

Fourth of July & Friends

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

During Eureka's Fourth of July celebration in Old Town I spent some time helping out in the Humboldt Tea Party Patriots booth. A large, friendly crowd was on hand. When you take on a duty like this, you prepare yourself to deal with all kinds of personalities. The vast majority of people were happy, smiling as they passed by. Only one couple stopped to register their dislike for the Tea Party claiming that we were owned by the Koch brothers and that we had more money than either the Republican or Democrat party booths just because of the way in which we presented ourselves, also that we should all move to Somalia. Decked out in red, white and blue, our booth was very colorful. Having items for sale and displayed prominently doesn't make for a monetarily rich group, which I can assure you we are not. No one owns us and we support ourselves through the help of donations from friends and neighbors. Some people stopped by to thank us for doing our part in supporting patriotism. I am happy to say that the sales of the booklet containing the United States Constitution were brisk. Two separate incidents really got my attention. Both people involved were women, in their twenties, who dropped by to purchase copies of the Constitution. One said that she had never seen the Constitution and the other said that she had never read it. My first thoughts were; was the Constitution taught in their respective schools or weren't they paying attention? Then I thought; well they are here now and want to learn more, you sure can't fault that. It is never too late to learn more about your country and what makes it tick. Over the past two weeks I have lost two more friends who really made some positive impacts on the local scene. David Elsebusch was a no-nonsense guy who confronted local, state and federal government on any issue that he thought was unconstitutional or detrimental to the American public. I spent some time with him as a member of the Humboldt Taxpayer's League and recently on a joint committee involving another local organization. A man with high ideals and unafraid to speak out to public officials he set an example of how an American citizen should participate in the everyday business of the Country. The other friend was Lou Davis, a man totally dedicated to the history of flight in Humboldt County. Lou was the longtime president of the Humboldt County Vintage Aviation Society. A pilot himself, he knew how to communicate with pilot and non-pilot alike. A gentleman who set an example of what a person should do when joining an organization. That is, to participate fully rather than ride the coattails of a few involved people. It was also my pleasure to sing with Lou in the bass section of the Humboldt Chorale for many years.

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