

# Fashion standout

By Juliana Goodwin

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Dick DuPuis always stood out. In 1945, he was the first boy in his home economics class. In the Navy, he was the only sailor with a sewing machine in his duffel bag. He dressed his pet squirrel, Alice, in couture.

Now, nearly 81, he got people talking at a senior center when he started quilting with the women.

"I knit, that started a rumble," DuPuis said, seated in a wheelchair in his room at Christian Health Care. "Not only do I knit, I crochet."

DuPuis has always thought in colors, fabrics and threads. He spent decades as a fashion designer working for Don Miguel, Neal of California and Jack Bryan, to name a few. He had a successful business designing clothes for private clients and was known for his wedding gowns.

He retired 11 years ago and is giving a presentation at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Christian Health Care, 3535 E. Cherokee St. He will show some of his designs and talk about his life.

"The fabric gives me the inspiration," DuPuis said, explaining what inspires his creations.

Tim Trafford, activities director, said DuPuis' talents are so impressive, staff wanted to share them with the community.



A vintage sketch by Dick DuPuis shows one of his fashion designs.