

*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

**TO: Board of Library Trustees**

**DATE: APRIL 25, 2016**

**FROM: Mayor William R. "Rusty" Bailey**

**SUBJECT: Renaming of Eastside Library after Medal of Honor Recipient Spc. Jesus S. Duran**

**ISSUE:**

Renaming of the Eastside Library after Medal of Honor recipient Spc. Jesus S. Duran

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Eastside Library be renamed the Jesus S. Duran Eastside, Library.


**BACKGROUND:**

Spc. Jesus S. Duran received a Medal of Honor for his gallant actions while serving in the U.S. Military. The attached application provides full details on this item.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None – Costs will be provided by private fundraising.

Submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William R. "Rusty" Bailey, Mayor

Approved as to form: Gary Geuss, City Attorney  
Alex Nguyen, Assistant City Manager

**Attachment: City-Owned Land, Buildings and Facilities  
Naming/Renaming Application**

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE  
CITY-OWNED LAND, BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES  
NAMING/RENAMING APPLICATION**

**Names for City-owned land, buildings and facilities located in the City may be nominated by any member of the community. Proposed names must be in accordance with established guideline for naming/renaming of City-owned land, buildings and facilities.**

**Name being nominated:** Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library

**City-owned amenity proposed to be named/renamed (check all that apply):**

Land \_\_\_\_\_ Building ☒ Facility \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/Location of amenity:** Eastside Library, 4033 Chicago Ave., Riverside, CA 92507

**What significance does the nominated name have in relation to amenity proposed to be named (check all that applies)?**

Neighborhood ☒ Geographic \_\_\_\_\_ Topographic \_\_\_\_\_

Historic ☒ Cultural ☒ Individual ☒

**Explain significance in detail ( attach additional sheets and back up documents such as resumes of individuals, minutes of agency meetings, next of kin endorsement as appropriate and as necessary:**

**Proposal**

The Mayor, The Riverside County Mexican American Historical Society, The Eastside Reconciliation coalition, local community leaders, and the Duran family propose the Eastside Library be named "The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library" after Specialist (Sp.) Four Jesus S. Duran, who served in the army and fought gallantly in the Vietnam War.

**Background Information**

Sp. Four Duran has been recognized as a Medal of Honor recipient by the federal government for his valorous actions in The Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969. The Medal of Honor, established in 1862, is the United States of America's highest military honor. Presented by the President of the United States, this medal is awarded for personal "acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty." Riverside has three descended that have been named Medal of Honor recipients, Salvador J. Lara, Ysmael Villegas, and Jesus S. Duran.

Jesus S. Duran was born in Juarez, Mexico on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 1948 and came to the United States (via Texas) in December 1963 with his parents - Crescencio and Librida Duran - and his eleven siblings. Within weeks of his arrival in the United States, his family moved to Riverside, California, where they resided on Bowie Court in the Eastside neighborhood. Jesus, or "Chuy" as his family called him, attended North High School and was much loved by his siblings. In 1968, Jesus S. Duran married Pearl Sierra at the Mission Inn. While in Vietnam, Jesus became a father to a beautiful daughter named Tina F Duran (now Ruvalcaba). Upon returning to civilian life, Mr. Duran's marriage faced some sizable challenges and eventually ended. Mr. Duran later married Alma Brigandi, and together they had a son, also named Jesus S. Duran. After being honorably discharged, Mr. Duran attended Riverside Community College and became certified to work in the corrections department. He worked at the California Youth Authority in the early to mid-70s. Sadly Mr. Duran's life was ended prematurely.

Jesus S. Duran is remembered as a humble man with a charismatic personality, who simply wanted to do a good job in the service and return home. To his fellow soldiers in the 1st Cavalry Division, Jesus S. Duran was known for his big smile and funny pranks that kept spirits high. His sergeant during the Vietnam War said he "loved life, and he loved to have fun." To his community Duran was a model citizen who was committed to the development of the community's youth. While working as a corrections officer he dedicated numerous hours of personal time to mentor youth and lead them on educational excursions.

