

Attn: Ralph Nunez  
Park and Rec. Community Service Dept.  
3936 Chestnut St.  
Riverside, CA 9501

April 20, 2011

Dear Mr. Nunez,

My name is Bonnie Ayala Rodrigues; I was born in Casa Blanc and resided there for almost 20 years. I am writing to request for the band shell at Villegas Park to be considered for dedication in the memory and honor of my parents Valente "Glen" and Mary Ayala for their many years of selfless service to the community of Casa Blanca and the City of Riverside.

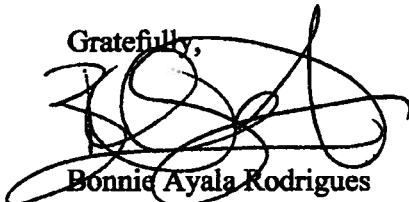
My father, Valente "Glen" Ayala served as the first director of Villegas Park for over 20 years. During his tenure as director, he made it a priority that *all* the children in the community have the opportunity to receive services regardless of race, color, or financial background. He refused to charge for programs that families could not afford to pay. He suffered emotional and personal financial loss for this by taking a pay cut in his salary, but he would not waiver from addressing the needs he saw before him. His sacrifice for the children was a lifetime of gain and memories for many. A price he paid with great humility. Upon his death, many current and former residents shared how my father changed and touched their lives. Stevie Smith, assistant coach for the LA Sparks basketball team said, "Your Dad saved my life. He was like a father to many of us. Most of us did not have fathers and he became one to us. He took us under his wing." Due to his love of the community, individuals began to feel welcomed enough to call him by various nicknames: *Chump, Champ, Old Man, Mi General and Grandpa.*

On several occasions, my father would allow residents to play at the park past his scheduled work hours and return later in the evening to turn off field lights. These acts of kindness kept many of the youth out of trouble. Education was also a top priority to him. Again, on many occasions he supported and contributed financially to those that were seeking a higher education. He once gave a young woman whose mother was from Mexico, money to buy a computer to do her college assignments. This individual had no father and the mother did not speak English. He cared so much that over time some of the kids in the community started to call him "Grandpa." They would ask him "Grandpa, can I have a dollar to buy an ice-cream?" "Grandpa, can I have some money to go swimming?" He was a man with an indescribable amount of love and kindness. It did not matter to him who you were what you looked like. His joy was seeing opportunity and advancement for the youth and the community. Often he would say, "If a man asks you to walk a mile, walk with him two, three, four miles. Keep walking until he does not need your help anymore. Don't deny your brother in need." He lived by the words that he preached. Such a man of wisdom and stature was he that the mayor and chief of police of Riverside befriended him. These relationships he used to benefit those in need.

Mary Ayala is remembered as a fierce community activist and a force with which to be reckoned. When she spoke, people listened. I remember how she would step in as a liaison for Spanish speaking parents and school administrators. Due to the closure of the Casa Blanca Elementary School, it became her goal to make sure that the children and their parents had all the information and services required. Her fight was for education and equality for the Hispanic people. It angered her that the community as she once stated, "Was being taken advantaged of and discriminated against." She gained no monetary benefits for taking a stand but pride in what the future would hold for the minority. Due to the poor treatment the Hispanic people were enduring, my mother would take a stand and make her concerns known. The activist she became many remember her to be. This also got her the attention of Cesar Chavez with whom she worked on several issues at the time. She was instrumental in fighting for programs that benefited the underprivileged in the education system as well as the city and became one of the first members for the board of Concelio Centro De Niños, a preschool that catered to low income Spanish-speaking families. Mary also served and worked on various projects: *Title 7, Casa Blanca Community Action Group, Brown Baggers, Community Service Organization, Redevelopment, the Bilingual Program, and the California Board of Equal Educational Opportunity Commission.* There are other areas of work too numerous to mention.

It is to my knowledge that today many are benefiting from the selfless mentoring and sacrifices donated by both of my parents, and will continue to benefit from in the future.

Mary Ayala August 29, 1930 - April 18, 2002  
Valente "Glen" Ayala January 15, 1928 - July 26, 2009

Gratefully,  
  
Bonnie Ayala Rodriguez

5423 Fetlock Ave.  
Fontana, CA 92336  
(909) 471-9015  
bonnierod71@aol.com

**Date:** April 20, 2011

**To:** Ralph Nunez, Director  
Department of Park and Recreation  
City of Riverside

**From:** Jesse Valenzuela  
Congressional Representative  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Office of Congressman Joe Baca  
(909) 885-2222  
Jesse.Valenzuela@mail.house.gov

**Re:** Naming of Band Shelter/Staging Area  
Villegas Park, Casa Blanca Community  
Riverside, California

**It is my understanding that the Casa Blanca Community is being asked and to solicit names for naming the Band Shelter/Staging Area at Villegas Park. It is also my understanding that the names Glen and Mary Ayala have been given to be considered for the Band Shelter/Staging Area. Please accept this letter as my personal and enthusiastically endorsement of naming the Band Shelter/Staging Area after Glen and Mary Ayala.**

