is a major loss," says Dr. **Natalie Berg**, President of the Board of Trustees. "Bob Burton had phenomenal dedication to City College of San Francisco. He was there to build the Downtown Campus and he was looking forward to the building the new Mission and Chinatown campuses. He served for so many years that we all looked to him for City College's institutional memory. Bob's passing is a tragic loss to the Board, faculty, staff and students.

"It's also a tremendous loss for my husband and me," continued Trustee Berg. "I've known Bob for 25 years. My husband, **Peter Finnegan**, also served on the Board with Bob, and they had been good friends for 30 years. He was so vital and so interested in everything that his sudden death is stunning to all who knew him."

"Trustee Robert Burton's passing is a significant loss for City College," says Dr. **Philip R. Day**,

Jr., City College Chancellor. "His values, philosophy, humanity and his concern and caring for our students is reflected in everything that this college represents as an institution. He will be sorely missed."

"He was my very good friend. I loved him like a brother," said former CCSF Trustee **Robert P. Varni**, who served on the City College Board with Mr. Burton for 12 years (1988-2000).

A memorial service will be held on **Friday, April 6, 2001** at 6 P.M. at the Town Hall, Delancey Street Foundation at 600 Embarcadero Street. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Delancey Street Foundation in Robert Burton's name.