

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION AGENDA

September 3, 2025

City Hall Council Chamber  
65 Civic Ave.  
Pittsburg, CA 94565

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7:00 PM

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS

Roland Fernandez, Chair  
Jennifer Cruz, Vice Chair  
Sonja Shephard, Commissioner  
Michael Aparicio, Commissioner  
Monique Robinson, Commissioner  
Dennisha Marsh, Commissioner  
Vacant, Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CORRESPONDENCE** (Informational Only)

**REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS**

1. Standing Committees and Commissions
  - a. Traffic/Eyes on the Street
  - b. Parks, Recreation, Art, and Public Events
  - c. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
  - d. Health Care
  - e. Measure M
  - f. Public Safety
  - g. Pittsburg Recognition Committee
  - h. Youth Advisory Commission

## **AUDIENCE REMARKS**

*Members of the audience who wish to address the Commission on issues that are not scheduled for the agenda should complete a Speaker's Card available at the dais. Please read the card carefully in order to fill out the card properly. Submit the completed card to the clerk before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Individuals will be given three minutes to address the Commission unless additional time is allowed. Prior to speaking, each member of the public shall state their name and business and City of residence in a clear and audible tone of voice. (No action required.)*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Pittsburg Recognition Applications.** The Commission will consider three applications for memorial installations within City park spaces. Staff is recommending Commission approval of all three applications.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

2. **Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA).** Discuss appointing a Commissioner to the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA).

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / STAFF COMMENTS**

*Community Advisory Commission Members may make brief announcements or informal comments at this time. Commission Members may ask questions for clarification from City staff and make a report on their activities. (No action required.)*

## **ADJOURNMENT OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING**

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## **NOTICE TO PUBLIC**

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Copies of the open session agenda packets, which are distributed to the Community Advisory Commission, are on file in the office of the City Clerk, 65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, California, and are available for public inspection, beginning 72 hours in advance, during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except City holidays). The full packets are also located on the City's website at [www.pittsburgca.gov](http://www.pittsburgca.gov). If any reports or documents, which are public records, are distributed to the Community Advisory Commission less than 72 hours before the meeting, those reports or documents will be available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office and on the day of the meeting in the Council Chamber at the public counter area below the dais.

### **SPEAKER'S CARD**

Members of the audience who wish to address the Community Advisory Commission on issues that are not scheduled for the agenda and on any items listed as part of the agenda should complete a Speaker's Card available at the dais. Please read the card carefully in order to fill out the card properly. Submit the completed card to the secretary before the item is called, preferably before the meeting begins. Individuals will be given up to three minutes to address the Commission unless additional time is allowed as provided for spokespersons. Speakers are not permitted to yield their time to another speaker. Prior to speaking, each member of the public shall state their name and business and City of residence in a clear and audible tone of voice. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action may be taken by the Community Advisory Commission on items not already scheduled on the agenda; however, the Community Advisory Commission may refer your comments/concerns to staff or request that the item be placed on a future agenda.

### **NOTICE TO THE DISABLED AND VISUALLY OR HEARING IMPAIRED**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Pittsburg will provide special assistance for disabled citizens. Upon request, an agenda for any meeting shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats. The Council Chamber is equipped with sound amplifier units for use by the hearing impaired. The units operate in conjunction with the Chamber's sound system. You may request the sound amplifier from the City Clerk for personal use during Commission meetings. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, or are requesting a specially formatted agenda, please contact the City Clerk at 925-252-4850. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting or provide the requested agenda format. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)



# CITY OF PITTSBURG COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

## MINUTES: July 2, 2025, Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)

Commission Chair Roland Fernandez called the meeting of the Commission to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. at the City Council Chamber, 65 Civic Avenue, Pittsburg, California.

Commissioner Aparicio led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT** Commissioners Shephard, Fernandez, Thakuri, Aparicio, Robinson, Marsh

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT** Cruz

**CORRESPONDENCE** None

### **PRESENTATIONS**

**Pittsburg Promise Community Scholarship Recipients.** Two recipients selected by the Commission in June personally thanked commissioners for the scholarships and opportunity received.

### **REPORT FROM COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING COMMISSION COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees reported on recent events and subcommittee actions. City staff from the Community Services Department (Ishani Rasanayagam), was available to answer commissioner questions on the Contra Costa County Coordinated Outreach Referral, Engagement (CORE) program.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**City of Pittsburg Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.** Commissioners received a presentation from Department of Public Works staff on the City of Pittsburg Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 25/26 – 29/30.

### **AUDIENCE REMARKS**

None.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/ STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff and Commissioners provided updates on upcoming City events.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING**

Chair Fernandez adjourned the Meeting at 8:13 pm.