**I knew Glen and Mary Ayala from 1973 until their death, and in all those years the two were noteworthy of their community involvement in the Casa Blanca Community in the City of Riverside. I always thanked them for their commitment to leadership, patriotism, community service, spiritual guidance and for their significant impact on the lives of young people and seniors in the Casa Blanca Community. Their legacy set the standard for many future generations in Casa Blanca and the City of Riverside and may that legacy continue with naming the Band Shelter/Staging Area after Glen and Mary Ayala.**



## Casa Blanca Community Action Group

7680 Casa Blanca Street • Riverside, California 92504 • (951) 688-3043

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April 22, 2011

Mr. Ralph Nuñez, Director  
Riverside Park and Recreation  
City of Riverside  
3900 Main St Riverside, CA 92522

RE: Naming of Casa Blanca Villegas Park Pavilion

Dear Mr. Nuñez:

We are requesting the naming of the pavilion to recognize Valente Glen and Mary Ayala. Clearly, the contributions of Mr. and Mrs. Ayala to the community of Casa Blanca were extraordinary (see attachments for additional information).

This matter has been formally presented to the Community Action Group (CAG) and voted unanimously to support naming the pavilion at Villegas Park, to honor posthumously, Glen and Mary Ayala for their long-time leadership in the community and involvement in the Villegas Park.

Sincerely yours,

Paul Chavez, Chairperson  
Casa Blanca Community Action Group (CAG)

Attachments

cc: Councilman Davis  
Anthony Ayala  
CAG file

## **Jerry Rotz**

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**From:** anthony ayala [anthonyayala20@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 8:06 PM  
**To:** Jerry Rotz  
**Subject:** Fwd: Glen Ayala

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "anthony ayala" <[anthonyayala20@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyayala20@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Oct 24, 2011 2:18 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Glen Ayala  
**To:** "Paul Davis" <[pdavis@riversideca.gov](mailto:pdavis@riversideca.gov)>  
**Cc:**

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** "Steve Smith" <[ssmith@windwardschool.org](mailto:ssmith@windwardschool.org)>  
**Date:** Oct 11, 2011 1:10 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Glen Ayala  
**To:** <[bonnierod71@aol.com](mailto:bonnierod71@aol.com)>, <[anthonyayala20@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyayala20@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** <[john.smith@rcc.edu](mailto:john.smith@rcc.edu)>, <[shoedog@comcast.net](mailto:shoedog@comcast.net)>

To the Riverside City Council,

My name is Steven M. Smith and I have been asked by the family of Glen Ayala to share with you my experiences with Glen and how he impacted my life. I am currently the Athletic Director at one of the most prestigious private schools in the country called Windward School of Los Angeles. I have served in this capacity since the year of 2000. Also, for the past 15 years, I have been an assistant basketball coach or scout in the WNBA (Womens National Basketball Association) for the following organizations: The Phoenix Mercury, Los Angeles Sparks, Detroit Shock and the WNBA organization its self. Prior to coaching in the WNBA, I was a head mens basketball coach at a small liberal arts college in San Rafael, California called Dominican College. My tenure there was from the years of 1990 to 1997. I also played basketball at Dominican College in 1987 and I played at Marin Community College from 1984-1985.

I was born and raised in Riverside, California in a community called Casa Blanca. Our neighborhood was filled with many kids whose fathers were not present in their lives and as a result, we kids faced many situations that could have lead us down the wrong side of the road. Unfortunately, many of my childhood friends that I grew up with chose to go down the wrong side of the road and are deceased or living a life of incarceration. Those of us who were able to move on with our lives to have careers and families owe a tremendous amount of credit to a man who helped father all of us, Mr. Glen Ayala. Glen was the director of our local park named Villegas Park. Glen ran adult basketball leagues, adult softball leagues, youth basketball leagues, youth flag football leagues,

youth softball leagues and made Villegas park the most popular gym in the entire city of Riverside. I can remember as a little boy waiting for the day that I could play basketball at Villegas park with the older guys on Saturdays and Sundays after church. Every weekend, kids from East Side, West Side (Rubidoux) and Hill Side came to Casa Blanca (Villegas Park) to play basketball. Eventhough Casa Blanca was known in the Riverside Press Enterprise as a community that was full of drugs, gangs and many other violent crimes. Glen Ayala's leadership and guidance made everyone feel safe and welcome to come to our community to play sports. Not only did Glen organize all of the sports programs, he still found time to manage Shamel Parks little league Dodgers that many of us had the pleasure to play for Glenn.

Glen Ayala was well respected by everyone in the community. With all of the turmoil, feuding, stealing, fighting and killings that were a part of our everyday lives, it was understood by everyone, Glen Ayala was of limits. Glen was solely responsible for fostering great relationships between the Latino American community and the African American community. If he had Angels tickets, he made sure to take members of both races with him. He made all of us feel equal and he gave us a sense of pride in our community and ourselves. I will always remember going to our schools within the Riverside Unified School District and listening to other kids and their families talk poorly about Casa Blanca and the kids that came from this community. We couldn't get rides home, we didn't get invited to birthday parties and the list goes on. However, we didn't feel sorry for ourselves because of the way Glen made us feel about our community. If your committee is deliberating on honoring this great man, they need not deliberate any longer. I attribute many of my successes in life to my family, my church and Glen Ayala. It is with great honor that I give my most sincere recommendation to honor Glen Ayala.