Duran joined the Army on May 13, 1968. In the Army, Spc. Four Jesus S. Duran "distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an acting M-60 machine gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Calvary, 1<sup>st</sup> Calvary Division (Airmobile) during combat operations against an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969" (Medal of Honor, Vietnam War). That afternoon, as a machine-gunner on a search and clear operation, the front of his platoon moved into an enemy bunker complex and began taking concentrated ambush fire from every side. Spc. Four Duran rushed forward and assumed a defensive position near the command post. As hostile forces stormed forward, Spc. Four Duran thwarted the enemy. Learning that several severely wounded troopers lay helplessly pinned down

under enemy fire nearby, Spc. Four Duran assaulted the enemy and continued to attack the disorganized and fleeing enemy. Duran's actions were pivotal to the success of the mission and in saving the lives of many of his fellow soldiers. By the end of his service Duran had achieved the rank of Sergeant. After the war, Duran returned home where he died prematurely on February 17, 1977. He rests in peace in Olivewood Memorial Park in Riverside.

For his extraordinary courage and conspicuous gallantry Sergeant Duran was highly decorated for his service. He has received:

Award	Honoring
Bronze Star Medal	Awarded to personnel who, while serving in any capacity in or with the army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service (not involving participation in aerial flight) in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party
Air Medal	Awarded to personnel who while serving in any capacity in or with the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguishing himself or herself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.
Army Good Conduct Medal	One of the oldest awards established in 1869, this medal is awarded to any active-duty enlisted member of the United States military who completes three consecutive years (1 year during wartime) of honorable and faithful service and demonstrate exemplary conduct, efficiency and fidelity during these years.
National Defense Service Medal	Awarded to personnel who served in active duty in any of the following time periods: between June 27, 1950 and July 27, 1954, (Korean War), between Jan. 1, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1974, (Vietnam War), between Aug. 2, 1990 to Nov. 30, 1995 (operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm), and starting from Sept. 11, 2001 to present day (Global War on Terrorism).
Vietnam Service Medal, Four Bronze Service Stars	Awarded to all personnel who between July 4, 1965 and March 28, 1973, served in the following areas of Southeast Asia: the Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia.
Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Auto Rifle and the Browning Automatic Rifle "BAR" Machine-gun	Awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition.
Combat Infantryman Badge	Awarded to personnel in the grade of Colonel or below with an infantry or special forces military occupational specialty who have satisfactorily performed duty while assigned as a member of an infantry/special forces unit, brigade or smaller size, during any period subsequent to 6 December 1941 when the unit was engaged in combat.
Marksman Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar	Awarded to personnel upon successful completion of a weapons qualification course or high achievement in an official marksmanship competition.
Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device	Awarded by the South Vietnamese government to members of the Republic of the Vietnam Military Forces for direct participation in major military operation. The medal was also awarded to foreign military personnel for service in South Vietnam.
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palms Device	Awarded to all military personnel who served in Vietnam.
Distinguished Service Cross	The second highest military award that can be given for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Upgraded to Medal of Honor on March 18, 2014.
Medal of Honor	The highest award for valor in action against an enemy force.

In 2002, the National Defense Authorization Act required the Army to conduct a review of over 6,500 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross to determine if racial and/or religious biases resulted in prejudice inhibiting minority military personnel from being awarded due recognition in the Medal of Honor selection processes (Frizell, Time Magazine, 2014). After an extensive review it was determine that 24 veterans, now called the Valor 24, were “passed over for the [Medal of Honor] award because of long-standing prejudices against minorities.” Jesus S. Duran, from Riverside, was one of these 24 recipients.

On March 18, 2014, on her father’s behalf, Tina Duran-Ruvalcaba accepted the Medal of Honor for Jesus S. Duran’s “acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.”

### **Precedent**

Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas, a resident of the City of Riverside was killed in action on March 20, 1945. Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas enjoys a high profile, and rightfully so, in Riverside with a statue, city park, Veterans of Foreign War chapter, street, community center and middle school named in his honor.

### **Equity**

Jesus S. Duran is one of three Medal of Honor recipients from the City of Riverside. To date, Mr. Duran has not been given be the honor and recognition from Riverside that he deserves. Honoring our country’s war heroes should not be a political process, nor should it be about elevating one war hero over another. Jesus S. Duran, like the two other Medal of Honor recipients - Salvador J. Lara and Ysmael Villegas - fought gallantly and represented his community. All three of these soldiers were war heroes, and these young men are worthy of recognition in the city and community in which they were raised.

The Mayor, along with concerned citizens of Riverside, local community leaders, and the Duran family believe it fitting to honor one of our city’s heroes with the naming of the Eastside Library. Spc. Four Jesus S. Duran’s actions during the Vietnam War hold significant cultural and historic importance for our country, the county of Riverside, the city of Riverside, and the Latino community.

We hereby request that you name the library located at 4033 Chicago Ave to “The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library” and that you authorize a permanent indoor educational display, approved by the Library Board, in tribute to Sergeant Jesus S. Duran. Please help the City of Riverside give a befitting recognition to its hero.