Submitted by:

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Jordan Davis  
Secretary

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## MEMORANDUM

Date: July 24, 2025  
To: Community Advisory Commission  
From: Jordan Davis, Director of Community and Economic Development

**RE: Pittsburg Recognition Applications**

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The Pittsburg Recognition Committee (PRC) was established to assist residents who propose to recognize individuals or organizations that have given back to the City. Per the guidelines established by the PRC, as approved by the City Council, “[the] City does not intend to turn public parks into memorial parks, [the City] recognizes the value of honoring those who have had a positive impact on the community, in places of significant meaning.” Policy sets *guidelines* under which applications will be reviewed, which specify that no installation of plaques/monuments on public property is allowed without approval of the Community Advisory Commission, as delegated by the City Council. This policy is separate from the City’s policy and procedures for the street naming.

The procedure for recognition of an individual or place is as follows:

1. Written application submitted
2. Application referred to the PRC, which shall evaluate the application. PRC shall consider the appropriateness of the recognition for the individual/group, proposed location, proposed size, design, and inscription
3. The PRC will act in an advisory capacity to the CAC (as designated by the City Council)
4. The CAC’s determination shall be final

Staff has received three applications for recognition. Additional information on these requests is attached. The PRC has recommended CAC approval of all three applications.

If approved by the CAC, staff will work with the applicants to further refine the designs and final locations of the proposed memorials.

Attachments:

1. August 20, 2025, presentation to PRC
2. Applications (please note there is no application for Lacasse memorial due to technical difficulties)



# Pittsburg

CALIFORNIA

Item 4.  
Pittsburg Recognition Committee (PRC)

# Background



Purpose: Recognize the interest of the public to honor individuals or organizations that have given back to the City

“...City does not intend to turn public parks into memorial parks, it recognizes the value of honoring those who have had a positive impact on the community, in places of significant meaning.”

Policy sets *guidelines* under which applications will be reviewed

No installation of plaques/monuments on public property is allowed without approval of the City Council (or designee).

This policy is separate from the City’s policy and procedures for the street naming.

# Procedure



1. Written application submitted
2. Application referred to the PRC, which shall evaluate the application
3. PRC shall consider the appropriateness of the recognition for the individual/group, proposed location, proposed size, design, and inscription
4. The PRC will act in an advisory capacity to the CAC (as designated by the City Council)
5. The CAC's determination shall be final

# Application No. 1



Memorial plaque honoring Betty Connor  
("Miss Betty")

To be placed next to an existing plaque  
honoring her husband, Douglas Connor,  
at 8<sup>th</sup> Street Linear Park

Applicant proposes to work with City to  
have existing monument and plaque  
removed and replaced with a larger  
monument and plaque honoring the  
couple



# Application No. 2



Memorial “Little Free Library” honoring  
Joaquin Josniel at Ray Giacomelli  
Park

Giacommelli Park is where Joaquin  
often visited and played

Reading books and playing were his  
favorite things while he was alive and  
we would like to share this for kids  
and families

Final location and size/design to be  
determined



# Application No. 3



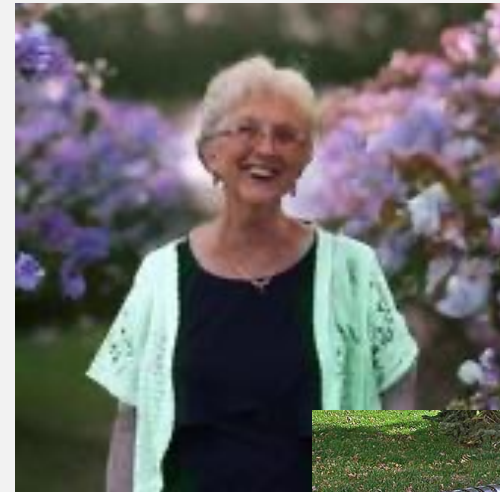
Memorial bench honoring Linda  
Lacasse at Small World Park

38 years of dedicated work for  
Pittsburg Unified School District

President of the Pittsburg Women's  
Community League; active member  
for 50 years

Final location and size/design to be  
determined

GoFundMe has collected enough to  
cover cost of bench, install, tree



# Recognition Policy and App Adopted 2017

## CITY OF PITTSBURG

### POLICY FOR COMMEMORATIVE RECOGNITION

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

The City of Pittsburg recognizes the interest from the public to honor individuals or organizations that participate in or contribute to the betterment of the community in an extraordinary manner. While the City does not intend to turn public parks into memorial parks, it recognizes the value of honoring those who have had a positive impact on the community, in places of significant meaning.

The intent of this policy is to set guidelines under which applications will be reviewed for installation of memorial plaques and monuments in public areas, and requirements as set by the City Council of the City of Pittsburg. Each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. This policy is separate from the City's policy and procedures for the commemorative renaming of existing streets, and for naming new streets in the City.

No installation of plaques or monuments on public property is allowed without prior written approval of the City Council of the City of Pittsburg or its designee.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

1. All requests for plaque consideration must be by written application, delivered to the City of Pittsburg, Recreation department, 65 Civic Ave., Pittsburg, CA 94565.
2. The Recreation department or committee designated by the City Council will apply the criteria and procedures for commemorative recognition (e.g. plaque, bench or other monument) and make recommendations to the City Council.
3. If plaque, bench, or monument placement is requested for a public area, the application may be referred to the Pittsburg Recognition Committee, which shall evaluate the written presented material as its primary resource for consideration.
4. The Recognition Committee shall consider the appropriateness of the recognition for the individual or group, proposed location for the commemorative plaque or bench, as well as the proposed size, design and inscription. The Committee will act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, and recommend approval or denial for the placement and forward to the City Council for final action or appeal. The City's Council's determination shall be final.
5. A spokesperson for the individual or organization seeking plaque consideration should be present to address any questions from the Recognition Committee when it meets to consider these requests. An oral presentation may be given as supplement to the written documentation.