Should you need to have further conversation about Glenn, please do not hesitate to give me a call. Glen was a father figure to all of us regardless of race!

Sincerely,

Steve Smith  
Athletics Director  
Windward School

(310) 391-7127 ext. 243

ssmith@windwardschool.org

鄭 Dynamic Education. A Nurturing Community."

www.windwardschool.org

## **Mary & Glen Ayala**

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Mary & Glen Ayala. I met them when I was a college student at UCR. I did volunteer work at Villegas Park. Glen immediately got me involved with all aspects of the Park/Community Center. I kept score for basketball, softball and got involved with the newly organized 4-H Club. I volunteered for the Annual Cinco De Mayo parade, made posters/flyers. I feel thankful today for the opportunities and encouragement that Glen provided.

Mary & Glen were a team. They were both involved in the Casa Blanca Community Action Group. They both knew first hand of the many needs in the community. Glen not only had an open door policy at work but Mary and Glen had an open door policy at home. Mary and Glen were always willing to lend a hand, provide advice, give a ride and/or provide a meal. They were kind and compassionate to everyone. They did not rate people. They led by example and provided guidance to all those that were interested. They taught me that Casa Blanca was a special place and a place that I could learn from it. I feel honored to have wonderful memories of them. They shaped my life. I learned from Mary and Glen that it is important to be selfless and always lend a helping hand to those around you.

People like Mary and Glen don't come around very often. There is a void in the community. They gave so much and asked for so little. Employees of Villegas Park come and go but no one will ever take their place. Mary and Glen deserve to have the gym named after them and I support that 100%. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

**Patsy Herrera-Navarro**

**951 295 6650**

Jan. 10 2012

To the Riverside City Counsel:

I just wanted to submit this letter so I can say why I feel that Glen and Mary Ayala should receive a plaque. I new them for almost 30 years, I met them when I was about 14 years old I am now 43 years old. As long as I knew them they were always apart of the City of Riverside. Mr. Glen Ayala was always there at Villages Park. He wanted to help the community and the people. They both were very active with the City. Mrs. Ayala was a big part of the Riverside School District. There main concern was for the people of the community. They were so special. This may not be very important, but Mary Ayala taught me how to make certain home made foods and to save money. I still practice those things she taught me. I will never forget the advice Mr. Ayala gave Me., it was priceless will. They always listened when you needed to talk and would only give the best advice. They are so dearly missed. We have lost two very good people who did so much for us. Newspaper articles have been written about both of them, always for good. It would be so nice to be able to go to the park and see a plaque of them, so we can tell our children about them and so they will always be remembered. Thank you for your time.

Sylvia Vasquez Lopez

24604 Meadow Grass Way Moreno Valley, Ca. 92557



# VALENTE GLEN AYALA

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Valente Glen Ayala's life journey was a unique one. Although he is no longer present in this world he has left a lasting presence behind. Valente married and raised an ideal family. Though his family was always a first priority, his charitable acts furthered his individual strong-minded character. In addition, his determination to make even the slightest difference in the life of those less fortunate was important. His contribution to the community of Riverside, CA in the Casa Blanca neighborhood became a significant part of this man's life. As center director of Villegas Park, his hard work and commitment was to serve the community. As an easy going person, he was able to form remarkable and memorable friendships over the years. His non-judgmental character allowed him to quickly build relationships with countless amounts of the local community's people.

Particularly to his family, close and extended, he was a great support system. He was a hard working family-oriented individual that took the time to help raise grandchildren. He continued to be blessed while forming relationships with his family's future generations which included grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

Serving in the military, Valente helped to serve and defend a country that offered numerous opportunities to himself and his family. At a local level, the generosity Valente encompassed helped many in the community. For neighborhood children, he would provide sports equipment they could play with. This small deed enabled children to stay safe and away from trouble. Furthermore, along with his wife, they were able to not only care for the immediate community in the Casa Blanca neighborhood but as well as in México. This was done by donating items to rural areas in México where poverty is evident.

This man is an extremely positive figure that serves as an example to us all. His act of unselfishness is what individuals strive for but only a few manage to fully accomplish. His recognition, even in the smallest of forms, will create awareness and enable individuals to look beyond themselves. Getting even one person to take the time out of their day to make a difference in the community is a small beginning and one that can eventually cause change for continuing towards a greater good.

Sincerely,  
With Loving Memory  
Mrs. Leah Scheline

Formerly Ofelia Ayala  
mother of Lee Anthony Ayala



From: anthony ayala <anthonyayala20@gmail.com>  
To: Bonnie Ayala Rodriguez <bonnierod71@aol.com>  
Subject: Fwd: Glen Ayala  
Date: Mon, Feb 6, 2012 11:48 am

Bonnie, this letter is from John Smith. Can you please make copies of this. And can you please forward Patsy's letter to Councilman Davis. Thanks sister.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <John.Smith@rcc.edu>  
Date: Feb 6, 2012 9:14 AM  
Subject: Glen Ayala  
To: <anthonyayala20@gmail.com>

To: Riverside City Council

I am writing this letter in an effort to shed some light on the impact that Glen Ayala had on me as an individual as well as many others in our community. Currently, I am the Head Men's Basketball coach and Kinesiology Professor at Riverside City College, and I can assure you that Mr. Ayala had a lot to do with inspiring me to become the leader that I have become just from being a product of the environment that he created.

