



# Center for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

April 12, 2022

Dear City of McKinney Aquatic Center Naming Officials:

In this packet is the paperwork for the naming nomination for the Old Settler's Park Aquatic Center. It is suggested that the center's name be changed to Gilda Garcia Garza Aquatic Center to honor an outstanding McKinney citizen and McKinney City Council member who worked incessantly for the building of this facility.

This nomination packet is divided into four sections:

Section One is the Gilda Garcia Garza Story which I wrote to reflect her lifetime community involvement and to indicate how deserving she is to have the aquatic center named for her.

Section Two contains a picture of the family's framed City of McKinney Proclamation of Councilwoman Gilda Garcia Garza Day on May 16, 2019, by Mayor George Fuller who read that proclamation at her memorial service on that day.

Section Three contains Gilda's online obituary from Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home. Also, there are online comments which were entered on the obituary site by those who knew and admired Gilda.

Section Four holds a collection of letters and notes from McKinney leaders supporting the naming of the aquatic center in honor of Gilda.

I therefore present this nomination package representing the collective wishes of strong supporters of former Councilwoman Gilda Garcia Garza. We wish to honor her by naming the aquatic center for her. This will continue to be a place where people can gather for swimming, relaxation, and enjoyment. A place close to their homes convenient to reach by walking, cycling, or driving a short distance. This aquatic center will continue to reflect the dream of a person who spent her lifetime working to improve the well-being of others. It will forever reflect the legacy of Gilda Garcia Garza.

Gratefully,

Carolyn Pitts Corbin  
President

## **Section One**

### **The Gilda Garcia Garza Story**

# **The Gilda Garcia Garza Story**

By Carolyn Pitts Corbin

Gilda Garcia Garza was a born leader. From early childhood, Gilda was a strong-willed go-getter. Her family describes her as inquisitive, exploratory and motivated. These characteristics stayed with her for her entire life.

## **Gilda's Early Years in McKinney**

Born on April 18, 1950, into a loving family consisting of her parents and seven siblings, Gilda was a third-generation Garcia in McKinney, Texas. Her father and mother, Raymond Earl Garcia and Maria Carmel Urbano Garcia, believed in independent thinking, team spirit, and hard work. Raymond Garcia was a successful entrepreneur who built a thriving sheep-shearing business covering multiple counties in North Texas. During the agricultural era, Raymond Garcia's company serviced farms and ranches for three decades. And this is where I met the Garcia family. I grew up on farmland, part of which is now the property where McKinney North High School and Scott Johnson Middle School now stand. During sheep-shearing season in the springtime, I always looked forward to rushing home after school to watch the Garcia team masterfully shearing the sheep. I was amazed at the patience and artistry that had to be demonstrated in that process. Gilda's dad was always patient with me as I watched in wonder as the wool would be sheared off in one blanket with absolutely no harm to the sheep. He was always kind and welcomed all my questions. Those years contribute to some of my fondest childhood memories.

In the East McKinney area was La Loma, which translated from Spanish to English, means "The Hill." That predominately Hispanic area is where Gilda grew up and was where she was an early trailblazer. She was a charter student in the Holy Family School. Then she entered first grade at J. W. Webb Elementary School. During her youth, she enjoyed socializing and participating in various activities with children in La Loma neighborhood. She excelled in sports, and especially loved playing softball at Mouzon Field and volleyball behind the neighborhood church. Gilda attended L. A. Scott Junior High School and McKinney High School where she graduated in the Class of 1968. As a student, she was always involved, friendly, and likeable.

## **Higher Education, Career, and Family**

After high school graduation in 1968, Gilda attended the National Training Institute of Technology and Business College in South Dallas studying Computer Automation. She also attended Collin College and majored in Business Management.

For twenty years, Gilda worked in administration for the North Texas Job Corps, a Department of Labor training program, and retired from that position in 2016.

During this time, Gilda was also parenting her only child. And later, Gilda became the proud grandmother of three grandchildren.

## **Community Service**

As a lifetime member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in McKinney, Gilda's worldview was fashioned by her belief in human dignity and equality. She believed in a life of service to others. And consistently strove to leave the world a better place because of her influence and diligence.

The crowning distinction of Gilda's efforts for the betterment of her hometown of McKinney was her election to the McKinney City Council representing District 1. Throughout her life, Gilda was aware of the need for improvements in the infrastructure of East McKinney and constantly worked to make things better for residents in La Loma and, in fact, for all the residents who lived in her district. In 2001, Gilda campaigned and won the election to the McKinney City Council for

for a two-year term and became the first Hispanic woman to serve on the McKinney City Council. After that election, she was re-elected to two three-year terms: one, in 2003 and another, in 2006.

During her tenure on the McKinney City Council, Gilda spent her time making sure that parts of the District 1 infrastructure were updated and that children had a safe place for recreational activities. She was keenly aware that in the summer months, children and youth were needing to ride bicycles, walk, or find a ride to the Juanita Maxfield Aquatic Center north of town on Highway 5. In her opinion, and in reality, that was a distance too far for young people to go to swim. As a result, Gilda began to campaign for a new aquatic center to be built in Old Settler's Park for the safety and convenience of the children and youth. Her efforts paid off greatly. The Old Settler's Park Aquatic Center was constructed and opened for public use for the enjoyment of people of all ages.

While serving on the McKinney City Council, Gilda was the council's liaison for the Planning & Zoning Commission, Municipal Library Board, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Transportation Committee.

However, Gilda's public service and recognition for that service does not begin nor end with her city council work. Gilda also participated in numerous other endeavors as follows:

Citizenship McKinney, a leadership program of the McKinney Chamber of Commerce;

Charter member of Citizen's Police Academy and its Alumni Association;

McKinney charter member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and was the first female president of the revitalized Council #608 of LULAC;

Charter member of Citizens on Patrol (COP), McKinney;

2000 Habitat for Humanity member;

North Texas Job Corps Community Relations Council member;

Recognized in August, 2005, by the Budweiser Corporation as one of the top five Hispanic leaders in Collin County.

## **A Life Well Lived**

May 16, 2019 was declared Councilwoman Gilda Garcia Garza Day in McKinney, Texas, by Mayor George Fuller, and he read the proclamation at her memorial service on that day.

Gilda Garcia Garza gave her best self to God, her family, and her lifetime hometown of McKinney, Texas. As a fine example of leadership, Gilda left a lasting legacy that will never be forgotten by those who knew her. Additionally, those who have never met her will have availed themselves of all the improvements influenced by her in the city of McKinney. For these reasons and more, many of the residents of District 1 as well as the citizens of greater McKinney, will always appreciate the life and work of Gilda Garcia Garza.

## **Section Two**

### **Proclamation of Councilwoman Gilda Garcia Garza Day**



# City of McKinney

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Gilda Garcia Garza of McKinney, Texas was born April 18, 1950 to Raymond Earl Garcia and Maria Del Carmel (Urbano) Garcia in McKinney, Texas; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda was a 1968 graduate of McKinney High School; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda continued her education at National Training Institute of Technology and Business College in South Dallas studying Computer Automation; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda attended Collin College majoring in Business Management; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda worked in administration for twenty years for North Texas Job Corps, a Department of Labor training program before her retirement in 2016; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda was a member and served as a local and national officer for the McKinney LULAC Chapter #608 for many years; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda, in 2000, was elected to the McKinney City Council, as the first Hispanic female to be elected to city government; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda was re-elected twice, the maximum terms allowed; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda was instrumental in the development of a city aquatic facility in District 1; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda, as a native of McKinney, contributed and served her city in countless ways; and
- WHEREAS,** Gilda was a lifetime member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in McKinney; and
- WHEREAS,** Councilwoman Gilda Garcia Garza of McKinney, Texas dedicated her life to the McKinney community through professional and public service in her 69 years on this earth.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE FULLER, BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MCKINNEY, TEXAS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM MAY 16, OF 2019 AS

## COUNCILWOMAN GILDA GARCIA GARZA DAY

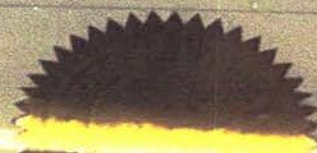
in McKinney, Texas and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the great legacy and inspiring example Gilda Garza has left for us to follow.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS MAY 16, OF 2019.

ATTEST:

  
Empress Drane, City Secretary

  
George C. Fuller, Mayor



## **Section Three**

### **Obituary and Online Messages**



## Gilda Garcia Garza

*April 18, 1950 - May 8, 2019*

Gilda Garcia Garza of McKinney, Texas passed away May 8, 2019 at the age of 69. She was born April 18, 1950 to Raymond Earl Garcia and Maria Del Carmel (Urbano) Garcia in McKinney, Texas. Gilda was a 1968 graduate of McKinney High School. She continued her education at National Training Institute of Technology and Business College in South Dallas studying Computer Automation and attended Collin College majoring in Business Management. Gilda worked in administration for twenty years for North Texas Job Corps, a Department of Labor training program before her retirement in 2016. As a native of McKinney, Gilda contributed and served her city in many capacities. She was a member and served as a local and national officer for the McKinney LULAC Chapter #608 for many years. In 2000, Gilda was elected to the McKinney City Council, as the first Hispanic female to be elected to city government, and was re-elected twice, the maximum terms allowed. She ran simply because her District needed representation. She served District 1, which she felt had been neglected, specifically its infrastructure. She'll never forget when a council member drove her around her district, one street after another, and together, they prioritized which street needed the most work. She also recalled standing up for her district when council proposed a new community pool. Thanks to her, the children on the east side of McKinney got their pool. Gilda was a lifetime member of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church in McKinney.

She is survived by her daughter, Andrea Nichols and husband, David of McKinney, Texas; grandchildren, Cristian Biddenstadt, Ysabel "Yzzy" Nichols and Piper Nichols all of McKinney, Texas; sister, Onesma Dominguez of McKinney, Texas; sisters-in-law, Martha Garcia of Plano, Texas, Patsy Garcia of McKinney, Texas and Helen Sepulbeda of McKinney, Texas; numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family members and friends.

Gilda was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Carmel Garcia; siblings, Ysabel "Ace" Sepulbeda, Felix "Bull" Garcia, Raymond "Wildman" Garcia and wife, Doris, Alfonso "Ben" Garcia, Jesse "Terry" Garcia, Maria "Anita" Garcia; brother-in-law, Rudy Dominguez; and nephews, Raymond Garcia and Tony Garcia.

A funeral mass will be held 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019 at St. Michaels the Archangel Catholic Church, 411 Paula Road, McKinney, Texas with Father Juan Carlos Marin Cortes officiating. Interment is to follow at Pecan Grove



Cemetery in McKinney, Texas. The family will receive friends during a visitation on Wednesday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow Funeral Home in Allen, Texas. A rosary is set for 6:30 p.m.

## Memorials

*My dear friend, I miss you. The best person to completely get you out of a sad mood. No way to stay that way around Gilda. Her happy smile and friendly digs are hard to beat. Amazing character.*

**SHERRY GEER WILLIMAS, MAY 21, 2019**

*I am at a loss for words. Gilda always had something to say whether I liked it or not. I loved her dearly. Best attitude in the world. I will miss being uplifted from everything by her words and that amazing, friendly smile.*

**SHERRY GEER WILLIAMS, MAY 21, 2019**

*Andrea and family, I am so very sorry to see this. Gilda was a force of nature and a powerful advocate for her community. She will be missed, but Collin County is a better place because of the work she did and the kindness she shared with so many. My sincere sympathy for your loss.*

**DEBORAH ANGELL SMITH, MAY 16, 2019**

*Gilda was a faithful public servant. Her kind, gentle, loving spirit will always be remembered. Peace and Prayers to all of her family.*

**LAURA CEGELSKI, MAY 16, 2019**

*Gilda was everyone's favorite...that permanent smile and a little chuckle! She could brighten up a sad, hard day by just being herself with you. So glad I was at our 50th Reunion and could see her one last time. Until we meet again, Gilda, keep it a happy place for Class of '68!*

**SALLY WYSONG RUSCHAUP, MAY 16, 2019**

*Gilda made such an important contribution to McKinney. She is sorely missed.*

**DONALD SALISBURY, MAY 16, 2019**

*We had the fortune of meeting Gilda, and admired her deeply. We are grateful for her service to the community and she will be missed. May she rest in peace,*

DON AND MARÍA CECILIA SALISBURY, MAY 16, 2019

*Our Sympathy for your loss. Ken & Martha*

KEN PILKENTON, MAY 15, 2019

*My thoughts and prayers are with the family. I pray God will grant peace for you all.*

ALICE EDELHAUSER, MAY 15, 2019

*My heart goes out to you the family. Gilda was a very sweet and supportive lady. She loved her community. God bless you with great memories of her.*