**News articles regarding Jesus S. Duran Medal of Honor Recipient**

1. Frizell, Sam. "Medal of Honor Will Go To 24 Overlooked Veterans." Time, 22 Feb. 2014. Web. 30 Sept. 2015.
2. Steinberg, Jin. "Six Southern California Army Veterans Are among Medal of Honor Recipients." The Sun, 15 Mar. 2014. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.
3. Vachon, Duane. "Jesus S. Duran Sergeant U.S. Army—Courage and Character." Hawaii Reported, 24 Aug. 2014. Web. 14 Oct. 2015.

# Four Latino veterans will be lauded for their service

Mexican American Historical Society will do the honors on Nov. 5.

BY SUZANNE HURT  
STAFF WRITER

The Riverside County Mexican American Historical Society will salute four decorated Mexican American war heroes, including a 91-year-old World War II Silver Star recipient who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

The free event, titled The Brotherhood of Veterans, will take place at 1 p.m. Nov. 5 at Cesar E. Chavez

Community Center, 2060 University Ave., in Riverside, group founder Linda Salinas-Thompson said.

Silver Star recipient Andrew Melendrez Sr., 91, is the only one of the four still alive. He will attend the early Veterans Day event.

The U.S. Army private first class was awarded what was then the nation's second-highest military decoration for valor for his action during the surprise German blitzkrieg dubbed



Duran



Lara



Villegas



Melendrez

the Battle of the Bulge, a turning point in the war.

He and another 30th Infantry Division machine gunner risked their lives under heavy enemy fire to move their guns forward and kill German SS soldiers who were pinning down advancing U.S. troops near St. Vith, Belgium, on

Dec. 23, 1944, said his son, City Councilman Andy Melendrez.

Melendrez Sr. also has a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

The event's keynote speaker, Riverside County Department of Veterans Services Director Grant Gautsche, also will recog-

nize three late Medal of Honor recipients from Riverside during the half-hour program.

World War II veteran Ysmael "Smiley" Villegas, who grew up in Riverside's Casa Blanca neighborhood, died at age 20 in the Battle of Luzon after clearing five enemy foxholes.

World War II veteran Salvador Lara, a former Casa Blanca resident, and Vietnam War veteran Sgt. Jesus S. Duran were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor last year.

Lara, a U.S. Army private first class, led his ri-

fle squad to kill many enemy soldiers in a two-day fight in Italy in 1944 despite his severe leg wound. Duran was a machine gunner on a 1969 mission, who saved wounded Americans and forced the enemy to flee.

The nonprofit Mexican American Historical Society is seeking event sponsors for \$50, \$500 and \$1,000 through Sept. 30. Checks can be sent to RCMVHS, P.O. Box 21295, Riverside, CA 92516. For information, call 951-687-4416 or email riversidecmahs@yahoo.com.



# A NATION'S TRIBUTE

CONTINUED FROM A1

Congress in 2002 to determine whether heroism of Jewish and Hispanic veterans had been undervalued because of discrimination.

The Medal of Honor is an upgrade for the soldiers from the Army's second-highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross.

Duran, a native of Mexico who lived most of his life in Riverside, earned the award during service in Vietnam. Lara, a native of the Casa Blanca neighborhood, earned his award while serving in Italy during World War II.

"It's been a whirlwind" since the awards were announced, said Vivian Lara Hernandez, the niece of Salvador Lara.

She said she is grateful that her father, Alfonso Lara, 80, "is alive and able to accept the award for his brother."

Hernandez said family members and friends are "super excited." They feel it is a great thing the government is doing for my uncle.

Chuy Duran, the son of Jesus S. Duran, said his family will be joined at Tuesday's ceremony by Michael "Mick" DeHart and his wife, Carol, of Troy, Ohio. DeHart, now 71, was Jesus Duran's platoon sergeant in Vietnam.

The Durans were told originally there wouldn't be room for the DeHarts, but with the family pressing and other openings at the ceremony, "I got them in," Chuy Duran said.

"These last (several) weeks have been pretty amazing," he said.

Through DeHart, Chuy Duran said he has spoken to 10 or 15 former members of the company his father served in.

"Now I have a way better understanding" of the events that led to his father receiving the medal, he said, and he has become convinced that Jesus Duran was not a victim of discrimination in his unit.

"They were a family," Chuy Duran said. "They were a very tight-knit group. They knew each other well."