This environment that I previously mentioned was not one that can be productive without the proper guidance. I grew up in the poverty-stricken neighborhood of Casa Blanca. To the outsider, this neighborhood was perceived as nothing but trouble, which it could be at times. However, there was one constant foundation for us all within the community, and that was Mr. Glen Ayala. Many of us grew up without a Father, A Mother, or without both parents in the home and needed direction. Mr. Ayala was instrumental in this aspect. During the summer time and even after school, Mr. Ayala provided a safe and learning environment for us all at Villegas Park located in the heart of Casa Blanca. Without the various leagues he set up year round, many of us, including myself would have found ourselves latching on and looking for trouble.

If you really want to know the true measure of Mr. Ayala's stature in our community, just look at where it is now. The "Black" and "Brown" race riots have spilled over into our community from the Prisons and is spreading like wild flowers. Mr. Ayala was instrumental in bringing us all together and putting us on the same teams and preaching cohesion and harmony throughout the community. Although, our neighborhood had its problems, race riots were not one of them. It saddens me to see it at the stage it is now, knowing how hard he worked on us all getting along.

Glen Ayala was and will always be the most inspirational "Father figure" that a lot of us from that community can remember and would like to hold on to. This is the reason why I am writing this letter. I would love to bring my kids back to Villegas Park and see a memorabilia of this great man in some fashion. Whether it be naming the Gymnasium after him or the Pool at the Park, however it is, I feel his name should be memorialized because of the impact and memories he created for us all.

As you can see, Mr. Glen Ayala meant a lot to me and many others. Hopefully this letter will help with your decision to honor this man in the near future. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.



Sincerely,

John Smith

Associate Professor Kinesiology & Athletics

Head Men's Basketball Coach

Riverside City College

(951) 222 - 8341

john.smith@rcc.edu

To: Riverside Parks and Recreation Commission  
C/O Adolfo Cruz



Fr: Tom Schultz  
Retired RUSD administrator, community activist, and Member, Latino Network and LULAC

Re: Naming of gymnasium at Villegas Park for Glen and Mary Ayala

When I first began working with families in the Casa Blanca neighborhood in the early 1970s, the names Glen and Mary Ayala were synonymous with constructive social action in the community. I worked with both Glen and Mary at various times from 1973 to the late 1980s.

I knew Glen as the director of the Villegas Community Center, where he not only organized constructive activities for youngsters in the community, but also established a positive relationship with many "at risk" youth. I believe that he was responsible for redirecting numerous young men away from self-destructive gang activity to positive community action. I know he was highly respected by the parents with whom I was working at the time.

Mary worked with me as a Community Aide in the Emergency School Aid Act (ESAA) program in the Riverside Unified School District when I served as an Intergroup Relations Specialist. She was invaluable to me and others in our program by connecting us to families who needed help understanding the importance of parent involvement in local schools. She frequently helped parents to overcome their fear of communicating with school teachers and administrators in RUSD, as we continued to develop programs to expand home-school communication after RUSD desegregated.. She continued to be an invaluable resource to me when I became a Counselor and Administrator at Arlington High School. I could always count on Mary to help connect with parents of students who were struggling in school. When I became an administrator at Poly High School, I could still count on Mary's help whenever I needed it.

Both Glen and Mary were outspoken advocates for families in the Casa Blanca community. They fought for parents' rights and citizens' rights with the school districts and the city. I always found them to be "pleasantly pushy" when dealing with authorities on any level. I believe that recognizing their contributions to Casa Blanca by giving their name to Villegas' gymnasium would be a fitting tribute to their activism.

Sincerely,

Tom Schultz

Riverside resident since 1956 and community activist since 1964

April 17, 2015

As a resident of the Casa Blanca Community for over 65 years and a former employee of the City of Riverside, it my pleasure to acknowledge the efforts to two community leaders, Glen and Mary Ayala.

In September, 1958, I first met Glen and Mary Ayala. We became good friends over the years. Our children went to the same school at Casa Blanca Elementary. Together, Mary and I participated in PTA meetings and other social functions throughout the Casa Blanca community. Through community engagement and networking with other community leaders, we began to volunteer and plan neighborhood functions and community events for the youth and families in Casa Blanca. These functions included community parades, picnics, holiday carnivals, and several community services offered for the residents of the City at large. During this time, there was little to no engagement with the community or events such as these available for families and youth to enjoy.

Glen and Mary Ayala were always willing to help those in need. Through volunteer efforts and eventually as a Community Center Director, Glen and his family made an effort to provide services and activities for all community members regardless of their economic status. In many ways, Glen and Mary served as counsel to community members and helped guide them in any way possible. If they were unable to assist, they put them in contact with others who could. They played an essential role in "building community".

