

Category: Posthumous

Nominee: Ricardo Gallegos

Alternate Phone number due to circumstances: (310)483-5681

Nomintated by: Kim Cortado

Address: 21504 Grace Ave

City/State/Zip: Carson CA 90745

Home:(310)835-8684

I nominate Ricardo Gallegos also know to the community as Coach Carter. Coach Carter helped out for many years and at multiple parks throughout the city for different sports offered such as baseball and football to name a few. He was dedicated and committed to all his teams not only would he put in 100% with his own but he helped out his beloved wife with her teams. Volunteer Coaching was a family affair and his team was in essence his extended family. Coach Carter volunteered at a few locations, one being Carson Park where he not only coached teams but assisted the Volunteer Association with fundraisers such as pancake breakfast, taco night, and scheduled his team parents to lend a helping hand in the snack bar. As a coach he helped kids and teens stay off the streets, without him there would have been fewer teams available which would have produced less kids playing and turning to less productive activities. Coach Carter contributed to our community by being a positive role model to not only the kids he mentored in sports but some adults lucky enough to work alongside him or had gotten to know him. He always had a joke or two that he would share, and had an energetic presence that made others want to be around him. His enchanting smile will be forever missed by the people's lives he has touched.

# Leaves of Carson Nomination: Curtis L. Storey Jr.

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## Nomination Form

- I. **Category:** Posthumous  
**Nominee:** Curtis L. Storey, Jr.  
**Representative Address:** 23321 Maribel Avenue  
**City/State/Zip:** Carson, CA 90745
- II. **Agency:** Joseph B. Jr. & Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center  
**Address:** 801 E. Carson Street  
**City/State/Zip:** Carson, CA 90745  
**Phone Number:** (310) 952-1763

## Nomination Questions

1. Curtis L. Storey, Jr. is a long time member of the Joseph B. Jr. & Mary Anne O'Neal Stroke Center. Curtis enjoyed singing, dancing, and providing "dos besos" to all of his family and friends around the City of Carson. He was the "spirit" of the Stroke Center and he assisted any and all members who needed help with their workouts. He provided encouragement to never give up and always offered a hand when needed. He is well known by stroke survivors, City of Carson employees, current and past City Council members, and local businesses around Carson for his positive attitude and humble spirit. Sadly, Curtis passed unexpectedly on July 7, 2017.
2. Curtis' most recent contribution to the City of Carson was his Memorial Day Tribute, where he played "Taps" on his trumpet to honor all of the fallen soldiers. Through his trumpet, he has contributed beautiful performances to honor so many different groups and touch the hearts of many families around the City of Carson. He always performed as a volunteer, and his attendance at events often inspired other members to attend just because they loved Curtis, and they wanted to be where he was.
3. Curtis played "Taps" annually during Veterans Day and Memorial Day as a volunteer for the last 3 years. Curtis' left side was affected by stroke in 2008, but after months of practice and therapy, he learned how to hold his trumpet and play, even though his left arm never fully recovered from his stroke. In addition, Curtis played the National Anthem on his trumpet at the start line of the Tri-Carson event at CSUDH in 2014 and 2015. Curtis never missed an event for the Stroke Center. His dependability earned him the Vice President position on the Board for the Stroke Center Volunteer Association. If our former chair exercise instructor called out sick, Curtis took it upon himself to lead the members in mobility exercises rather than have them go home disappointed. Curtis worked incredibly hard to overcome the effects of his stroke. He had three open heart surgeries from 2008 to 2016, but recently passed away from heart failure due to numerous complications. No matter what Curtis was going through in his personal life, his spirit always lifted those around him. He never allowed his struggles to affect who he was or what he could provide for those he truly cared about, especially his fellow stroke survivors.

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4. Curtis' Involvement with Local Organizations:
  - Stroke Center Member - 9 Years
  - Trumpet Player (Senior Citizens Band) - 9 Years
  - Stroke Center Volunteer Association (Vice-President) – 1 year
  - Honorary "Taps" and National Anthem performer at city events - 4 years
  - Member of Church Council, Deacon, President of Men's Fellowship, Member of the Chancel Choir, Member of the Men's Choir, Shepherd in the City, and Academic Education Committee Member of his church, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church - 9 years
5. Curtis L. Storey, Jr. was known as the "Spirit of the Stroke Center." His energy and spirit gave our stroke survivors hope that everything will be okay and to never give up. He was the unofficial spokesman and ambassador of every city event that the Stroke Center participated in or was asked to represent. If you ask any current stroke survivor in the Stroke Center, they will tell you that Curtis was likely their first friend. He took it upon himself to introduce himself, make new members feel welcome, and encourage those who were struggling with their "new normal" post-stroke. His impact is evidenced by the fact that we needed to take a BUS to his memorial service so that all of the survivors could attend. More than 80 survivors, caregivers, staff members, and City Council members attended his service.
6. Curtis L. Storey, Jr. was a huge part of city events that honored the military; he brought great joy to people's lives with his beautiful spirit, encouraging advice, and heartfelt support of others. Curtis never let his disability stop him from helping others and making sure that all of his friends knew he considered them family. It was his suggestion to partner with local universities. We now collaborate with CSUDH and CSULB for Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy services. These collaborations not only provide therapy to our members, but they also provide invaluable hands-on experience for the student interns.
7. Curtis always brought positive attention to Carson. Specifically, he was the subject of a speech presented to the review board for the All-America City Award in Denver back in 2015. The Stroke Center was one component of the application, and Curtis specifically was the subject of the presentation. Carson was awarded the All-America City designation that year. Carson's motto, "Future Unlimited", is the best way to describe Curtis' contribution to the city. His passion, strength, and love never had a limit; it showed through his everyday behavior. Although Curtis has passed, he touched the lives of many around the city and made life-long memories for those he encountered. Everyone is better for having known Curtis, and his impact will never be forgotten.