He said he learned that any of the soldiers would have put their life on the line for the others.

Both families will be staying at a hotel in Virginia just outside Washington, D.C., where the families of the other recipients will be housed. They plan to attend a briefing at the hotel on Monday, a reception that evening and then Tuesday's ceremony at the White House.

On Wednesday, they will be guests at the Pentagon for a ceremony honoring the heroes.

Contact Darrell R. Santschl at 951-368-9079 or dsantschl@pe.com



TERRY PIERSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Army Private First Class Salvador J. Lara with his Purple Heart and Medal of Valor and the personal note he wrote his dad when he sent him his Purple Heart years ago. Lara will receive the Medal of Honor posthumously for his courageous actions.

## THE HEROES



**Salvador Lara**  
Born: 1920 in Riverside  
Died: Sept. 1, 1945  
Resided: Casa Blanca neighborhood of Riverside  
Buried: Lorraine American

Cemetery in St. Avold, France

Served in: 602<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Armament Maintenance Battalion

Heroism took place: April 11, Italy, on May 27-28, 1944

For: Leading a rifle squad in neutralizing multiple enemy strong points and inflicting large number of casualties on the enemy. The next day he sustained a severe leg wound and, not stopping to receive first aid, captured his objective.



**Jesus S. Duran**  
Born: July 26, 1948 in Juarez, Mexico  
Died: 1977  
Resided: Riverside  
Buried: Olivewood Memorial Park

In Riverside

Served in: Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

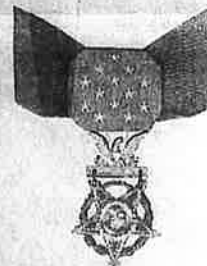
Heroism took place: April 10, 1969

For: Climbed to the top of a bomb crater, exposed to intense enemy fire, and used an M-60 machine gun to fend off an enemy ambush — protecting other wounded soldiers — until members of his platoon could counter attack.

## MEDAL OF HONOR

Highest award for combat valor, it is awarded for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States.

**CREATION:** On December 9, 1861 Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced S. No. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor." On December 21st the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced "which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war (Civil War)." President Lincoln signed the bill and the (Navy) Medal of Honor was born.



**ARMY INCLUDED:** Army soldiers became eligible a year later.

**FIRST ARMY RECIPIENT:** Pvt. Jacob Parrott, March 25, 1863

**SINCE THEN:** There have been:

- More than 3,400 recipients of the Medal of Honor.
- There are 74 living recipients of the Medal of Honor.
- Vietnam War (not including those to receive award Tuesday)
- There are 52 living recipients who performed actions in the Vietnam War.
- There are 197 deceased recipients who performed actions in the Vietnam War.
- World War II
- There are 7 living recipients who performed actions in the World War II.
- There are more than 460 deceased recipients who performed actions in the World War II.

SOURCE: CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Families of the 24 soldiers to be awarded the Medal of Honor Tuesday were sent the following schedule (Pacific time would be three hours earlier)

### MONDAY

8 a.m. Media refresher training  
9 a.m. Media interviews and activities  
1 p.m. Ceremony overview, finance and VA benefits briefing  
5:30 p.m. Welcome reception hosted by the Army

### TUESDAY

Noon Stage participants depart Virginia hotel for White House ceremony rehearsal; families stage in hotel lobby for security screening.  
1 p.m. Families depart for the White House  
3 p.m. Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House  
5:30 p.m. Families depart the White House

### WEDNESDAY

8 a.m. Stage participants depart Virginia hotel for Pentagon ceremony rehearsal  
8:30 a.m. Families stage in hotel lobby for security screening  
9:15 a.m. Families depart for Pentagon  
10 a.m. Hall of Heroes Induction Ceremony at Pentagon, followed by reception  
Noon Families depart Pentagon for hotel  
12:15 p.m. Lunch  
2 p.m. Buses depart for war memorials (optional for families)  
4 p.m. Return to hotel

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CONTRIBUTED IMAGE  
Army Gen. Creighton Abrams Jr. congratulates then-Sgt. Jesus S. Duran, of Riverside, after presenting him the Distinguished Service Cross during the Vietnam War. That medal is now being upgraded to the Medal of Honor.

# Petition

I support the initiative to name the Eastside Library "The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library" after Sergeant Jesus S. Duran. I also support a permeant indoor educational display of Sergeant Duran within the library. I support the Duran family and other community members in Riverside in this effort. Let's come together and honor this local hero!