When Glen Ayala was hired by the City of Riverside Park and Recreation Department, I had the privilege of working with him as a preschool teacher. For over 20 years, our team worked together to provide programs for the residents of the community. Glen had a passion to serve and made it a priority to ensure that all youth (especially at-risk youth) had an opportunity to participate in activities provided to them as a method to keep them on a positive track. It was not uncommon to see Glen out on the playing fields, in the classrooms, even out on the streets encouraging youth to enroll in the programs offered at Ysmael Villegas Community Center. Volunteer groups comprised of parents, local business owners, and community members worked together to expand activities and events. Mary played an intrical role as a community liaison at community group and school group meetings, some of which include: Centro de Ninos, Head Start, Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Services, etc.

The Ayala's were respected in the community. With little effort, they were able to engage people to volunteer for programs and lend a helping hand when needed. They were keen on making sure that things happened, a true definition of "doers". These attributes contributed to the many successful programs that occurred and have continued as a tradition in the community.

I miss my friends, their absence in the community has truly been a great loss. I cherish the memories of my friends and all of the community activities that we worked so hard to provide. We built community together a phrase which many Park and Recreation Departments have adopted over the years. In many ways, Glen and Mary Ayala were pioneers for many existing models for community service agencies throughout the city, county and state. Through good times, sad times and tough times, we all worked together as a team. Glen and Mary were true leaders in the community who had a profound impact in the City of Riverside. God bless them!

Sincerely,

Teacher Mary Gutierrez

MEMO Anthony,

Below is my letter of support for the effort to name the Gym in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala

Chairperson  
Park and Recreation Commission  
City of Riverside

I am aware of the initiative in the Casa Blanca Community to name the Gym at the Ismael Villegas Community Center as the Glen and Mary Ayala Gymnasium, and I want to express my wholehearted support of this effort. As the former Executive Director of the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service, I had the privilege of working with Glen and Mary Ayala on numerous projects and activities for more than thirty years.

While an employee of the City of Riverside Park and Recreation Department, as director of the Gym, Glen Ayala provided outstanding leadership in developing a comprehensive sports and recreation program for all age groups, from league sports to personal training. He was a highly respected role-model and mentor to both youth and adults. For over forty years, both Glen and Mary Ayala were leaders in the Casa Blanca Community, and provided countless hours of selfless volunteer service in the areas of education, employment, housing, street improvement, police-community relations, and other areas to improve the lives of individuals and the community as a whole.

The proposed renaming of the Gym would certainly be a fitting tribute to the memory and outstanding legacy of Glen and Mary Ayala.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Al Kovar

**Jurupa Valley High School**

**10551 Bellegrave Ave. Mira Loma, Ca. 91752**

**(951)360-2600**

4/27/15

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Naming of Villegas Park Gymnasium

I, Enrique (Henry) Velasquez, was born and raised in Casa Blanca and currently volunteer and attend meeting due to my interest in this community which I will always call home. As I grew up in this community, I frequently attended the gym as a youth who loved playing basketball. During this time I had the pleasure of meeting the recreation supervisor Glen Ayala. He was always a welcoming presence to anyone who went and played basketball, table tennis, shot pool, or played any of the other sport at Villegas. Later, from 1980 to 1981, I worked under him as a recreation aide, during which time I got to know him better as a person. He showed me how to prep the baseball field, as well as, how to be an umpire. He taught more than just work skills, he taught me honesty, integrity and character. He was a fixture in the community, attending meetings, being a resident, and an employee at Villegas from 1970 to 1988. I also got to know his wife, an active community member, Mary Ayala, who always voiced her opinion in support of the community and at times criticized it. She often sought to get more funding for programs and to improve strained police relations. Both were very inspirational to the community, bringing about the good character of many of its residents. I truly feel it would be a fitting tribute to both Glen and Mary, as well as the community of Casa Blanca, if the Villegas Park Gymnasium was dedicated in their honor; as both were inspirational to many young people and adults. I would be more than welcomed to speak to you more on



the subject, as this letter limits my account of their contributions to the Casa Blanca community.

Sincerely,

Enrique Velasquez  
Social Science Teacher

Re: Glen and many others

4/27

To: The City of Riverside Committee

My name is Cynthia Gomez Barajas, age 62 years old. A Resident of the Casa Blanca Community (since Birth) a Retired Foster and adoptive Parent here in Riverside, Casa Blanca Community, and close family friend of Glen and Mary Aguirre.

AT This present time of writing this letter, I am writing you to ~~inform you about~~ Ismael Villagras gymnasium. After Glen and Mary Aguirre. Both worked very hard to establish the PARK Building Plans, implemented many programs for the Park and Recreation Center. Always helped the youth, people itself to get involved. I am writing you to inform you of people and their lives.

For Casa Blanca Community always will be a safe haven and a place where Glen and Mary Aguirre were. Glen was

always going out of his way  
 recruiting the youth in getting  
 involved in Sports, school and  
 helping in any way they could too  
 make the people of Casa Blanca  
 progressively positive life. I feel Glen & Mary  
 were one of the best role models  
 of our Community. They made me  
 and many others <sup>more</sup> great productive  
 people in the Casa Blanca Community.  
 I am a member of the Community  
 Action Group, and for many years  
 myself chaired C.A.G. 2 years consecutively  
 and I implemented the INTER-  
 Relations, from Casa Blanca. This  
 was done because of Glen and Mary  
 efforts to get people in the Park  
 and Recreation with the park, the  
Agassiz park and the park.  
 Many of us  
 have accepted the legacy  
 of the park and the park  
 is now being used for the  
 park and the park.

- 3 -

it is Today. without all the  
hard work, Faith and confidence  
of Glen and Mary Ayala. I  
Hope this Committee has it in  
There hearts To have our  
Gymnasium Named after The  
greatest two people I have  
EVER known in my entire life  
GLEN AND MARY Ayala. "Will  
always Be loved and NEVER  
Forgotten".

THANK YOU so kindly for your Time  
And Attention To read my letter  
and for the consideration

Sincerely

Cynthia Gomez Barajas

~~Cynthia Villalobos~~ 4-27-2005

9465 Samuel Villalobos St.

Riverside, California

92504



Executive Offices: P.O. Box 150 • 301 S. Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino, California 92408 • (909) 733-5000

April 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I met Glen Ayala in 1979 when I was a Store Manager for Stater Bros. Markets in Riverside. Glen was an incredible man who was always concerned with the wellbeing of the citizens in the Casa Blanca community. He would frequent my store two to three times a week to solicit donations and pick up our day old bread. He would take these items to the Casa Blanca Community Center and distribute them to people in need who lived in the area. Glen took it upon himself to help the people. He always drove his own vehicle (an old van) to pick up the donations, and I am convinced that he performed these good deeds on his own time and at his own expense.

I had many conversations with Glen and he was always looking for ways to better the community and help the people who lived there. One of our frequent conversations was how he wanted to continue to improve the Villegas Park facility and make it a special place for local families to use. He would regularly solicit donations from me such as soda, water and chips to sell at community events at Villegas Park and during the Cinco de Mayo Tournament.

Over the many years of associating with Glen, I got to know him very well and we became great friends. I developed a true admiration for him for the incredible dedication and commitment that he had for helping his community. In my eyes, Glen was a true asset to the community. He was always a positive role model, and he definitely made a difference.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Meyer  
Executive Vice President  
Stater Bros. Markets

From the Desk of

*Rebecca G. Adame*

April 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to tell you of the many fine qualities of Glen and Mary Ayala. I had the pleasure of knowing them for most of my life in various capacities, including community leaders, tax consultants, little league coach, friends, and more; most of all they were an inspiration and model to many.

I say without a doubt that they were people of good moral character. Mr. & Mrs. Ayala managed their lives with integrity, and never had a bad word to say about anyone. Glen and Mary were hard working and a dedicated couple; they never left a job unfinished and were always ready to lend a helping hand. They took great pride in their family and neighborhood. For me, they were the "Ozzie and Harriet" of Casa Blanca.

On a personal level, Mr. & Mrs. Glen Ayala alike, left a positive mark in my life with their gentle and caring nature. I have no doubt that the lives of many were affected in the same manner. This couple deserves to be honored and remembered for their dedication, love and devotion to the community of Casa Blanca and beyond.

Sincerely,

*Becky G. Adame*

Becky Garavito Adame

May 1, 2015

To Park and Recreation Commission

I am writing in support of Mr. and Mrs. Ayala, that they will receive a recognition for their work and dedication that they have done in the Casa Blanca Community.

Mr. Ayala has worked hard and has been especially very dedicated to the youth in the area, and let's not forget his work for Park and Rec.

As for Mrs. Ayala, she was a great support to the Casa Blanca community, especially her involvement for the City of Riverside.

Mrs. Ayala served on many boards and commission in the field of Education. When she worked for the Riverside Unified School District she was a very dedicated person and took all duties to heart. I personally had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Ayala while working for RUSD under Title 7. She was also a board member for Concilio for the Spanish Speaking of Riverside County-Centro de Niños established in 1980. Mrs. Ayala was always willing to assist in any way possible.

Hope you will support and take this citizen's request into consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Nati Fuentes

Past Centro de Niños Executive Director

May 2, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in recommendation for the dedication of Villegas Parks Gymnasium in the name of Glen and Mary Ayala. First I would like to introduce myself. My name is Deborah Rivera, niece to Glen and Mary, and life long resident of Casa Blanca.

My aunt + uncle were residents of Casa Blanca for their entire lives. They did more than just buy a house and have an address to put on their mail. But they built a home for their family and helped build a unified community among the residents of CASA BLANCA. Their names are known for the good deeds they have done and all their time and effort they dedicated. My uncle Glen was an employee of the city of Riverside for many years. He worked as a Park Coordinator, But his hours did not



end when the park doors closed. He always went above and beyond his job descriptions. Being located in the barrio, our park may have been looked over when it came to the finer things, But he would not let that happen. He started a game room for the neighborhood kids with ping-pong, push ball and many other games. The kids of all ages enjoyed gathering there, and he enjoyed knowing the kids would have a place to be other than the streets. He would hustle to sell as many raffle tickets. So he could buy new equipment for the different sports.

