

# United Veterans Council wants to run its own hall

A recommendation from Supervisor Gary Patton that the Veterans Memorial Building be run "on a joint booking system with the city" drew a roar of resistance from the United Veterans Council this morning.

"Any suggestion this building be turned over to the control of Loudon Nelson Center is not acceptable," declared Ernest Salzmänn, speaking for the council at the board's podium.

The veteran added, "The United Veterans Council is dead set against making the hall an adjunct of Loudon Nelson Center and it would cause much more infighting and politics."

Patton explained that he wanted the county administrative office to manage the building (a move that takes it way from parks and recreation) and that it should be on a fee schedule close to that of the city to open the door for a joint booking system.

"This recommendation will guarantee the veterans priority and give the board more flexibility," Patton said.

Supervisor Dan Forbus, a Navy Veteran and conservative board member, let the veterans know he was watching out for them.

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He told Salzmänn, "This is just conceptual and it has to be returned to the board."

Forbus said there was nothing in Patton's suggestion that would mean the management of the building would be in the hands of those who manage the Loudon Nelson community center in Santa Cruz.

The center has an open door policy on use of its facilities, but it has appeared to the older veterans that a lot of the new groups are suspiciously indifferent to the manners, morals and mores of the past.

Patton's recommendation on the new contract with the council also included eliminating the county's office in the vets building as "it's an unnecessary expense," Patton said.

Parks Director Larry Norris was told to take Patton's suggestions back to the vets council for inclusion in the use agreement.