

CITIZENS

Can I take 3 minutes of your time to eulogize two outstanding men who left a legacy of community service to Humboldt County? The first is Don Moehnke. Don loved his family and was devoted to them. He also loved music and taught for over four decades, working his way up the grades: elementary school, middle school, Eureka High School and finally at HSU. For a total of 46 years Don enriched students' lives and the community with his passion for music! Throughout the community when I would mention Don's passing, people young and old, musicians and non-musicians would enthusiastically reply: "I took trumpet, or learned clarinet, or saxophone from Don Moehnke."

Somehow Don found time to raise a family, to play in different bands and musical venues; he found time to direct the choir at the First Presbyterian church for about 18 years; Somehow he found time to be a family father, husband, gardner, carpenter, amateur photographer and so on. Above all, Don will be remembered for his kind heart, sense of humor and the ability to find a positive outlook no mater what the situation. A well known local musician and friend described Don with one word, "buoyant."

The second community servant I wish to recognize is Glenn Sipma. Glenn was the type of man who practiced what he preached; he lived life by the Golden Rule and wasn't afraid to say often: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Subsequently, Glenn's life was full of love: he was a 'sweet' man; I use the term 'sweet' advisedly. He was sweet without being sacchariney. Glenn's sweetness was the real deal; it flowed from his heart, his heritage, his faith: I say 'sweet' and I literally mean 'it.' When I think of Glenn, I think of Snicker's bars. Glenn was always handing out Snicker's bars to his friends, family and church.

Glenn would also give out penny cookies, ice cream bars and assorted sweet things to those around our town, just to see a smile on their faces.

Vocationally, Glenn had been a baker, later a banker and then a broker. That is three pretty interesting jobs; and then, he then became County Coroner. Not everybody aspires to be a coroner because of, well you know, we have an aversion to death.

But for Glenn this job became a venue to serve others. Coroners attend to the deceased, but minister to the living. Nobody was better than Glenn at putting a human face on a sad situation. I still hear stories about how during a time of grief and loss, Glenn's compassion and caring meant more than a sorrowing family could ever express. Glenn was tireless in serving people: customers, or clients or just plain folk. Glenn was a positive thinker and a bright light to those travelling down dark corridors.

Glenn and Don I close with seven words:

"Well done, you good and faithful servants... (Mt. 25:21)

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment