

RESOLUTION NO. 22-1516

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DOUGLAS, COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 22-1503 NAMING VETERAN'S PARK PLAYGROUND AS KOREAN WAR HERO PLAYGROUND IN HONOR OF AMERICAN SERVICE MEMBERS BORN IN DOUGLAS, ARIZONA, KILLED DURING THE KOREAN WAR, AND WERE OR STILL ARE MISSING IN ACTION.

WHEREAS, Several Douglas community members served in the Army during the Korean War, four of whom we know were friends and all went missing during war; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Frank G. Vejar was a member of Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division and was reported missing in action on November 30, 1950 when his unit was attacked near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea; and whose remains were accounted for on April 14, 2020 after 70 years of being missing in action and laid to rest on November 17, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Private Felix M. Yanez was a member of Headquarters Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division and was killed in action on July 16, 1950, while fighting the North People's Army along the Kum River north of Taejon, South Korea and whose remains recovered in March 1951 could not be identified at that time and were finally identified in July 2022 through dental and DNA analysis; and

WHEREAS, other Douglas community members that served in the Army during the Korean War are still reported as missing and specifically, two were friends of SFC Vejar and PV2 Yanez at the time they all went missing during war; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Gerardo R. Aldaña, D. Co. 1/32 Regt 7th Infantry Div. missing in action since December 1, 1950.

WHEREAS, Sgt. Richard C. Encinas, A. Co. 2nd Engr, 2nd Infantry Div. POW-Kunu-ri, North Korea on December 1, 1950; and

WHEREAS, Cpl. Gerardo R. Aldaña and Sgt. Richard C. Encinas are still unaccounted for from the Korean War, and are being included as part of this tribute; and

WHEREAS, SFC Vejar, PV2 Felix M. Yanez, Cpl. Gerardo R. Aldaña and Sgt. Richard C. Encinas, will be perpetually recognized and honored in this community for being war heroes of the Korean War, and we must remember and never forget their bravery, honor and sacrifice of representing our City of Douglas; and

WHEREAS, the City's Resolution 10-666 allows consideration of naming a City facility, park and/or open spaces for an individual who has made particularly meritorious contributions to the City of Douglas; and

WHEREAS, a previous version of the request was previously adopted by Resolution No. 22-1503 on June 8, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Arizona, that the Veteran's Park Playground be named the Korean War Hero Playground, honoring SFC Vejar and PV2 Yanez who were Missing in Action for over 70 years and finally returned home and two more that remain Missing in Action, Cpl. Gerardo R. Aldaña and Sgt. Richard C. Encinas, hoping also for their eventual return home.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Douglas, Arizona, this 14th day of September 2022.

Donald C. Huish, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Alma Andrade, City Clerk

Denis Fitzgibbons, City Attorney