DEBORAH MCGOWEN, MAY 14, 2019

*I felt Gilda cared about all of McKinney and was not afraid to ask the hard questions to improve conditions for everyone. She was a great supporter of Serenity and the mission to help students. She will be missed.*

JULI FERRARO, MAY 14, 2019

*I've had the pleasure of meeting Gilda through CRHP at St Michael's. I will remember her for her humor, strength and her heart for service. I will miss you sister.*

ELLANIE, MAY 14, 2019

*A good heart has stopped beating, a good soul ascended to heaven. I will never forget the conversation about duty and responsibility we had in my office when you tried to convince me to run for city council. I still carry your words with me about the obligation that we have to our community especially those of us that were born and raised in McKinney. You have touched so many lives. You will be missed.*

REBECCA SALDANA COLLINS, MAY 14, 2019

*I am so sorry to hear this. Gilda represented her home town and District 1 very well, where I lived for awhile. She was always pleasant, kind, funny, and dedicated to McKinney. She will be missed.*

BRANDI PRICE, MAY 14, 2019

*Have many great memories of Gilda. She was admired by those who knew her. She was a tireless worker for the City of McKinney., and she always greeted you with that radiant smile. She will be missed. Our sincere sympathy to her*

*family.*

LENA AND EARL MILSTEAD, MAY 14, 2019

*We are so sorry to hear of Gilda's passing. Gilda was such a special person and will always have a big place in our hearts. She served her community and District 1 on city council so well with such heart. She will be missed by many.*

DONNA LOUGHMILLER, MAY 14, 2019

*The city misses Gilda, a loyal, helpful, honest friend.*

JAY CRUM, MAY 14, 2019

*Gilda always lit up the room with her witty personality and way of doing things her way. She was extremely supportive and I appreciated her encouragement as I matriculated through a variety of City committee appointments. Dear Lord please comfort Ms. Garza's family with the peace of her being in your Loving arms for eternity.*

MARTA GORE, MAY 14, 2019

*I met and came to know Gilda as a servant leader for her community. She was always responsive to the needs of her constituents in District One. I pray we all will remember her many deeds and vision for the community. In doing so, may we act to fill the shoes and the void that will be missed in her dedication and spirit to advocate for the common good of all.*

ADA T. SIMMONS, MAY 14, 2019

*My sincerest condolences to family and friends of this dear sweet lady. I was very honored to have known Miss Gilda and call her friend. Sending prayers. Hasta Luego, Amiga.*

TONI ANDRUKAITIS, MAY 14, 2019

*It is an honor to have known Gilda and serve along side her. She was a passionate woman who loved her family and her community and worked tirelessly for both. Gilda also had a heart for her fellow man, she loved unconditionally and you never had to guess where she stood on any topic. She got me involved in LULAC. She was a role model and a friend. McKinney will miss Gilda, I will miss Gilda. But she lived her life to the fullest and left an indelible mark on the city and anyone she knew. God Bless you Gilda!*

HARVEY OAXACA, MAY 14, 2019

*My deepest condolences on Ms Garza's passing. As a staff member serving at the city when she was on City Council, I found Ms Garza a force for good and a continuing and powerful voice in my thoughts and heart. I'm saddened by her passing and honored to have worked under her guidance and leadership.*

JOHN KESSEL , MAY 14, 2019

*Gilda was an amazing woman with a passion for serving the community she loved so much. She was one of the first individuals I met when I moved into McKinney in 2007. She shared her family history and her time as a city councilwoman with me. Her leadership and vision helped shape our city into what it is today. I'll forever remember her smile and laughter. Love ya Gilda!*

STELLA URIBE STEVENS, MAY 14, 2019

*My sincere and deepest condolence for Gilda family and loved ones. My prayers and thoughts are with her family. I got to know her well while she served on the city counsel and considered her as a friend and I will miss her.*

*Merry Hickson Cofield*

MERRY COFIELD, MAY 14, 2019

*I never saw Gilda without a smile on her face. She was so fun to be around. She was an amazing woman in her community who earned the respect of those she worked with. She will be greatly missed.*

LIZ PENNINGTON GANT, MAY 14, 2019

*Deepest condolences on your loss. Gilda was always very kind and will be missed.*

TERRI RAMEY - CITY OF MCKINNEY PLANNING DEPT., MAY 14, 2019

*I am so sorry to hear this news. She was a amazing sweet woman. Always had that smile. My condolences to the family from the Duran Family.*