The following guidelines shall be strictly followed with the individual/organization demonstrating enduring and outstanding qualities to be considered for approval. Insert and format text, links, and images here.

**GUIDELINES:**

1. Past or present resident of Pittsburg, or person employed in Pittsburg.
2. The individual/organization must have demonstrated outstanding achievements, contributions to accomplishments or enrichment of the City of Pittsburg.
3. Demonstrated activity need not be limited to volunteerism. However, application should specify the nominee's specific actions, qualities or results that warrant extraordinary recognition.
4. The individual/organization must possess sound moral and social character.
5. Must have a minimum of three (3) independent nomination signatures.
6. Documentation of the individual or organization's contribution to the community may be required and reviewed by the Recognition Committee.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVED COMMEMORATIVE RECOGNITION (PLAQUES, BENCHES, OR SIMILAR ITEMS):**

1. Plaque size honoring an individual will be no larger than to 12x15 inches, and in some locations, a smaller size may be necessary. Plaque size will be appropriately adjusted at the discretion of the City Council or its designee.
2. Plaque(s) shall be constructed of brass and cast in a professional manner.
3. Bench styles and materials shall be consistent with the specifications provided by the City of Pittsburg Public Works Department.
4. All bench plaques must be located on the bench and not on the bench base. Maximum size of this plaque is 5" X 11", limiting the number of characters.
5. Inscriptions shall be reviewed by the Pittsburg Recognition Committee and City Council and must be approved prior to casting. No deviation from the approved inscription will be allowed. If this occurs, the plaque may be rejected.
6. All costs for the item and its installation shall be the responsibility of the requesting individual/organization. All fees must be paid prior to installation.
7. Installation and placement will be performed by the Public Works Department of the City of Pittsburg or a designated third party that has met City approval in advance of the installation. Plaques, benches or monuments installed in public areas without prior City approval are subject to removal.
8. Maintenance of the commemorative plaque or bench will be the responsibility of the Public Works Department of the City of Pittsburg.
9. The requestor is responsible for replacing the plaque if it is damaged, stolen or vandalized. Replacement must be provided within 90 days of notification from the City.

10. The City of Pittsburg reserves the right to relocate any or all mounted plaques to another location.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUE OR BENCH APPLICATION

### NOMINATOR'S NAME

<input type="text" value="Tania"/>	<input type="text" value="Currie"/>
First	Last

### ADDRESS

<input type="text" value="860 EAST STREET"/>		
Address Line 1		
<input type="text" value="PITTSBURG"/>	<input type="text" value="California"/>	<input type="text" value="94565"/>
City	State	Zip Code

### NOMINATOR'S PHONE

### A MEMORIAL PLAQUE or BENCH IS REQUESTED FOR (select one):

PLAQUE  BENCH

### NOMINEE'S NAME

<input type="text" value="BETTY"/>	<input type="text" value="CONNER"/>
First	Last

### LAST KNOWN PITTSBURG ADDRESS

<input type="text" value="860 EAST STREET"/>		
Address Line 1		
<input type="text" value="PITTSBURG"/>	<input type="text" value="California"/>	<input type="text" value="94565"/>
City	State	Zip Code

### PRESENT ADDRESS

<input type="text" value="N/A"/>		
Address Line 1		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
City	State	Zip Code

### TELEPHONE NUMBER

### DETAIL

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY, CONTRIBUTION OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS: (additional pages may be attached to this application form)**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Tancia Currie, and I am deeply honored to be the granddaughter of the late Betty Conner, affectionately known as “Miss Betty” by the neighborhood children. I am writing to request a memorial plaque for her to be placed at East 8th Street Green Belt Park, alongside her beloved husband, Douglas Conner’s plaque.

Ms. Betty was a kind, selfless, and loving woman who dedicated her life to her family and community. Having grown up in poverty, she was inspired to give back. She retired as a social worker from Contra Costa County, ensuring her clients received the support they needed. In addition to raising seven children, she lovingly raised five of her grandchildren, earning the title of “Bigma.” Her compassion and concern for others were evident in her endless dedication to the community.

A deeply cherished Bible story for Ms. Betty was that of the five loaves and two fish, which inspired her unwavering belief in generosity. Through annual giveaways, weekly lunches, and school supply drives, she and her husband ensured their neighbors and neighborhood children always had what they needed. The video below shows the recognition they received for their community contributions: [Video Link]([https://youtu.be/DiAuN\\_veIjg?si=6fSdPauAU\\_Y0gyWR](https://youtu.be/DiAuN_veIjg?si=6fSdPauAU_Y0gyWR)).

