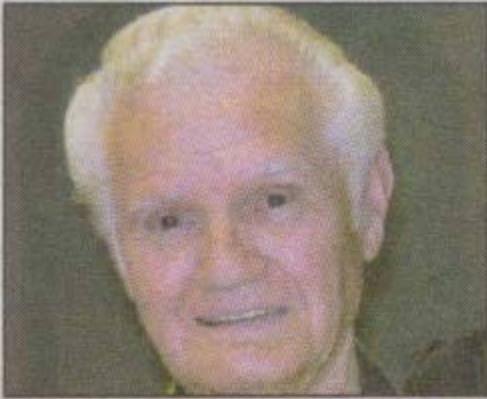


▼ **QUIET HERO:**

Dick Jenkins, 77,
Grass Valley



The group I volunteer for: Many convalescent and retirement homes. Today (Tuesday) I am at Golden Empire Convalescent Hospital.

What I do for the group: I sing and play guitar, classic country western ballads and Big Band tunes from the '30s '40s and '50s.

How I got involved: My wife passed away at Spring Hill Manor in 2000, and my daughter said I needed to get out and do something.

Why I think this work is important: Nobody plays these kinds of songs for these people. Songs like "Red River Valley" bring memories back to them.

The best thing that ever happened to me on this volunteer job was: A Hawaiian lady wasn't feeling too good. I wore a loud shirt and she said it made her happy.

The rewards I get from this volunteer job are: I think God and my wife wanted me to do this. I live alone and when I come to these places it makes my day a lot better.

Other volunteer jobs I've done: I volunteered at the Inner Faith Food Ministry for a while, playing there.

I've lived in Nevada County: Since 1944, 60 years.

The most important job that faces us as a community is: If we had more volunteers doing music that people relate to, they would enjoy it so much more. People need to volunteer or just stop in and see these people.

I think volunteerism is important because: It helps me more than it helps them. So far God has provided.