YOLANDA DURAN, MAY 14, 2019

*This is sad to hear. I enjoyed working with Gilda and especially appreciated her friendship. She always represented her district and the city professionally and honorably. She was a true public servant. God bless her family.*

JOE JAYNES, MAY 14, 2019

*I am blessed to have known Gilda and to have worked with her. I remember she would ask the hard questions at Council meetings. I appreciated how she would ask what does that mean for the benefit of those in the audience who did not know the various anachronyms and technical jargon used in City dialog. Gilda loved her District and was always there for her constituents. I will always remember Gilda. I can only hope I am as good at helping the citizens of McKinney as she was. I will miss her but she will always be in my head and heart. Guy*

**GUY R. GIERSCH, MAY 14, 2019**

*So sorry to hear of Gilda's passing. She was a dedicated hard worker for East McKinney and will be missed.*

**MARTHA LEWIS HENDERSON, MAY 13, 2019**

*We are deeply saddened by the news of Gilda. We pray that God will grant the family and friends strength, comfort and peace. Our most sincere condolences. — Olivia and James Mongaras*

**OLIVIA AND JAMES MONGARAS , MAY 13, 2019**

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TJMWhitewright TFSC#: 3707

Hurst's Fielder-Baker TFSC#: 4107

Mullican-Little TFSC#: 4388

RW Owens & Son TFSC#: 4453

Meador Whitesboro TFSC#: 4456

Meador Gainesville TFSC#: 4457

## **Section Four**

### **Support Letters and Notes**



March 15, 2022

The City of McKinney  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

It is with great pleasure to recognize Gilda Garza for her invaluable service to the City of McKinney during her tenure as City Council member. Our community greatly profited from her energy, inspiration, and dedication in serving our city in many positive ways and representing her district on the east side of McKinney. Her fortitude, attitude and respect to all persons deserves recognition and what better way than your thoughtful consideration in renaming the Old Settlers Aquatic Center, in Gilda Garza's honor.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'David H. Craig'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

David H. Craig  
Chairman/CEO

March 22, 2022

McKinney Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Re: Gilda Garza/ Old Settler's Aquatic Center

Dear Park Board Members:

First and foremost, thank you for your service to the City of McKinney. As a former Mayor, I understand the time commitment it takes to serve on your board and the value you bring to the community. I am writing today to express my support for renaming the Old Settler's Aquatic Center after the late Gilda Garza. As you may or may not know, I served on City Council with Gilda from 2002 to 2008 before my two terms as Mayor of McKinney. Gilda was a champion for East McKinney and our community and gave countless hours to ensuring that improvements would be made throughout her district including improvements to Old Settler's Park, support for Barney and Me and ultimately for the renovations that were completed on the Aquatic Center. While Gilda is now gone, she is not forgotten and should not be forgotten by those who may not have lived in McKinney during her time of service. I whole heartedly support the proposition that the Aquatic Center at Old Settler's have Gilda's name attached to it as a fitting tribute to this wonderful community volunteer.

Respectfully,



Brian S. Loughmiller



**Subject: Letter from Terry Box**  
**Date:** 3/29/2022 6:07:34 PM Central Standard Time  
**From:** andreacarmel@yahoo.com  
**To:** carolyncorbingm@aol.com

To McKinney Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

My name is Terry Box, I have lived in McKinney my entire life. I served 48 years in Law Enforcement, 32 of those years and your Elected Sheriff. I had the pleasure knowing Gilda as a classmate starting in Junior High. Gilda was always one to represent her Hispanic community very well. She was loved and respected by all. All of her adult life she was a public servant for her community not only as a City Council person but years before and years after. You would be hard pressed to find anyone who fought harder for McKinney and her community. I think it would be a great Honor to her and the community to rename the Old Settlers Aquatic Center after Gilda Garcia Garza.

Thanks

Terry G. Box

IT'S NOT WHAT WE GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED!



March 24, 2022

City of McKinney  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**RE: Renaming of Old Settler's Park to Honor Councilwoman Gilda Garza**

It is with great pleasure and honor that I write this letter in full support of modifying/renaming "Old Settler's Park" to honor former Councilwoman Gilda Garza. Having first met Gilda in the mid 1990's, I was struck by her love of community, deep roots in McKinney and never-ending passion to make a difference in people's lives.

