

Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jimmy Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the upper right corner of the page.

Faithful, friendly, sincere, dedicated: Some positive attributes that many of us strive for. I know a man who possesses these plus more, a fellow whose friendship I treasure. I am speaking of Jimmy Smith, as of this commentary, former District One Humboldt County Supervisor. Jimmy's last day in office was August third as most of you know. Jimmy not only represented his District One constituents but all the citizens of Humboldt County. To be able to successfully do that, you must possess a certain amount of finesse by not interfering with your fellow supervisors in their respective districts. I don't know of any county supervisor who felt threatened by Jimmy, on the contrary they seemed to value his opinions. There were occasions where I would contact Jimmy by phone or e-mail, leaving a message for him to call me at his convenience. Mind you, I was not a resident in his district. Every official call that I made, or e-mail that I sent, was answered by Jimmy in less than twenty four hours (even on Saturday and Sunday!). This not only happened to me, but also to others that I have talked with. Timely and positive response is always appreciated. Jimmy has the ability to make you feel that your opinion, as a citizen, is needed and important. He is also a very good listener, another attribute that is woefully lacking in today's society. If a work party or any type of community effort was needed in any community in his district, he was the first one on the scene. I was introduced to Jimmy when my wife and I paid a visit to his parents' home. He was then an infant in his mother's arms. I worked with his father for many years and knew his paternal grandfather as I delivered mail to his place of business. Over the years, I did not have contact with Jimmy although his father proudly kept me abreast of his son's progress in society. It wasn't until after his father's death that I really became acquainted with Jimmy. He has done a tremendous amount of good for Humboldt County and has shown the ability, even though some may disagree with his ideas and decisions, to command respect from most everyone that he has come in contact with. We can all take a lesson from Jimmy on how to respect our fellow man. Prior to his leaving his job as supervisor, he spent considerable time briefing his successor. He didn't have to do this especially when not feeling up to par, but Jimmy is the kind that would not have it any other way. Jimmy! Ya did good my friend and you will continue to do good just by your presence in our midst. I will continue to be in your "corner" and wish you the very best in all of your endeavors.

Fred Nelson for Community Comment