

October 15, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

THRU: Charles P. Potucek, City Manager  
Victoria Yarbrough, Assistant City Manager

FROM: Laura Wilson, Director  
Parks, Recreation, & Library

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEM PLACEMENT  
RESOLUTION 2024-076, Dedication of Center Event  
Space at Veterans Memorial Park to Frederick W. (Rick)  
Mueller II

RECOMMENDATION:

The Director of Parks, Recreation, & Library recommends approval.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommend approval.

INITIATED BY:

Charles P. Potucek, City Manager

BACKGROUND:

This resolution seeks approval from the Mayor and Council to dedicate the central event space, located at Veterans Memorial Park, to our former Mayor, Rick Mueller. We would like to officially dedicate this space in his honor during our 2024 Veterans Day activities.

Mayor Mueller was a dedicated public servant, decorated veteran, and beloved leader of our community. His lifetime of service exemplifies the values we hold dear in Sierra Vista. Born into a proud military family at Eielson Air Force Base in Fairbanks, Alaska on January 24, 1954, Rick grew up traveling with his Army family across the United States and overseas. This nomadic childhood cultivated a deep sense of resilience, adaptability, and duty that he carried throughout his life. After graduating from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Political Science and commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in Field Artillery, Rick began a distinguished military career. His assignments took him around the world, including postings at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Nuremberg, Germany; Fort Bliss, Texas; Athens, Greece; and Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. Rick's dedication and exceptional service were recognized with numerous awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal and Army Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Army in 1995, Rick chose Sierra Vista as his permanent home, committing himself to the community he had come to love. He became a strong advocate for our city and was actively involved in civic engagement, attending City Council and Planning and Zoning meetings even before entering public office. Rick's leadership abilities and passion for the community led to his election to the Sierra Vista City Council in 2000, where he served diligently for 10 years.

In 2010, Rick was elected as Mayor of Sierra Vista, a role in which he would go on to serve three consecutive terms, the longest tenure of any mayor in the city's history. Under his leadership, Sierra Vista flourished as a regional hub for commerce, education, healthcare,

tourism, and technology. Rick was a tireless advocate for veterans and active-duty military personnel, championing numerous initiatives to support Fort Huachuca and its importance to national defense. His efforts earned Sierra Vista national recognition from the Association of Defense Communities and firmly established our city as a community committed to the welfare of service members and their families.

Rick's impact extended beyond Sierra Vista, serving on the League of Arizona Cities and Towns Executive Board, the Arizona Military Affairs Commission, and as Chairman of the Upper San Pedro Partnership and SEAGO Executive Committee. His unwavering commitment to economic development and military affairs, as well as his advocacy at the state and federal levels, made him a respected leader throughout Arizona and beyond.

Rick's dedication to service was also reflected in his extensive involvement with charitable and community organizations. He served as President of the University South Foundation, the Sierra Vista Rotary Club, and the 1200 Club, and was instrumental in the construction of the Salvation Army's chapel and community center. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was a proud member of the Order of the Arrow, always emphasizing the importance of civic duty and community service.

Mayor Mueller sadly passed away on May 29, 2024, but he left an indelible impact in our community along with a legacy of service that continues to inspire us today. Naming the central area of Veterans Memorial Park as the "Frederick W. (Rick) Mueller II Parade Field" would be a fitting tribute to Rick's lifetime of service and his tireless dedication to Sierra Vista. It would honor not only his military service but also his unparalleled commitment to enhancing the quality of life for all who live in and visit our community. For these reasons, we seek your support.

**BUDGET APPROPRIATION:**

Not applicable.

RESOLUTION 2024-076

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA, DEDICATING THE CENTER EVENT LOCATION AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK AS THE FREDERICK W. (RICK) MUELLER II PARADE FIELD; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER, CITY CLERK, CITY ATTORNEY, OR THEIR DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND AGENTS TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the City of Sierra Vista to recognize the contributions of area residents who have demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of our community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission wish to ensure that public facilities and their dedications recognize and represent those best values inherent in those who give generously of their time and efforts in support of the community; and

WHEREAS, it was the unanimous recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission to recognize the many fine contributions made by Frederick W. (Rick) Mueller on behalf of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1

The policy of dedicating City facilities and/or areas after citizens who have worked selflessly contributing to our community, be, and hereby is, reaffirmed.

SECTION 2

The Mayor and City Council, honoring the contributions of Frederick W. (Rick) Mueller, hereby dedicate the center event area located at the Veterans Memorial Park as The Frederick W. (Rick) Mueller II Parade Field.

SECTION 3

The City Manager, City Clerk, City Attorney, or their duly authorized officers and agents are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA, THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2024.

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CLEA MCCAA II  
Mayor

Approval as to Form:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
NATHAN J. WILLIAMS  
City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
JILL ADAMS  
City Clerk

Prepared by:  
Laura Wilson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Library

# City of Sierra Vista

## Naming of Public Facilities and Areas

Please complete the following contact information:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Public Facility/Area you wish to have dedicated:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Person you are honoring:**  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Justification for dedication (Please be very specific and include any supporting documentation you feel is pertinent):**  
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Completed requests may be emailed to [CityClerk@SierraVistaAZ.gov](mailto:CityClerk@SierraVistaAZ.gov) or dropped off in person or mailed to:

City of Sierra Vista  
C/O City Clerk's Office  
1011 North Coronado Drive  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

1. Criteria for Selecting a Name for a Public Facility or Area
  - A. Public facilities or areas may be named after a geographic landmark. The landmark must be a local landmark that is identifiable to the community. The landmark must also bear the test of time and not be a building or temporary feature that will be tom down or indistinguishable in a given amount of time. The landmark must hold significant importance to a large sector of the community.
  - B. Public facilities or areas may be named after an historic event. The historic event must be related to the public facility or area by virtue of the type of activity that is conducted at that facility or area, the intent of the historic event, or its significant contribution to history as it relates to the facility or area. The purpose of this restriction is to ensure the maximum amount of local history is utilized and will be preserved within the community.
  - C. Public facilities or areas may be named after an organization. The organization should have significant association with the public facility or area being named, not just to the community at large. The group should be a pillar of the community, either locally or nationally.

Public facilities or areas may be named after an individual, living, or deceased. That individual should have significant association with the public facility being named, not just to the community at large. The individual should be a pillar of the community, either locally or nationally. A pillar of the community, as used for this purpose, will be defined as an individual above moral reproach, either privately or professionally. The individual should demonstrate a strong contribution toward local philanthropy and volunteerism, and their contribution should have made a significant, positive impact towards bettering the community. Suggestions for the naming of a public facility or area after a deceased individual may be accepted no sooner than six months after the death of the individual.