

✓CF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RD 12/13/88

Supervisors say farewell to Forbus, Cucchiara

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The Santa Cruz County supervisors this morning took a fond farewell of two departing colleagues.

It was the last meeting for 18-year board veteran Dan Forbus, defeated by Jan Beautz for the Live Oak-Soquel seat, and Joe Cucchiara, who decided to step down after serving eight years as the supervisor for San Lorenzo Valley-Scotts Valley.

Gary Patton led off a half-hour of sentimental praise for the two members. At times, he appeared to be holding back tears as he reminisced about his years serving with both faithful ally Cucchiara and loyal opponent Forbus.

"This will be the second time I've said good-bye to Dan Forbus," Patton said, alluding to Forbus' defeat in 1976 by liberal Supervisor Phil Baldwin.

Patton said as chairman of the board in 1976, he had drawn

up a beribboned resolution saying many "nice things" about Forbus. To Patton's chagrin, Forbus used excerpts from that resolution in a comeback campaign when Forbus defeated Baldwin in a recall election in 1978.

Nevertheless, Patton did not restrain himself in praise of Forbus this morning.

"Dan Forbus has always been a good person to work with on this board because of Dan's basic understanding about what it means to be on this board. It means to make local government work for the people."

Patton also praised Forbus' strong record of support for social programs.

"Time after time, there's not a 3-2 vote on this. Dan Forbus has come through on programs for seniors, for children and for the needy," Patton said.

He presented a plaque of commendation to Forbus on behalf of the board.

Patton then turned to Cuc-

chiara to praise him as "the detail man" who was able to "translate good intentions into good legislation."

Patton and other supervisors brought up a recent award that Cucchiara was given by the

to his constituents and the community at large."

Supervisor Robley Levy then joined in, calling the farewell ceremony "a melancholy moment."

She thanked Forbus for "his

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state supervisors' association for his work in getting federal disaster legislation amended so it would truly help disaster-struck counties.

The plaque from the state association says "One person with courage is a majority," Patton said.

Another one Patton presented to Cucchiara praised him for his "unsurpassed commitment

willingness to jump in and make it perfectly clear when he thought his colleagues were moving in a ridiculous direction."

She noted the departure of Cucchiara, a natty dresser, would leave the board "bereft of sartorial splendor."

Pajaro Valley Supervisor Sherry Mehl said Forbus and Cucchiara had joined other

supervisors in offering her help and advice during her first year in office "whether I wanted it or not."

"They made me feel like part of a family," Mehl said. "We don't always get along, but what family does?"

She said being a supervisor was a tough job.

"You're always wrong 50 percent of the time and you're never given credit when you're right," Mehl said. "Matters are not helped by the fact that you're vulnerable every four years to election."

Forbus said one of his proudest accomplishments was changing residential zoning in the mountain areas to allow fewer houses. In the old days, he said, anyone with an 8,000-square-foot lot could build a house. Now minimum lot size is two-and-a-half to five acres, he said.

"I don't know what would have happened in the floods (of 1982-83) if we hadn't changed

that zoning," Forbus said.

Along with Cucchiara, he also said he was proud of the new cable television agreement that will provide better service to much of the county.

Forbus urged the board to "continue the push for (better) child care."

"In the long-run, if you add up the business side of the coin, it pays off in the dollars and cents," Forbus said.

Cucchiara said he was proud of his achievements in reform of federal disaster assistance reform, the continued vigilance of the county against attempts to allow offshore oil drilling, and the new city-county library agreement.

Adding a final touch to his reputation as a "detail man," Cucchiara noted that his middle initial had been wrongly inscribed as "M" on the plaque the supervisors gave him.

"My middle name is Frank," he said.