

Letter to the Editor

Los Angeles Daily News

April 13, 2003

No respect

I'm writing to applaud your April 9 editorial "Meaningless reform." As one of the 15 challenged board members of the Van Nuys Neighborhood Council, I found your article to be down-to-earth, truthful and frustrating. I for one feel you hit the nail on the head when you stated, "The councils are supposed to trick ordinary Angelenos into thinking they have some say in local government, while the real heavy lifting is done where it's always been done: downtown."

As a proud veteran of the Vietnam conflict, I could not believe that I was being asked for my opinion concerning should we or should we not do the Pledge of Allegiance.

However, when I did stand to do the pledge at the April 3 Van Nuys Neighborhood Council meeting, I was mortified to see Rita Moreno, a city of Los Angeles representative of Mayor James Hahn for **DONE**, sit with legs crossed and turned in the opposite direction while the rest of the public at the meeting at least stood while the pledge was being said.

I am all for the freedoms we enjoy in this country given us by generations of military women and men (including the many friends and comrades I have personally lost), but to be shown such a lack of respect by a civil servant whose paycheck comes from my tax dollars is totally inexcusable.

Jason Belsky
Van Nuys