My uncle and aunt were heavily involved with the planning of the fiestas for Cinco De Mayo and Mexican Independence Day. They would chaperone dances at the park for the teenagers of the neighborhood. And for many like myself, they were the reason my parents allowed me to attend the dances. At times they would fill up their VW van with

children and took them to see a Dodger game or professional basketball game. For many of the children they took, it was their first time and if it wasn't for their BIG HEARTS and generosity. They may have never had a chance to go.

Since this quest has been started. Many residents have stepped forward telling their stories of how Uncle Glen and Aunt Mary impacted their lives. By paying a young boy his first bag of marbles, to doing their taxes, or answering their phone in the middle of the night to help a family in need. I could go on page after page, But it is simple to see that my Uncle and Aunt were a major asset to the community of Casa Blanca. We are not speaking to take the recognition of our fallen Soldier Ysmael Villegas, But only seeking recognition of Glen and Mary Ayala's selfless acts of kindness and devotion to our community.

Thank you for your time in this  
matter. I hope a decision  
will be made accordingly. Please  
feel free to contact me at  
(951) 218-2674.

Sincerely,

Deborah Rivera  
Deborah Rivera

Adolfo,

May 4, 2015



Per Your and the Park and Recreation Commission's request, this letter is in response, to inform You that in the month of August 2014 Community Action Group (CAG) Mr. Anthony Ayala attended the CAG Meeting to ask for support in renaming the Villegas Park Gymnasium on behalf of His Grandparents Glen & Mary Ayala.

At the CAG Meeting the membership motioned, and with a second on the motion, with a unanimous decision, to rename the Gymnasium in honor of Mr. & Mrs. Ayala.

With this letter the CAG asks that you receive it on our behalf as support from the community of Casa Blanca, for the Park and Recreation Commission's Meeting on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Villegas Park Community Center.

Respectfully with Peace Prayers and Blessings,

Bob Garcia

President/Casa Blanca Community Action Group (CAG)

Dear Committee,



My name is Peter Garcia and I was born and raised in Casa Blanca. I would like to address this committee on behalf of Glen Ayala and his lifetime commitment to not only the community but to Villegas Park itself. I can speak of many occurrences that I have personally witnessed Glen involved with that have helped the community and the park and I am sure you have already heard many of them and quite possibly may have experienced some yourselves.

Please understand that it is not my intent to offend any person or family. There are many outstanding citizens from Casa Blanca that deserve to be honored and to be recognized. Unfortunately, not all of them will be given the opportunity to do so. But there are those who have dedicated themselves to the point where it is undeniable of their commitment to the citizens of the community and Glen Ayala is certainly one of them which is why he is one of the candidates being discussed today. I understand that Glen may not have been a recognized war veteran but I can say this, I personally witnessed how he maintained peace in the streets of Casa Blanca and stood at the front lines of our war torn barrio. He brought together many of the social clubs that the outside communities branded as gangs. I can recall that there was once a pool table in the little room of the gym in which Glen received donations from the social clubs and dedicated it to the kids of the community where I actually learned how to play the game. He once sat to speak to me about how power comes in numbers and that if the community would come together, it would have great power to make the difference for all of us that lived in our poverty stricken community. This was the main ingredient to his fight when he would address the counsels and fight for the programs that he instilled at the gym for the kids such as the haunted houses, turkey runs, and even having Santa flying in on a helicopter. As a result of this conversation I was persuaded as the leader of my club to put down the weapons and have a football game with an opposing club we were having trouble with at the time. He also advocated that instead of engaging in illegal activities to hold car washes or horseshoe tournaments to make the money it would take to buy our club jackets. He even allowed us to have the car wash at the gym and let us keep all the proceeds. I could go on and on and so could so many other people of this community and in this room but let me leave this topic to discuss another one.

I would like to take a little of your time to discuss both Mr. Villegas and Mr. Lara as well. It is my understanding that these brave men actually laid down their own lives for the democracy of our country. It only seems fitting to me that the democracy they fought for should be practiced not only in their living but also in their death. These are honorable men whose actions have displayed that they fought not only for their families but for everyone in this Country. It is written that there is no greater love than for one to give up his life for another. That shows the integrity of these men. So does it not make logical sense to say that if democracy was what they laid their life down for that it would be what they would want to see happen. I do not see these gentlemen as selfish men but rather men that believed in social equality for all. You have before you the people of the community voting for their family member and to have their loved one honored and rightfully so. Therefore I believe that the park should remain as Villegas Park, the bandstand or the Library should be named after Mr. Lara and the gymnasium itself should be named after Glen Ayala. After all we should take to honor what these men represented. I do not believe any of these men acted on behalf of pride of their name but rather lived by

their unselfish character that God blessed them with to be examples to those around them. We as a community should not act selfishly by limiting any dedication to only a certain family but rather allow each of these men to be honored at the various locations to inspire the youth of our community so that they too could admire the way these men lived their lives so they are not deprived of knowing who they were. And if there is one thing we should be able to agree upon is that our youth of today need men like these to give them a sense of direction and possibly someone that they could be inspired by.