Prior to launching our group of companies collectively known as The Sanchez Group, the City of McKinney recruited me to launch the "Long Range Planning Division" for the City. One of the many initiatives this office was responsible for was to engage the local community for an accurate Census 2000. McKinney was at a pivotal crossroads and the 2000 Census was critical. Gilda worked for the North Texas Job Corps, at the time, and she was instrumental with the community awareness program we created for the 2000 Census. Gilda worked tirelessly to engage the community about the importance of the Census and the financial impacts.

Upon her election to City Council, Gilda continued her advocacy for the broader city and her district. Under Gilda's guidance, the City continued to invest in life/safety infrastructure in District 1, authorized the aquatic facility at Old Settler's Park, made renovations to Juanita Maxfield, constructed Airport Road, made improvements to Industrial Boulevard, strengthened the City's Mainstreet Program, and expanded the City's CDBG / HOME / P.R.I.D.E. programs. Gilda was an avid supporter of workforce housing initiatives, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Family School and the Samaritan Inn. Due to Gilda's strategic support, the McKinney Housing Authority set on a path to update and redevelop Newsome Homes and Merritt Homes. Although we didn't always agree on every policy position, Gilda's dedication and passion for District 1 was never in doubt. Gilda was a steadfast visionary and her smile ultimately charmed even the most ardent opponents.

On several occasions, she took the time to drive me through District 1; sometimes we even walked the streets. We would knock on doors, make wellness visits with her neighbors, talk

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about neighborhood issues with the residents – truly getting to know the community. Upon her passing, the impact that she made to McKinney was evident. There was “Standing Room Only” at St. Michael’s Catholic Church to celebrate her life and mourn her passing. In attendance were not only friends and family, but colleagues from all walks of life. There were past councilmembers, Mayor’s, city managers, church/civic leaders and community advocates. Even though Gilda passed away several years ago, she is still loved and remembered. At the inaugural “Dia de los Muertos” (*Day of the Dead*) celebration in 2021, Gilda was honored and remembered.

I was honored to have worked with her and for her. Since the days that I left the public sector, I have been proud to call her my friend. Future generations will continue to experience the positive community impact that Gilda fostered. Gilda is certainly a pillar in the community worthy of being memorialized.

Regards,

J. Martin Sanchez, CEO  
The Sanchez Group

Cc: Mayor George Fuller  
Mayor Pro Tem Rainey Rogers  
City Council  
file

**Subject: Letter from Maria McKinzie**  
**Date: 3/29/2022 6:06:19 PM Central Standard Time**  
**From: andreacarmel@yahoo.com**  
**To: carolyncorbingm@aol.com**

City of McKinney Parks advisory Board,

I'm in support of renaming Old Settlers aquatic center to a person who dedicated her services to District 1. Gilda Garcia Garza served on McKinney City Council (District 1) for 2 consecutive terms, in the early 2000's. She was a driving force for our district by advocating for all her constituents. She was our strong voice communicating for us with the city and she understood exactly what was needed and fought for us to have the same things that were found elsewhere in McKinney.

McKinney's vision for its future should include representation for our future generations to know that minorities have served as community members or councils to speak for the communities we live in. I have searched the city website for names of parks/buildings honored by a hispanic and haven't found any so far. It's time to change that, please consider re-naming the Old Settlers aquatic center in tribute to honor her legacy in District 1.

Thank you,  
Maria McKinzie

**Subject: Letter from Harvey Oaxaca, MISD School Board Member**

**Date: 3/29/2022 6:20:25 PM Central Standard Time**

**From: andreacarmel@yahoo.com**

**To: carolyncorbingm@aol.com**

Dear McKinney City Council Members

It is my understanding that your group is in the process of renaming the aquatics Center at Old Settlers Park to "Gilda Garza Aquatics Center." This makes me very happy and I believe there is no better person deserving of this honor than Ms. Gilda Garza.

Ms. Garza was a tireless community activist and loved her community and was always ready to defend her community. She was the first Hispanic woman to be elected to the McKinney City Council and served with passion during her entire tenure, She stood her ground on all issues, especially those issues that she felt would help her district become a better place for future generations. To honor Ms. Garza with this naming honors the work she has done to make McKinney a better place to live, it honors the community she served and loved dearly but most importantly it serves as a true testament to a life well lived. She was an inspiration to myself and others to get involved in the city and help make McKinney the best place to live. Please use this opportunity to preserve a legacy of love, passion, and service to the city of McKinney by introducing the "Gilda Garza Aquatics Center" to the city of McKinney.

