

*Glenn Sipma*

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

Two weeks ago today, one of the nicest most honest persons I have ever known left this earth and our community lost one of its best citizens. I am speaking of Glenn Sipma. I first met Glenn over thirty years ago when I joined the Exchange Club of Eureka. Glenn was in the banking industry then. An active club member who stood out because of his good nature, with never a bad word for anyone, Glenn was an integral part of the organization. About nineteen seventy seven, six of us Exchange members spent a weekend attending an Exchange Club Regional Conference in Fresno, a very long, memorable drive. The memories were good ones due to people like Glenn being on board. The last eighty miles to Fresno were spent driving in thick tulle fog with only the tail lights of a big rig visible ahead. Glenn's positive and cheerful attitude made this driver a lot more comfortable behind the wheel and we arrived safe and sound. Glenn was always a great supporter of various types of music. It was not uncommon to visit with him during an intermission whether it was a Community Concert, a barbershop show or some other type of musical event. I had the pleasure of singing with Glenn, for a short time, as we were both members of a local double octet, representing the California Redwoods Chorale. What a great tenor he was. When Glenn applied for the job as interim Coroner/ Public administrator, it came as a surprise to many people including me. Surprise or not, the choice of Glenn Sipma was the best thing that could have happened as history has revealed. After his appointment to Humboldt County Coroner/Public Administrator, it did not take long for everyone to find out that he was more than qualified for the position. His respect for law enforcement, coupled with his keen interest in doing a job, allowed him to interact and work with the various officers. Glenn's compassion also allowed him to effectively communicate with those families of the deceased that the coroner represented. Glenn's compassion and honesty allowed him to very successfully pursue his other duty as Public Administrator. He left no stone unturned when it came to establishing the background of a deceased person so that the estate could be settled properly. As many of you know, he was an integral force in convincing people to keep the elected position of Coroner/Public Administrator rather than have the duties shifted to other county departments. Glenn was very passionate about this as he thought that a more direct approach was the best way to serve the public. I have always agreed with the position that Glenn took and I hope that his ideas will be followed in the future. Farewell my friend, I am sure that you are with Donna by now with the burdens of earthly life lifted from your shoulders.

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