Together, they touched countless lives, welcoming children into their home, feeding them, and offering support. The plaque at East 8th Street Park would honor their legacy, teaching the children in our community that kindness, generosity, and service are the foundation of a meaningful life.

Ms. Betty’s life exemplified that greatness isn’t measured by fame or wealth but by the impact we have on others. The Conner’s dedication continues to live on through the Betty & Douglas Conner Memorial Scholarship, awarded annually at Pittsburg High School’s Honors Night. The scholarship and Branches of Community Services carry forward their commitment to helping children, knowing that our future depends on the next generation.

Her numerous accolades, including being recognized as “Woman of the Year” for Contra Costa County in 2005, the Soroptimist International Community Service Award in 2004, and many City of Pittsburg proclamations, speak to her extraordinary contributions.

Placing this plaque would honor Betty Conner’s legacy and remind us all that the seeds of kindness, community, and respect can grow into a better world for future generations.

Thank you for considering this request to honor a truly remarkable woman.

Sincerely,  
Tancia Currie

## **LIST OTHER NOMINATORS:**

**Name**

Monica

First

Estrada-Ramos

Last

**Address**

35 Asbury Way

Address Line 1

Pittsburg

City

California

State

94565

Zip Code

**Phone**

(925) 238-4992

**Signature**

*Monica Estrada-Ramos*

**Name**

First

Last

**Address**

Address Line 1

City

State

Zip Code

**Phone**

**Signature**

**Name**

First

Last

**Address**

Address Line 1

City

State

Zip Code

**Phone**

**Signature**

If the application is approved, City staff will notify you after the installation is complete and provide you with a photograph and information regarding the site location.

**Please submit or bring this completed form and any attachments to:**

City of Pittsburg Attn: Recreation

65 Civic Avenue

Pittsburg CA 94565

**City contact person**

First

Last

**Email**

**Phone**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tanicia Currie, and I am truly honored to be the granddaughter of the late Betty Conner affectionately known as "Miss. Betty" to the neighborhood children; I am requesting your attention concerning a memorial plaque for Betty Conner to be positioned at the park located on East 8<sup>th</sup> Street alongside my late grandfather Douglas Conner's memorial plaque. Allow me to highlight some of my grandmother's greatest accomplishments and contribution to our community: my grandmother, affectionately known by the neighborhood children as, "Ms. Betty;" she was a kind, gentle and a selfless woman who loved her family and her community very much. Ms. Betty was truly a selfless woman who cared so much about her community. Growing up poor was one of the things that inspired her passion to give back to her community. She was also a social worker retiree from Contra Costa County, she cared a great deal about her clients getting everything they needed. She cared so much about everyone in her family and community. She was a mother of 7 children but she also raised 5 of her grandchildren as well. She was the best grandmother, whom we affectionately called "Bigma". She taught us so much and instilled important values in us. She always expressed compassion and concern for children and her dedication was endless.

One of the bible stories that she held close to her heart was the story of the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and how thousands were fed. This story inspired her so much as she always stated how blessed she was and how they never ran out of Christmas gifts, backpacks, school supplies, or lunches when they served and held their annual giveaways and weekly lunches.

Youtube video: [https://youtu.be/DiAuN\\_velJg?si=6fSdPauAU\\_Y0gyWR](https://youtu.be/DiAuN_velJg?si=6fSdPauAU_Y0gyWR)

This video link above was filmed as part of my grandparents receiving a Love in Action award for their contribution to the community and it shows the Conner's love for the children and their community. My grandparents loved their community so much that they welcomed so many neighborhood children into their home and treated them as their own while inspiring and encouraging them week after week. They both truly touched

the lives of the neighborhood children while instilling the importance of giving back to their community and beyond. Several children came every Saturday, not only to receive lunch, but to serve alongside Betty and Doug. My grandmother and grandfather were both very committed to the children, through many other interactions: by giving away backpacks- filled with school supplies, Christmas gifts annually, and more.

Having this plaque placed at the East 8<sup>th</sup> Street Green Belt Park, next to her beloved husband's plaque, would mean so much to our family, our community, as well as inspire those to follow in Conner's footsteps. This honor would help support the children's understanding that, through time, all good deeds are rewarded and legacies are built and carried on as we carry on Conner's legacy through Branches of Community Services.

It also demonstrates that you do not have to be a president, a movie star, or music star; to live a life of importance. I believe by this plaque being displayed in the East 8<sup>th</sup> Park our neighborhood children would take into consideration the love Ms. Betty & Mr. Doug had for them! It would be a friendly reminder to them that the seeds of kindness, community, and respect do pay off. In 2019, the Betty & Douglas Conner Memorial Scholarship was established and this scholarship is awarded each year at Pittsburg High School's Honors Night. The great deeds continue through Branches of Community Services.

Furthermore, this dedication would represent the seeds planted by the late Betty and Douglas for the harvest of the next generation because our children are the future. This community belongs to each of us, we respect it, support it, and we celebrate each other! She was an exemplary citizen of the community, which needs to be remembered for generations to come. People like the Conner's make the world a better place.

Some of Betty Conner's amazing accolades:

(please see submitted paper documents)

1. Proclamation & recognition from City of Pittsburg 10-8-2002
2. Love In Action Award 2004
3. Honored by The City of Pittsburg 10-4-2004
4. "Woman of the Year" for Contra Costa County 2005
5. Soroptimist International Community Service Award 2-21-2004
6. 2005 Honor Award
7. Several local newspaper articles.
8. 2018 Harmony Award, awarded by Soroptimist International Pittsburg
9. Several City of Pittsburg Proclamations

And much more!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Currie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, flowing underline.

Monica Ramos Estrada  
35 Asbury way, Pittsburg, CA 94565  
(925) 238 - 4992

RE: Requesting a Plaque in honor of Betty Conner

I was in high school, junior year, in search of community services that made a visible, direct impact in communities that needed it most. The year before I had gone to a shelter in Richmond to feed homeless on Christmas. This year, I found some place I could help be a part of a direct, visible impact in the community closer to home - Ms. Betty's house.

I walked after school to her house to help wrap gifts for children in the community (a tradition I later learned was annual for her). I was skeptical walking over to a stranger's home, but when Ms. Betty opened her front door with the biggest and brightest smile I felt at ease.

The memory of her excitedly walking us through her kitchen, happy that young kids came to help out, is engraved in my memory forever. After this I did my best to come back every year to this day. Though Ms. Betty passed away a few years after this, the warm feeling she invoked in others, through her actions, energy, and kindness continue to motivate and inspire so many -myself included.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

# Assembly

## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

*Presented to:*

*Betty Conner*

*We want to join with others in congratulating you on earning a Soroptimist International of Pittsburg's Harmony Award. Your vision and efforts to work in harmony with others for the betterment of the community have had a significant impact on many lives, inspired people, and encouraged women everywhere. On Behalf of the People of Our Assembly Districts,  
Thank you!*

*Presented April November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018*



Assemblymember Jim Frazier  
11<sup>th</sup> District

Assemblymember Timothy S. Grayson  
14<sup>th</sup> District



*The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier*

*11th Congressional District of California*

*Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition*

*Presented to*

*Betty Conner*

*2018 Harmony Awards Winner @ Dance - Creating Community*

*In recognition of outstanding and invaluable service to the community.*

*November 3, 2018*

DATE

*Mark DeSaulnier*

CONGRESSMAN MARK DESAULNIER  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



City of Pittsburg  
65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

## PROCLAMATION

### HONORING BETTY AND DOUGLAS CONNER

*WHEREAS, Betty and Douglas Conner have rendered service to this community which deserves special recognition; and*

*WHEREAS, for six years, the Conners' have made a tradition of providing free weekly back-to-school lunches for neighborhood children; and*

*WHEREAS, these lunches have been supplied solely from their own funds; and*

*WHEREAS, each week, as many as 115 children file into their home on East Street for a plate of food; and*

*WHEREAS, this year outside fundraising has provided food and school supplies for more than 100 children; and*

*WHEREAS, we believe that our community's most precious commodity is its youth, and we commend the Conners' dedication and efforts to provide for the children of their neighborhood.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Aleida Rios, Mayor of the City of Pittsburg, California, on behalf of the entire City Council, hereby extend our sincere thanks to Betty and Douglas Conner for their dedicated service to the welfare of our community.*



*Aleida Rios*  
Aleida Rios, Mayor

*Lillian J. Pride*  
Lillian J. Pride, City Clerk

ATTEST: October 4, 2004



**City of Pittsburg**  
65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

**PROCLAMATION**

**HONORING BETTY AND DOUGLAS CONNER**

***WHEREAS, Betty and Douglas Conner have rendered service to this community which deserves special recognition; and***

***WHEREAS, for six years, the Conners' have made a tradition of providing free weekly lunches for neighborhood children; and***

***WHEREAS, these lunches have been supplied solely from their own funds; and***

***WHEREAS, each week, as many as 115 children file into their home on East Street for a plate of food; and***

***WHEREAS, each year in August, the Conners have provided "back to school" food and school supplies for more than 100 school children, and in 2003 with outside fundraising they were able to accommodate 135 children; and***


***WHEREAS, in addition to their weekly lunch program, each Christmas, together with Dermot and Carol Drohan of Danville and Steve and Diane Roberti of Lafayette, the Conners have provided over 100 Christmas gifts to children in need; and***

***WHEREAS, on March 14, 2005, Betty Conner was recognized by Senator Tom Torlakson, 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District, as "District Woman of the Year;" and***

***WHEREAS, we believe that our community's most precious commodity is its youth, and we commend the Conners' dedication and efforts to provide for the children of their neighborhood.***

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Nancy L. Parent, Mayor of the City of Pittsburg, California, on behalf of the entire City Council, hereby extend our sincere thanks to Betty and Douglas Conner for their dedicated service to the welfare of our community.***



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy L. Parent, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lillian J. Pride, City Clerk

**ATTEST: May 2, 2005**



**BY THE CHAIRMAN**

It is a pleasure to announce the recipient of the Betty Center's 2005 Woman of the Year award. The award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the community. The award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the community. The award is presented to a woman who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the community.



