

Katzakian, Mertz honored for service at luncheon

By Marc Lutz
NEWS-SENTINEL BUSINESS EDITOR

Two men were honored at Wednesday's Lodi Association of Realtors Luncheon for their longtime service to Lodi's real estate industry and the community at-large.



Ted Katzakian

Ted Katzakian and Paul Mertz received the Lodi Realtor Hall of Fame Award and Realtor of the Year Award, respectively.

Katzakian, who died unexpectedly in October of 2008, was chosen for the Hall of Fame because of his tireless work. Not only was Katzakian a Lodi Realtor, but he served as a councilman, mayor, planning commissioner and a

past LAR president.

Linda Bush, the immediate past president of the LAR, who presented the award, said that Katzakian never wanted to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, but said, "I think he'd be proud of our decision."



Paul Mertz

Mertz, a past LAR president, who was honored in 2008 with the same award.

Mertz' peers chose him due to his work

Tim Katzakian accepted the award on behalf of his father, remembering how much Ted Katzakian had done for the city, from developing a variety of housing sub-divisions, to co-owning a minor league baseball team.

The Realtor of the Year Award went to Paul

Lodi Association of Realtors 2009 officers and directors

- President:** Ryan Sherman.
- President-elect:** Melanie Pennino.
- Vice president:** Kerry Seuss.
- Secretary-treasurer:** Paul Mertz.
- Immediate past president:** Linda Bush.
- 1 year director:** Bob Blower.
- 2 year director:** Pam Harmon.
- 2 year director:** Diane Gallagher.

— Source: Lodi Association of Realtors.

on the LAR's Web site, his continuous volunteerism and his charitable contributions — all done on his own time.

Mertz said that he had been surprised by the honor last year and was equally surprised by it this year.