So let me close with this. The Glen I knew and loved never did anything for recognition. He did it out of love. He truly loved his community and while I believe he may have appreciated a dedication in his honor he wouldn't accept it if it brought a disagreement amongst his community. Glen Ayala deserves to be recognized because there isn't a family that has roots in Casa Blanca that doesn't know who he was. And should you not grant him the dedication, that will be okay too because people like Glen will always live in the hearts of the people he touched. May God bless each of you and may the Ol' Man rest in peace.

Respectfully Yours,

Peter Garcia

5-4-15

Attention Parks and Recreation,

I am writing on the behalf of Glen and Mary Ayala. I and my family have been residents of the Casa Blanca Community for more than 60 years. I have had the privilege and honor of knowing Glen and Mary Ayala for over 20 years. I remember when my husband coached basketball for my daughter at Villegas Park and formed a team for the community back in the 80's. Glen Ayala was always a huge part of the Villegas Park Community Center as well as his wife Mary Ayala. I cannot remember a time when I did not see him there all hours of the day and night. He was always involved with the teens and spent most of his time at Villegas Park Community Center. It was like his second home to him as well as his wife. It would be an honor to name the Ysmael Villegas Community Center Gym in honor of both of them. They were both a huge part of the community and were very well liked and personable individuals who earned much respect for the community.

Thank you,

Priscilla Murrujo-Rivera

Villegas Park Advisory Committee



To Whom It May Concern:

May 4, 2015

The naming of the basketball gymnasium inside the Ysmael Villegas Community Center in honor of Glen and Mary Ayala is long overdue. Glen and Mary were strong leaders in the Casa Blanca Community for a long time. They loved their community.

I agree with naming the basketball gymnasium in Glen and Mary's name and I am proud to say I work with both of them in the community and at the gym.

I write this letter representing myself and not any group or committee.

Sincerely,

Ted D. Orosco





Roberto J. Velasquez, Ph.D.

2930 Madison Street

Riverside, CA 92504

951-500-0666

[dr.robetovelasquez@yahoo.com](mailto:dr.robetovelasquez@yahoo.com)

May 5, 2015

**RE: Renaming Part of Villegas Park in Honor of Glen and Mary Ayala**

To whom it may concern,

On behalf and my entire family, familia Velasquez of Casa Blanca, I am writing this letter in full support of the community's drive to rename part of the Villegas Park complex in honor of two of our most beloved residents, Mr. Glen and Mrs. Mary Ayala. My family has been in the Casa Blanca community since the late 1890s and can fully address the history of the community, including the role that the Ayalas played in the day-to-day activities of Casa Blanca. Mr. Ayala served as an exceptional manager of the gymnasium at Villegas Park for a long period of time, and constantly served as a role model for the many generations of youth that participated in the many sports activities at Villegas Park. I was one of those individuals who played basketball for about 15 years. I also participated in other sports activities including Little League. My family continues to participate, largely because of the programming first devised by Mr. Ayala.

Mrs. Mary Ayala was not only a civic rights activist for the community of Casa Blanca but also for the City of Riverside. During my years of growing up in Casa Blanca in the 1960s, and through many heated moments well into the 1980s, Mary and Glen were always there to monitor and guarantee that residents' civil rights were always protected. They were also at the forefront of helping the youth understand how the Vietnam war was affecting our community and how it was important to stand up for our beliefs as citizens of this country. She also worked with Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers during key moments when it was necessary to reign in support from Casa Blanca.

Personally, the Ayalas were always my role models for community organizing and activism and planted in me the ideals of helping our community to improve the quality of life for all residents, whether the residents were documented or not. The Ayalas served on several scholarship committees that provided funding for me to attend Harvard University for graduate school in the late 1970s. Their assistance and that of the community helped me complete my master's degree at Harvard, and then move on to my doctoral program at Arizona State University.

I fully support the drive from the community to rename part of the Villegas Park complex in honor of the Ayalas. Their mark in our community has remained all of these years even after their passing. It is time to honor their legacy as they always fought for political, social, and economic justice.

Respectfully,

Roberto J. Velasquez, Ph.D.; retired professor of psychology, San Diego State University



## Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service

7680 Casa Blanca Street • Riverside, California 92504 • (951)688-3043



May 5, 2015

To Whom it may Concern:

On behalf of the Casa Blanca Home of Neighborly Service, I am encouraged by the notion that the naming of the Villegas Park Gym will be taken into consideration by the Riverside city park's commission. A proposal to dedicate the gym in the memory of Glen and Mary Ayala affirms the historical context of these two individuals who gave so much of themselves in serving the city of Riverside and in particular, the Casa Blanca Neighborhood.

Glenn and Mary Ayala played a substantial role in serving the needs of the local community by dedicating themselves in all areas of community activities, i.e. sports and recreation, community engagement, education and organizational leadership to ensure that the Casa Blanca neighborhood developed a proactive approach toward building families by bringing them programs and information that would improve the quality of life. It is fitting that the Villegas Park Gym being may be named in their honor. They are the essence and soul of the Casa Blanca neighborhood as they sought to improve the lives of the community through action and service to others.

Respectfully,

Dennis J. Alvarado  
Executive Director

**LIVE UNITED**



United Way of the  
Inland Valleys  
Community Partner