

On Tuesday, September Ninth, Humboldt County lost a wonderful citizen; the local Barbershop chorus lost an outstanding member; the local Boy Scout movement lost one of its finest leaders; the Christian Religion lost a true believer; the Korean War Veterans lost a very supportive member; Eureka lost a Santa Claus; a family lost a loving husband and father; and I lost a friend. I am speaking of the passing of Mr. Mac Gardner. I am sure that many of you knew Mac through one of the groups that I just mentioned. Many were impressed by his sincerity and honesty. The local Boy Scout Executive, for many years, Mac always adhered to the principals of the organization and continued to do so until his death. I knew Mac as a fellow Barbershop Chorus member. When he called me, rather than say "this is Mac", I would hear "this is the little Boy Scout". He loved Barbershop harmony and was thrilled to be part of the group. We sat together during chorus rehearsal for a number of years. Whenever the chorus would hit a chord that would "ring", he would lean toward me and remark how great that sound made him feel. Sometimes I did not rehearse at home as I should have. I would get myself back on track by thinking of Mac who found the time to rehearse every day. Also a member of a quartet, Mac always gathered the other three members in preparation for Valentine's Day. It gave him great satisfaction to be part of a quartet and sing Valentine greetings in response to requests from sweethearts wanting to express their love for their mate. His work, as a committeeman in the chorus was outstanding. Always a top seller of ads for the annual Barbershop Concert Program book, he had the personality, the patience and the charm that did not allow the buyer to say "no". He had a way with words and published a newsworthy yet brief chorus newsletter. A man of strong Christian beliefs there was no room in his vocabulary for an off color remark or swear word of any kind. He was not afraid to speak up and to share his opinions with others. Mac was a born leader and never took a back seat in any organization to which he belonged. He also had a strong sense of responsibility toward his fellow man. One of his fellow Korean War Veteran members lived in my neighborhood and was sometimes in need of transportation. More than once, I have seen Mac turning into the driveway to either pick up or drop off his friend. One of the highlights of Mac's recent years was the privilege of participating in an "Honor Flight" to Washington, D.C. as a Korean War Veteran. He was absolutely thrilled to be a part of it. The "Little Boy Scout" will be missed and fondly remembered by me.

Fred Nelson for Community Comment