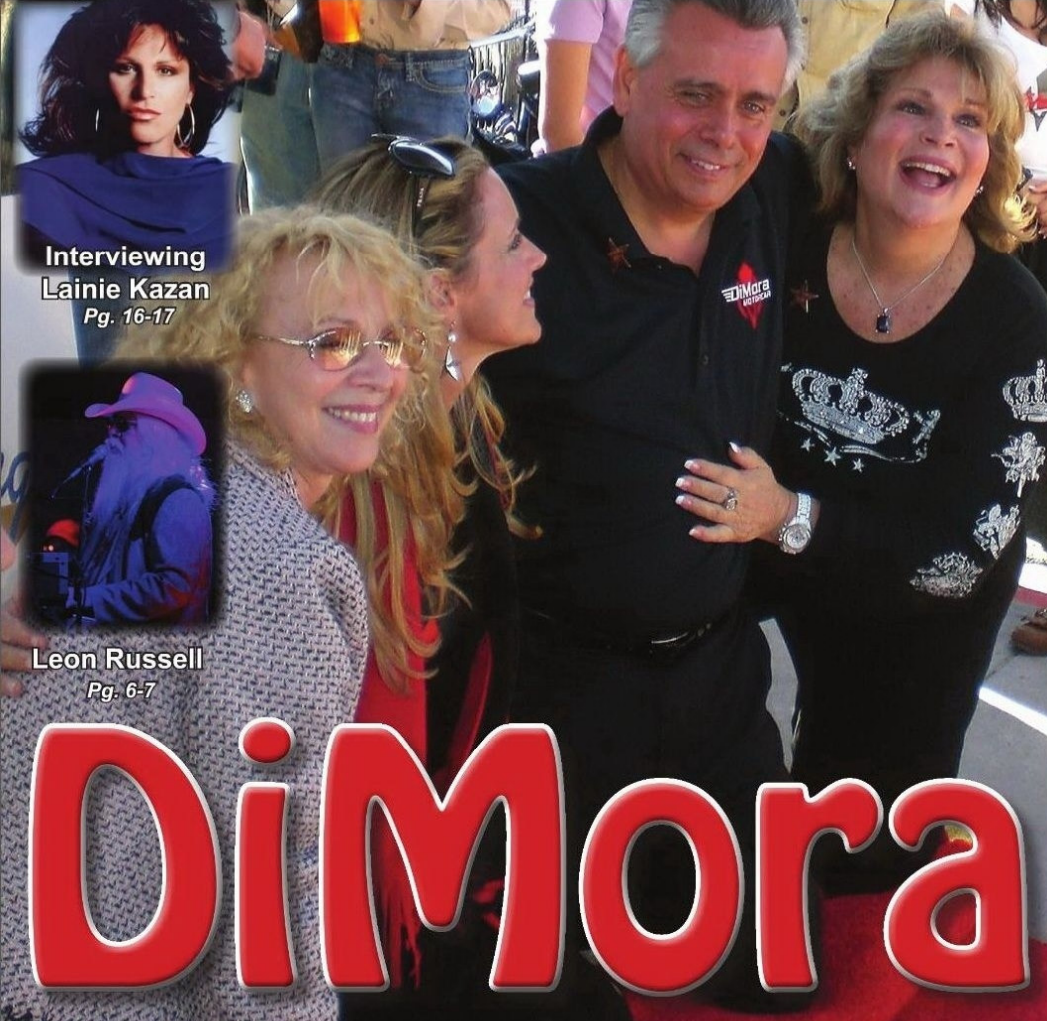


# DESERT LOCAL NEWS<sup>®</sup>

# DiMora

*Entrepreneur, Gets Star-Studded Tribute*



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# DiMora

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LESLIE ANDREWS

**PALM SPRINGS, CA-**

Sir Alfred DiMora, a Palm Springs resident and automobile designer, received a star-studded tribute along with the 325th star along the Palm Springs Walk of Stars on Sunday.

DiMora, 53, is well known amongst Hollywood stars for designing custom-built automobiles. Amongst his celebrity friends who paid tribute to him were Larry Wilcox (CHIPS), Steve Rossi, Bo Hopkins (American Graffiti) and Ernest Borgnine (McHale's Navy) in front of the Palm Canyon Theatre, where his star was placed.

"I've been in the custom car building industry since I was 19, and I build custom motorcycles as well. If you need something expensive, I'm your guy," said DiMora to Desert Local News.

Borgnine, 92, was also honored to celebrate this occasion. "It's a doggone good thing that the people of Palm Springs decided to give this man a star along the walk of fame," he said. "We've

always had a warm relationship and he's worthy of everything this man could want. He's a genius when it comes to building cars on computers."

Wilcox joked about how DiMora was originally cast in CHIPS as "Ponch" but instead wound up with Erik Estrada. "He's contributed with all of his entrepreneurial opportunities. He's the kind of man who thinks big," he said.

DiMora was knighted by the Pope in Vatican City, therefore given the title of "Sir" by the Catholic Church. His passion for cars began at the age of 19 after he worked in a service station during his early teens. He was then given the opportunity to design his own car, which led to the building of his own personal empire. His cars caught the eye of several celebrities, which also include Sylvester Stallone, Wayne Newton, Rod Stewart and the late Farrah Fawcett.

Also, as co-founder and CEO of Starbridge Systems, Inc. in the late

1990's, DiMora built the world's smallest, fastest supercomputer, nicknamed HAL (for hyper algorithmic logic), using field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs). Customers included NASA, the US Air Force, and the National Cancer Institute. DiMora is also recognized for his outstanding contributions to humanitarian efforts, both locally and internationally. His efforts have been geared toward the fight against breast cancer and serious diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's, raising funds for DesertArc, and also to support injured Marines. DiMora's contributions range from fundraising to creating unique ways of using digital media and the new online social networks to increase awareness of these organizations.

After an hour-long ceremony, DiMora, along with his wife, Yvonne, were presented with the star from Board Members of the Palm Springs Walk of Stars Committee, which also include former Wheel of Fortune hostess Susan Stafford.