	Name	Address	Signature
1.	Pastor Jon S. Harris	2900 Adams St #A-4 Riverside CA 92504	Jon S. Harris
2.	Leita J. Harris	2900 Adams St Unit A4 Riverside CA 92504	Leita J. Harris
3.	RALPH A. RIVERS	572 S 20th St Riverside, CA 92509	Ralph A. Rivers
4.	DERRICK Anderson	4482 Grove Ave Riverside, CA 92507	D. Anderson
5.	JAMES B. ELLIS JR.	8240 Golden Poppy Rd Riv, CA 92508	James B. Ellis Jr.
6.	Sharon Manier	2364 University Ave Riv. CA 92507	Sharon Manier
7.	Micaela Garcia	3553 Chicago Ave #10 Peterside CA 92507	Micaela Garcia
8.	Stormy Franklin	3553 Chicago Ave Apt D Riverside CA 92507	Stormy Franklin
9.	Tasrah Dottery	2786 Pleasant St Riverside, CA 92507	Tasrah Dottery
10.	Vivian Stancil	4435 Doughton Ave Riverside, CA 92507	Vivian Stancil
11.	Turnee Stancil	4435 Doughton Ave. Riverside, CA 92507	Turnee Stancil
12.	Michele Wynn	4305 Angelo St Riv. CA 92507	M Wynn
13.	Derrick Knight	4305 Michael St 92507	D. Knight
14.	Tracee Conigwan	2950 9th St Riverside, CA 92507	Tracee Conigwan
15.	Derrane Ball	4306 Angelo St Riverside, CA 92507	Derrane Ball

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## Call to Honor a Hero

### **Petition Background:**

Concerned citizens of Riverside and local community leaders propose the Eastside Library be named "The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library" after Sergeant Jesus S. Duran, who served in the Army and fought gallantly in the Vietnam War. Mr. Duran has been recognized as a Medal of Honor recipient by the federal government for his conspicuous gallantry in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969. The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor. Presented by the President of the United States, this medal is awarded for personal "acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty." Riverside has three named Medal of Honor recipients, Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas, the first named Riverside Medal of Honor recipient, appropriately enjoys a high profile in Riverside, with a statue, city park, Veterans of Foreign War chapter, street, community center, and middle school named in his honor. Like Ysmael Villegas, Jesus S. Duran is also worthy of recognition in the city and community in which he was raised. As a city we want to honor all our heroes and strive for equity in honoring each Medal of Honor recipient. Please help the City of Riverside community give a befitting recognition to its hero.



**January 13, 2016**

**Mayor Rusty Bailey  
3900 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92599**

**Dear Mayor Rusty Bailey,**

**On March 18, 2015 on behalf of my father, Specialist (Spc.) Four Jesus S. Duran, I accepted the Medal of Honor for his acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. To have my father recognized in this manner after so many years was a very special and emotional moment for myself and my family.**

**Like other Medal of Honor recipients of Riverside, my father is worthy of recognition in the city and community in which he was raised and served. The City of Riverside, especially the youth of Riverside, held an important place in Jesus' heart. It would mean a lot to our family and the community he served to have the Eastside Library named after my father. For these reasons we support the effort to name the Eastside Library, "The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library." We further support a permanent educational display within the library detailing his accomplishments. While the library would be our first preference, if that is not possible, we would**

**support the naming of a park or street, instead. We feel this is not only important to our family, but it is more important for the entire Riverside community to know its heroes.**

**We would like to thank you for the support you have extended and for the honor you seek to bestow on my father.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tina Duran Ruvalcaba". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first name "Tina" being the most prominent.


**Tina Duran Ruvalcaba, daughter and  
On behalf of the Duran Family**

### Consultation for Eastside Library Renaming

- Consultation with Councilman Melendrez.
- Consultation with both of Mr. Duran's living children. Both have expressed support. A letter of support from the family is attached.
- Consultation with the Riverside County Mexican American Historical Society.
- Community Advisory Group at Bobby Bonds Park with Councilman Melendrez.
- Community Advisory Group at Lincoln Park with Councilman Melendrez.
- Consultation with Eastside Reconciliation Coalition.
- Consultation with Park Avenue Church to explore concerns about prior naming applications. Petitions are attached from Park Avenue parishioners to verify support, including a letter of support from Dr. Moss' widow.
- Courtesy meeting with Saint Francis De Sales Catholic Church, per Councilman's request.
- Courtesy meeting with Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine Church, per Councilman's request.