**Betty Center**  
**2005 Woman of the Year**  
**Elizabeth Overton**



**THE BETTY CENTER**  
 1000 University Avenue, Suite 100  
 Columbus, GA 31906  
 Phone: 706/534-1234  
 Fax: 706/534-1234  
 www.bettycenter.org

The Betty Center is a non-profit organization that provides support and resources for women in business. The center is committed to helping women succeed in their careers and in their communities. The center is committed to helping women succeed in their careers and in their communities. The center is committed to helping women succeed in their careers and in their communities.

**Elizabeth Overton**  
 Betty Center  
 1000 University Avenue, Suite 100  
 Columbus, GA 31906  
 Phone: 706/534-1234  
 Fax: 706/534-1234  
 www.bettycenter.org

05/22/2009 02:45 AM



*Soroptimist International of Concord*  
**Women of Distinction**

*This certificate of honor presented to*

**Betty Conner**

*In recognition of her effective advancement of the Status of Women*

*Judith Anderson*

*President S.I., Concord*

*April 16, 1997*

*Date*

IN RECOGNITION

*Betty Conner*



FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS

HARD WORK AND SUPPORT

SINCE 1973

PICES

THANKS YOU

*California State Assembly*

*Certificate  
Of  
Recognition*

*Presented To:*

*Betty Conner*

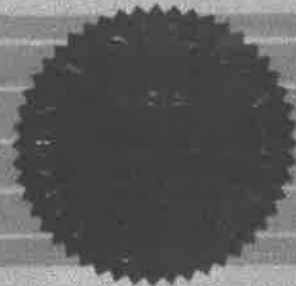
*In recognition of her 29 years of  
exemplary and dedicated service to the  
Contra Costa County  
Social Service Department*

*Best wishes for a long and healthy  
retirement!*

*Presented  
May 15, 1998*

*Tom Tonlekson*

*Member of the Assembly  
California State Legislature*



EAST CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
LOVE IN ACTION AWARD



PRESENTED TO  
DOUGLAS & BETTY CONNER

DR. KING LIVED AND DIED GIVING  
HIS LIFE FOR OTHERS. IN HONOR OF  
DR. KING WE HONOR YOU FOR THE  
SACRIFICIAL LIVES YOU LIVE IN  
YOUR HUMBLE LOVING SERVICE.  
THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING US  
AS A LIVING EXAMPLE OF LOVE  
IN ACTION.  
JANUARY 19, 2004

BRANCHES OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENTS...

# MRS. BETTY'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004

LOCAL NEWS



## Sen. Torlakson eggs on young volunteers

SEN. TOM TORLAKSON, D-Annech, examines Easter eggs with Sojia Valdivia, Bani Nieto and Maria Valdivia at the Pittsburg home of Betty and Doug Conner on Saturday. Torlakson dropped by to show his appreciation for the area kids who have been helping the Conners distribute food in the couple's low-income neighborhood. Prior to the visit, the children received certificates of appreciation from the senator for their volunteering. Maria Nieto, who is not pictured, also received a certificate from Torlakson.



The "Miss Betty" & "Mr. Doug" Conner Memorial Scholarship



**BRANCHES**  
OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**NEWS**

## **Pittsburg grandma keeps on serving with new nonprofit**



Betty Conner, 79, of Pittsburg, stands with her granddaughter Tania Currie, 33, of Pittsburg, as they hold a 1992 photograph of Betty and her late husband Douglas Conner at her home in Pittsburg, Calif., on Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016. Betty and her husband Douglas had an annual toy drive and handed out food and school supplies to families in Pittsburg. When Mr. Conner passed away in 2009, Betty got the help of her granddaughter and was able to continue helping their community.



**By TRINE GALLEGOS | Correspondent**

**UPDATED: August 15, 2016 at 9:31 AM PDT**

That was in 1998, and Betty Conner is still filling a need.

The Pittsburg resident and her husband initially opened their home to feed neighborhood kids.

"At first I was worried we couldn't (afford) the food. But we never changed our lifestyle and it dawned on me one day that the Lord has really blessed us and I had to have trust. So, I just kept cooking. We never ran out of food. We always had enough."

For some 10 years, the pair made lunch for nearly 20 children. Once to twice a week Betty would whip up a variety of meals that included baked chicken, potato salad, chili beans, rice and more.

Referred to as Mr. Doug and Ms. Betty, the pair expanded their acts of kindness to homeless in nearby parks and those who were homebound, and then started handing out school supplies.

[Read More](#)

00:02

02:00

But after Mr. Doug's death in 2009, Conner found it increasingly difficult to do it alone.

Then granddaughter Tanicia Currie stepped in and stepped up Conner's program, which had essentially been self-funded, except for occasional outside donors.

"She got me out of the box," Conner said about the setting up Branches of Community Services as a nonprofit organization.

"Tanicia started taking me shopping to get better deals and (got others to help)."

