

**Hi, Fred Nelson for Community Comment,**

**Two weeks ago my commentary was directed to the citizen voter to get involved with local politics as that is where government starts, not Washington D.C. I am sorry to say that one of those local citizens who did take part in many aspects of local government has left us for a better place. I am speaking of Leo Sears who passed this last weekend. A perfect example of the citizen government watch dog, Leo was exactly what local government needs. Eureka Mayor Frank Jager stated it well "It's a big loss for the community. I wish that we had more citizens that were as involved and that kept an eye on things like Leo did". He was passionate when interested in a subject and did not just state random opinions but rather studied the subject matter carefully before making a statement. When engaging Leo in a discussion or debate it was best for you to know the subject thoroughly unless you wanted to get verbally trampled. I am sure that many a local politician groaned when Leo walked through the door to attend whatever meeting was being held. When Leo was President of the Humboldt Tax Payer's League, I was his Vice President. Many an hour was spent in his office at home discussing the various subjects that the League was working on. I learned not to be slip shod and to know my subject inside and out. He had a sharp mind and could think on his feet remarkably well. On one occasion, Leo asked me to be his partner on a local TV forum with Humboldt County officials on a tax matter. I was not comfortable with the idea as I had never sat on a panel and was not used to TV appearances. That evening was a disaster for me as I could not think fast enough to really handle my part so I was silent for most of the forum. Thank God Leo was in his usual form and took good care of our side of the subject. I thought that once we were off the air, he would probably let me have it with both barrels. I could not have been more wrong in my thinking. Leo was the perfect gentleman and a true friend. He put me at ease and never spoke of my timid behavior. With all of his harshness on the surface, he was a very gentle man. When his partner Judy became ill prior to her passing in Twenty Thirteen, Leo displayed a deep love and compassion through his care when she was disabled. When it came to a point where most men would have placed the patient under the care of an institution, Leo carried on. He listened to my radio commentaries and every once in a while I would receive a phone call with Leo voicing his approval of the subject matter. I treasured those calls. Rest in Peace Leo.**

**Fred Nelson for community Comment**