**Petition**

I support the initiative to name the Eastside Library "The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library" after Sergeant Jesus S. Duran. I also support a permeant indoor educational display of Sergeant Duran within the library. I support the Duran family and other community members in Riverside in this effort. Let's come together and honor this local hero!

	Name	Address	Signature
1.	James Ward	2292 Prince Albert Dr Riverside Ca. 92507	
2.	DOROTHY M. WARD Dorothy M. Ward	2292 Prince Albert Dr Riverside, CA 92507	Dorothy M. Ward
3.	Hattie M. Moss	536 Spruce Street Riverside, CA 92507	Hattie M. Moss
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15.			

Dr Moss  
Widow



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## Call to Honor a Hero

### **Petition Background:**

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## Petition

I support the initiative to name the Eastside Library “The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library” after Sergeant Jesus S. Duran. I also support a permanent indoor educational display of Sergeant Duran within the library. I support the Duran family and other community members in Riverside in this effort. Let’s come together and honor this local hero!

[illegible]

JazzyJazz842  
@Gmail

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951 529.3135

901  
7564569  
9516860936

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## **Call to Honor a Hero**

### **Petition Background:**

Concerned citizens of Riverside and local community leaders propose the Eastside Library be named "The Jesus S. Duran - Eastside Library" after Sergeant Jesus S. Duran, who served in the Army and fought gallantly in the Vietnam War. Mr. Duran has been recognized as a Medal of Honor recipient by the federal government for his conspicuous gallantry in the Republic of Vietnam on April 10, 1969. The Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor. Presented by the President of the United States, this medal is awarded for personal "acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty." Riverside has three named Medal of Honor recipients, Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas, the first named Riverside Medal of Honor recipient, appropriately enjoys a high profile in Riverside, with a statue, city park, Veterans of Foreign War chapter, street, community center, and middle school named in his honor. Like Ysmael Villegas, Jesus S. Duran is also worthy of recognition in the city and community in which he was raised. As a city we want to honor all our heroes and strive for equity in honoring each Medal of Honor recipient. Please help the City of Riverside community give a befitting recognition to its hero.

## ***RIVERSIDE COUNTY MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

***Dear Mayor Bailey,***

### ***RIVERSIDE COUNTY MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

supports the proposal of renaming the ***CASA BLANCA LIBRARY***, to be named "***THE SALVADOR J. LARA-CASA BLANCA LIBRARY***". ***SALVADOR J. LARA*** was a past resident of the Casa Blanca community who served in the United States Army and fought gallantly in WWII. He is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, honored posthumously by President Obama in Washington D.C. on March 18, 2014. ***RCMAHS*** also supports the proposal of renaming the ***EASTSIDE LIBRARY***, to be named "***THE JESUS S. DURAN –EASTSIDE LIBRARY***". ***JESUS S. DURAN***, was born in Mexico, his family moving to Riverside, California when Jesus was a young teen settled in the Eastside community. In 1968 he enlisted in the United States Army and served by acts of gallantly in the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously by President Obama in Washington D.C. on March 18, 2014.

Both War Hero's like the preceding Medal of Honor WWII Staff Sergeant Ysmael Villegas from Riverside, California represented the United States of America with honor, courage, and sacrifice. Yes, all three "Hero's" are worthy of recognition in the City of Riverside and the communities where they were raised. Staff Sergeant Villegas, awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945, has been honored rightfully in Riverside. The proposals to rename both Libraries with each having a permanent indoor educational display, approved by the Library Board in tribute to ***SALVADOR J. LARA*** and ***JESUS S. DURAN*** is an outstanding honor for their stories of valor will live on with recognition to both ***HERO'S***.

***Sincerely,***

***Linda Salinas-Thompson, Founder***

***Riverside County Mexican American Historical Society***

***January 9, 2016***

**From:** RCMAHS [<mailto:riversidecmahs@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 09, 2016 4:43 PM  
**To:** Hansberger, Cheryl-Marie <[CMHansberger@riversideca.gov](mailto:CMHansberger@riversideca.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Letter of Support

Good Morning Cheryl-Marie,  
You did an outstanding job on the letters of proposal in honor of both Hero's to have the Libraries renamed. I applaud you for your hard work.  
I am sending you the letter of support in renaming the Libraries in honor of Riverside City's two new hero's.

Sincerely,

*Linda Salinas Thompson-Founder  
Riverside County Mexican American Historical Society  
951-687-4416*

## ***RIVERSIDE COUNTY MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

***Dear Mayor Bailey,***

### ***RIVERSIDE COUNTY MEXICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

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