



Jason Clayworth <jason.clayworth@axios.com>

George Flagg Parkway

1 message

[REDACTED] Wed, Mar 16, 2022 at 9:35 AM

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We are deeply concerned by the recent posting of information on a Des Moines message board and Axios which states there is a move afoot to rename George Flagg Parkway.

By way of background, Valley Drive was renamed George Flagg Parkway in late 2001 by a unanimous vote of the then Des Moines City Council. George Flagg proudly served on the Council from 1980 until his retirement in 2002, having been elected by the citizens of Des Moines during six consecutive elections.

During George Flagg's tenure on the Des Moines City Council there was not once so much of a hint of any allegation involving illegality, a conflict of interest or violation of ethics.

In his capacity as an at-large council member, representing all of Des Moines, George Flagg distinguished himself as a community advocate. Specifically, he was recognized for his community service by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the Mid-Iowa Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Des Moines Police and Firefighters unions.

In 1981, he financially supported a Salvadoran family which relocated to Des Moines, fleeing the civil war which had erupted in that country. He supported a number of community churches and charities, many of them with minority community participation, and without fanfare.

George Flagg traveled to 110 countries during his lifetime and to all 50 states. This provided him with multiple cultural perspectives. He especially enjoyed meeting with international Sister City delegations who visited Des Moines and he also represented the city on three Sister City delegation trips to China, France and Mexico.

Now, 20 years after his retirement, a small group of individuals wish to rename George Flagg Parkway. The specific allegation involves his votes against liquor licenses during his tenure. We urge you to consider his entire body of work which was confirmed by the citizens of Des Moines based upon his long tenure on the council.

We wish that all who have had a street named for them could in future years be available to provide a full perspective on the many ways that they supported the community.

Sincerely,
Jeff Flagg
Kevin Flagg
Brian Flagg