Currie said she's always has a passion for helping others.

"My grandparents truly inspired me."

When her grandfather passed, she started getting the support of local businesses and "handling everything behind the scenes for my grandmother."

She's proud to help "carry on my amazing grandparents' legacy as well as helping bless others

The Pittsburg native has spread the word about Branches of Community and gained support from several local businesses, including Wilson's Dance Studio, Redd's Barbership, Sassy Sweets, Nicole Barton Photography, Ready Print and others, along with donations from family and friends.

She's particularly grateful to Danae Braggs, Shaun Smith, Miranda O'Hare and Marcus Wright "for making our organization grow beyond our dreams. We have an amazing group of people who are selfless and love to see their community succeed."

This year, Currie plans to host several fundraisers to help with a "big summer community event," the back pack giveaway and the annual toy drive.

Pittsburg High's Paul Lacasse is a big fan of Conner.

The teacher and his leadership class helped with the recent Christmas giveaway, which gave toys to 180 children.

Lacasse met Conner about 11 years ago while shooting a documentary. "We were generally touched by (their) generosity, opening their own doors to feed children. They donated their time and energy to the neighborhood ...

"It's humbling to see how generous Betty is. She is a true gift to Pittsburg."

Conner, who has lived in Pittsburg since 1946, is filled with many sweet memories, including one young fan who wrote her letter "thanking me for his toys that he wouldn't had without me."

Another student chose the couple for her essay assignment on heroes.

"She did this beautiful paper — we were their family heroes. We were all in tears reading that one.

"Things can mean so much to (people). You really don't know."

Conner said what she gets in return are the smiles of the children and the families they help. "They're so thankful that we're doing this ... That takes care of it. I don't need nothing else."

For more info about Branches of Community Services, visit [www.branchesofcommunityservices.org](http://www.branchesofcommunityservices.org) or call 925-709-4406.

You may also donate to the group at any Mechanics Bank.

Reach Trine Gallegos at [TrineG@att.net](mailto:TrineG@att.net)

*Originally Published: January 19, 2016 at 4:44 PM PST*







**THE KITCHEN** is where Douglas and Betty Conner, right, watch over neighbors Beja Valdivia, 10, and Judith Portlock, 8, as they prepare lunches in their Pittsburg home.

## Good meals made from couple's good will

■ A retired Pittsburg pair's weekly lunches fill neighbors' bellies and warm kids' hearts

By Rowena Coetsee  
STAFF WRITER

**PITTSBURG** — Children had begun arriving early, eager to pick up that week's meal along with an extra helping of love.

A cluster of youngsters strode purposefully down the street, and as they rounded the corner they met others exiting the modest, mustard-colored house, holding Styrofoam plates wrapped in foil.

It was 12:30 p.m., Thursday — time to pick up lunch from Miss Betty and Mr. Doug.

Inside, eight youngsters and a dog had crowded into a kitchen already cluttered with pots, pans, cooking utensils and army-size quantities of food.

"I always wanted a soup kitchen," Betty Conner explains simply as she ladles gravy onto another savory portion of meatloaf and rice and passes the plate to her husband, Doug, who adds a dollop of salad. The Pittsburg couple could





Ms. Betty in her  
kitchen, cooking for  
Soup Kitchen.



Ms. Betty shopping for  
the toy drive 🎁

# Recognition Policy and App Adopted 2017

## CITY OF PITTSBURG

### POLICY FOR COMMEMORATIVE RECOGNITION

#### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

The City of Pittsburg recognizes the interest from the public to honor individuals or organizations that participate in or contribute to the betterment of the community in an extraordinary manner. While the City does not intend to turn public parks into memorial parks, it recognizes the value of honoring those who have had a positive impact on the community, in places of significant meaning.

The intent of this policy is to set guidelines under which applications will be reviewed for installation of memorial plaques and monuments in public areas, and requirements as set by the City Council of the City of Pittsburg. Each application will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. This policy is separate from the City's policy and procedures for the commemorative renaming of existing streets, and for naming new streets in the City.

No installation of plaques or monuments on public property is allowed without prior written approval of the City Council of the City of Pittsburg or its designee.

#### **PROCEDURES:**

1. All requests for plaque consideration must be by written application, delivered to the City of Pittsburg, Recreation department, 65 Civic Ave., Pittsburg, CA 94565.
2. The Recreation department or committee designated by the City Council will apply the criteria and procedures for commemorative recognition (e.g. plaque, bench or other monument) and make recommendations to the City Council.
3. If plaque, bench, or monument placement is requested for a public area, the application may be referred to the Pittsburg Recognition Committee, which shall evaluate the written presented material as its primary resource for consideration.
4. The Recognition Committee shall consider the appropriateness of the recognition for the individual or group, proposed location for the commemorative plaque or bench, as well as the proposed size, design and inscription. The Committee will act in an advisory capacity to the City Council, and recommend approval or denial for the placement and forward to the City Council for final action or appeal. The City's Council's determination shall be final.
5. A spokesperson for the individual or organization seeking plaque consideration should be present to address any questions from the Recognition Committee when it meets to consider these requests. An oral presentation may be given as supplement to the written documentation.

