

Volker Eisele: leader, hero, friend

January 05, 2015 • [Andy Beckstoffer](#)

Volker Eisele truly was a "Lion of Land Use" and agricultural preservation and protection in Napa County (["Agricultural land advocate Volker Eisele dies,"](#) Jan. 3).

He led both the Napa Valley Grapegrowers Association and the Farm Bureau as their president and longtime board member. He led the grapegrowing community in much that has been accomplished over the past many years. Beginning in the early 1980s and for 30 years after, Volker's zeal and enthusiasm and willingness to speak out for our environment and for ag preservation never faded.

In the recent passing of Bob Phillips and now Volker, true Ag Preservation efforts have lost two of its great leaders. As the next generation of preservation leaders is now forming, they will benefit from Volker's spirit and good works. Volker's Measure J and P will give them security and confidence as they continue his work in the years to come.

Volker was a leader, a hero and a friend to all of us in the early, worthy fights to preserve ag and open space in Napa County. He will be missed but he will not be forgotten.

Andy Beckstoffer

St. Helena