



Press Release

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City of El Monte Celebrates Community Milestones, Accomplishments

El Monte, CA - City of El Monte residents had multiple reasons to be proud of their community and peers during a special city council meeting on Tuesday, May 31 at the El Monte Community Center.

It was an evening dedicated to celebrating the milestones and accomplishments of men, women and children throughout the city. The highest honor of the night was reserved for the El Monte Police Department, which received the Seven Seals Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense program. The award was presented for the city's support of Detective Eduardo Nafarrate's service to the nation as a United States Army Reserve.

"I am humbled and grateful to be a part of this city and community of leaders," Nafarrate said. "Individuals like Sergeant Richard Luna and Chief David Reynoso have made a tremendous impact in my life personally and professionally as well as in the community."

The Seven Seals Award is the broadest and most inclusive award given by ESGR in recognition of significant achievement in promoting cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers. Sergeant Luna also received the ESGR Patriot Award, which recognizes individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees.

Special recognitions also went to Donna Duncan for her long-time service as Founding Member and President of the Rio Hondo Community Development Corporation, Daniel Goff as the 2016 Distinguished Senior of the Year and Robert Wayne as the 2015 Outgoing Senior of the Year.

Long-time resident Maria Pacheco Vargas was present with her family, celebrating her 100th birthday. El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero led the audience of more than 300 into singing "Happy Birthday," as Vargas was joined on stage by her family.

"We are honored to celebrate Maria today for her loving spirit and zest for life," Mayor Quintero said. "She serves as an example of the foundational values we embrace in the City of El Monte."

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Thirty awards in all were presented during the evening, many of which went to students for academic and athletic achievements, organizations for milestone anniversaries and volunteers throughout the community who dedicate time and resources to develop and maintain programs benefiting the City of El Monte.

Photos

CommunityAwards1: El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero honors long-time El Monte resident Maria Pacheco Vargas on her 100th birthday milestone during the special city council meeting on Tuesday, May 31.

CommunityAwards2: El Monte City Council and El Monte Police Department share honors presented by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense program, during the special city council meeting on Tuesday, May 31.

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The **City of El Monte**, located in Southern California, is committed to improving the quality of life for its citizens and strives to provide its community personalized service, uncompromising commitment, and individualized accountability. For information on the City of El Monte, please call 626-580-2001 or visit www.elmonteca.gov.