

A Tribute to
Ron Platt

May 12, 1952 – March 2, 2008

He was a man of strength, of wit. And a fellow blessed with the gift of persuasion. When he spoke you felt there was a sense of mission in his tone, and a sometimes playful seriousness. Ron Platt was a man always grounded in his beliefs and his desire to make sense of the world, and pass that good sense along to others.

Colleen and Ron were high school sweethearts in Stockton, where Ron was born and raised. They shared a deep emotional and spiritual connection, but went in different directions after graduation. Ron went off to the "big city", exploring San Francisco's Haight Ashbury and finding work as a pipefitter. He was initiated as a journeyman pipefitter in UA Local 342 in Oakland, in 1974, and had a rewarding career. In the late 80's, he and Colleen found each other again and married in 1989. They lived in Clements for 15 years, and moved to Calaveras County in 1994. After Ron's retirement in 2001, they did some traveling, then settled into new interests, Colleen with art, and Ron with politics.

Ron first made his presence known in the Murphys Community by promoting the re-election of Barbara Boxer, in the 2004 election season. From a little patch of garden on Main Street, owned by a generous Democrat, Jim Riggs, Ron made his presence know to a fledgling group of progressives who had just formed a local Democrats Club, under the direction of Diane Nelson and Steve Elliot.

Seeing an opportunity to galvanize the small group into a serious faction, Ron promoted Steve and Diane and our friend Teddie Jackson into a group large enough to follow the leadership of Vern Miller, to have 35 attendees at a house party at the home of Marilyn Pinnow that fall of 2004, honoring Senator Barbara Boxer's presence.

Ron was very instrumental in coalescing the Calaveras County Democratic Central Committee, serving as Vice Chair with Vern Miller, Bill Paulsen and Dave Self. Within a few short years the Central Comm. expanded to a dozen and more members, and two Democratic Clubs are presently functioning in the County, due to Ron's continued efforts. Ron was an ever driving force in keeping a high profile and greater visibility on the part of his Democrat friends and the organizations that he made certain would remain a strong part of our local community. We owe our friend much gratitude and appreciation, and we'll miss that eye-twinkling persuasion that was uniquely his.