



## **LORRAINE PERRY HUNT-BONO (Class OF 1957)**

Since arriving in the Las Vegas Valley with her parents in 1943, Lorraine Hunt-Bono has worn the hats of entertainer, entrepreneur and local and state politician. Those of us that have been in Las Vegas a long time will remember the Pizzeria on East Fremont, the family's first restaurant in Las Vegas, which opened in 1955. Now at the center of Lorraine's life work is the Bootlegger Italian Bistro, which she opened in 1972 at Eastern and Tropicana with her mother and father as partners. Lorraine's idea at that time, since she knew a lot of the strip entertainers that lived in Las Vegas, was to open a jazz club with money she earned from singing on the Strip. Her plan was to get the restaurant organized and then go back to singing, but she never did! Today, the family restaurant, relocated to the South Strip, continues to grow, offering a broad range of Italian dishes and evening live entertainment. Lorraine's mother, "Mama Maria" Perry still works in the kitchen 2 or 3 days a week. She will turn 101 in March of 2018!

After graduating from LVHS, Lorraine attended the Westlake College of Music in Los Angeles. At age 19, she embarked on a professional music career, studied real estate and made her first real estate investment. She left the family business and began performing as a cabaret singer in Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Las Vegas.

After years as a local businesswoman, Hunt entered local politics. She was elected to the Clark County Commission in 1994. She also became the first woman to chair the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority. In 1998 she was elected Lieutenant Governor and served two terms. During that time she also presided over the Nevada Commission on Economic Development and served as vice chair of the Nevada Department of Transportation Board of Directors, the Executive Branch Audit Committee and Executive Committee of the National Lieutenant Governors Association. She also served as vice chair of the Nevada Motion Picture Commission, and has served on the boards of trustees for McCarran International Airport and the University Medical Center. She is an affiliate of the Lou Ruvo Brain Institute and serves as a Nevada Community Board member for Wells Fargo Bank. She was a founder of Continental National Bank, a past director of First Security Bank of Nevada, and served on the Nevada Development Authority, Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, Nevada Hotel-Motel Association, Las Vegas Events, Nevada Restaurant Association and as President and Trustee of St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

She has received numerous awards, among which are the first Governor's Award for Excellence in Business in 1987, first Lifetime Achievement Award for the Governor's Conference on Tourism in 1993, Casino Legends Hall of Fame in 2001, Nevada Restaurateur of the Year in 1992, U. S. Small Business Advocate of the Year in 1989, Educator of the Year for the Nevada Restaurant Association in 2000 and the Governor Mike O'Callaghan Award for Outstanding Achievement in International Relations in 2006.

Lorraine is married to Dennis Bono, recording artist and host of a music-talk variety show in Las Vegas. Together they have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.  
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact [dave@lvhsaa.com](mailto:dave@lvhsaa.com)

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