

Veterans Memorial Complex at Fort Canyon renamed Joe Vargas Veterans Memorial Complex

Joe Vargas served the Gallup community as the Parks Director from November 1963 to December 2000. Now, 21 years after his last day of work and two years after his death on March 29, 2020, he is being honored in an extraordinary way.

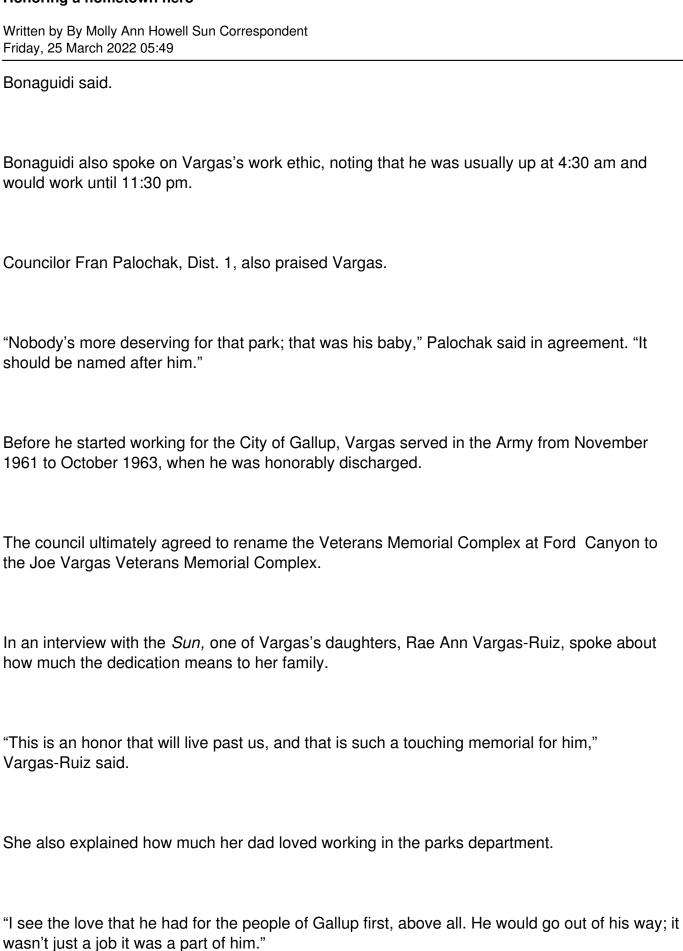
During the March 8 city council meeting, the current Parks Director, Vincent Alonzo, came to the council to speak about Vargas and to recommend that the Veterans Memorial Complex at Ford Canyon be renamed the Joe Vargas Veterans Memorial Complex.

"Ford Canyon was Joe's baby," Alonzo said. "He was proud of Ford Canyon. To me, the park system is all because of Joe. He worked hard and he was proud of his parks."

Mayor Louie Bonaguidi also spoke highly of Vargas. He noted that he'd known the man before he'd even started at the parks department.

"He was an amazing person, and even after he retired, he still refereed at basketball games,"

Honoring a hometown hero



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Written by By Molly Ann Howell Sun Correspondent Friday, 25 March 2022 05:49

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