The following guidelines shall be strictly followed with the individual/organization demonstrating enduring and outstanding qualities to be considered for approval. Insert and format text, links, and images here.

**GUIDELINES:**

1. Past or present resident of Pittsburg, or person employed in Pittsburg.
2. The individual/organization must have demonstrated outstanding achievements, contributions to accomplishments or enrichment of the City of Pittsburg.
3. Demonstrated activity need not be limited to volunteerism. However, application should specify the nominee's specific actions, qualities or results that warrant extraordinary recognition.
4. The individual/organization must possess sound moral and social character.
5. Must have a minimum of three (3) independent nomination signatures.
6. Documentation of the individual or organization's contribution to the community may be required and reviewed by the Recognition Committee.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVED COMMEMORATIVE RECOGNITION (PLAQUES, BENCHES, OR SIMILAR ITEMS):**

1. Plaque size honoring an individual will be no larger than to 12x15 inches, and in some locations, a smaller size may be necessary. Plaque size will be appropriately adjusted at the discretion of the City Council or its designee.
2. Plaque(s) shall be constructed of brass and cast in a professional manner.
3. Bench styles and materials shall be consistent with the specifications provided by the City of Pittsburg Public Works Department.
4. All bench plaques must be located on the bench and not on the bench base. Maximum size of this plaque is 5" X 11", limiting the number of characters.
5. Inscriptions shall be reviewed by the Pittsburg Recognition Committee and City Council and must be approved prior to casting. No deviation from the approved inscription will be allowed. If this occurs, the plaque may be rejected.
6. All costs for the item and its installation shall be the responsibility of the requesting individual/organization. All fees must be paid prior to installation.
7. Installation and placement will be performed by the Public Works Department of the City of Pittsburg or a designated third party that has met City approval in advance of the installation. Plaques, benches or monuments installed in public areas without prior City approval are subject to removal.
8. Maintenance of the commemorative plaque or bench will be the responsibility of the Public Works Department of the City of Pittsburg.
9. The requestor is responsible for replacing the plaque if it is damaged, stolen or vandalized. Replacement must be provided within 90 days of notification from the City.

10. The City of Pittsburg reserves the right to relocate any or all mounted plaques to another location.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUE OR BENCH APPLICATION

### NOMINATOR'S NAME

<input type="text" value="Jennyfirst"/>	<input type="text" value="Caluya"/>
First	Last

### ADDRESS

<input type="text" value="32 Coos Bay Court"/>		
Address Line 1		
<input type="text" value="Pittsburg"/>	<input type="text" value="California"/>	<input type="text" value="94565"/>
City	State	Zip Code

### NOMINATOR'S PHONE

### A MEMORIAL PLAQUE or BENCH IS REQUESTED FOR (select one):

PLAQUE  BENCH

### NOMINEE'S NAME

<input type="text" value="Joaquin Josniel"/>	<input type="text" value="Bigol"/>
First	Last

### LAST KNOWN PITTSBURG ADDRESS

<input type="text" value="32 Coos Bay Court"/>		
Address Line 1		
<input type="text" value="Pittsburg"/>	<input type="text" value="California"/>	<input type="text" value="94565"/>
City	State	Zip Code

### PRESENT ADDRESS

<input type="text" value="32 Coos Bay Court"/>		
Address Line 1		
<input type="text" value="Pittsburg"/>	<input type="text" value="California"/>	<input type="text" value="94565"/>
City	State	Zip Code

### TELEPHONE NUMBER

### DETAIL

In honor of our 5 year old son who died of leukemia last October 2024, we as parents would like to put / place A little free library bookshed at Ray Giacomelli park playground. It is one of the parks he often visited and played. His love for reading books and play were his favorite things while he was alive and we would like to share this for kids and families.

And for this with the book shed, we hope Kids at the park will not only play but also can enjoy reading in one place as they are both fun for them. Hope this opportunity will bring inspiration to kids and parents who visits the park . Thank you

**DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY, CONTRIBUTION OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS: (additional pages may be attached to this application form)**

A little free library book shed ( built in ) is a small shed where books are kept and kids even parents or adults can get a book and or , share a book to read while in the park or after visiting the park . They can keep the book if they wish. We replenish the books as needed.

**LIST OTHER NOMINATORS:**

**Name**

N/a

First

Last

**Address**

Address Line 1

City

California

State

Zip Code

**Phone**

**Signature**

*Incaluya for joaquin*

**Name**

First

Last

**Address**

Address Line 1

City

State

Zip Code

**Phone**

**Signature**

**Name**

First

Last

**Address**

Address Line 1

City

State

Zip Code

**Phone**

**Signature**

•

If the application is approved, City staff will notify you after the installation is complete and provide you with a photograph and information regarding the site location.

**Please submit or bring this completed form and any attachments to:**

City of Pittsburg Attn: Recreation

65 Civic Avenue

Pittsburg CA 94565

**City contact person**

First

Last

**Email**

**Phone**