Ms. Garza dedicated her life to her beloved neighborhood, and would defend it with her life, naming the aquatics center in her honor will serve as an inspiration to future generations to stay involved.

I support the "Gilda Garza Aquatics Center"

Sincerely,  
Francisco Javier Oaxaca  
Community Servant

March 31, 2022

**McKinney City Council**  
**McKinney, Texas**

Howdy to The City of McKinney Council Members!

I was very excited when I was approached by Carolyn Corbin to compose a letter regarding my friend Gilda Garza.

Gilda was amazing! YES, indeed, she was a dear fine friend of mine. Actually, a friend to all who had the privilege of meeting her.

As a City Council Woman, she worked diligently to bridge our District 3 and District 1 families and friends together. The McKinney Historic Neighborhood Association formed in 1993. Gilda was always a fun, energetic, active member and attended many of our social events and meetings. She really enjoyed the times when our neighborhood had live music playing on our porches, in the street, or in our back yards. On many of these occasions she would bring her family to attend as well. When special events or needs were occurring in her District 1 neighborhood, she would reach out to us. When events or needs occurred in our District 3 neighborhood we would reach out to her. It was a grand and memorable partnership. Gilda was always very grateful to the McKinney Job Corps for giving her the "time off" to be a community servant so that she could represent the good folks of her district.

On more of a personal note... my dad, John Dowell, also had a great relationship with Gilda. He was a teacher of a program titled ICT (Industrial Cooperative Training) at McKinney High School. One of my dad's roles was to place High School students where they needed and wanted to be. He assisted in placing Gilda at the Job Corps when she graduated from MHS in 1968. Later, with her leadership position, they continued in partnership to place many more deserving MHS students in local jobs and to upskill the students in keeping those jobs.

Gilda was a short but mighty woman. Always jolly with a wonderful smile. She stuck firm and true to her beliefs and was fair and genuine to all. I will always fondly remember when she would just casually drive by and come "Sit A Spell" on our porches and reminisce about a lifetime of experiences in McKinney, Texas. Gilda loved the City of McKinney and its history. I would welcome your consideration in naming the Old Settlers Park Aquatic Center in her honor. What a lovely tribute to a fine deserving lady!

*Sincerely,*

***Nina Dowell Ringley***

"McKinneyite," MHS Class of '77!

**Subject: Letter to parks for Gilda**  
Date: 6/8/2021 5:52:48 PM Central Standard Time  
From: nema.dominguez@gmail.com  
To: carolyncorbin@c21c.com

From: David Nichols <[dnichols@mckinneytexas.org](mailto:dnichols@mckinneytexas.org)>  
Date: October 2, 2019 at 12:16:05 PM CDT  
To: Michael Kowski <[mkowski@mckinneytexas.org](mailto:mkowski@mckinneytexas.org)>  
Subject: Pool renaming

Mr. Kowski,

I would like to respectfully request that when the pool at Old Settler's is updated, that it be named in honor of my late mother-in-law, Gilda Garcia Garza.

I am sure you already know of her service on city council. She represented District 1 for three terms, the term limit. In that time, she was instrumental in many improvement projects in the east side, her district.

Two of her most significant achievements were getting better roads and sidewalks, and the swimming pool at Old Settler's.

She felt that the people of the east side needed a voice, and took it upon herself to be that voice.

While the pool was one of her crowning achievements, I believe it was after council that really earned her a place in the history of McKinney. After her terms were done she didn't just fade away. The people of the east side knew her, trusted her, and continued to seek her counsel.

She continued attending the meetings, she stayed in the loop, as to what was coming down the pipeline. When needed, she would still speak on behalf of her friends, and former constituents. She lived her whole life on the east side of McKinney, and became a champion for its often overlooked issues and needs.

It was an awesome surprise when we found out that Mayor Fuller was going to read a proclamation at her service. What I would love to see is her name up on that pool. I would like to see the pride on the faces of my wife and children, of all her family. I know that if she were to look down and see her name there, that there's only one response she could possibly have... "Garcia did it again!" Her response any time someone in the family did something exceptional.

In closing, I would just like to say there may be other who are considered for this honor, but none more deserving than Gilda Garcia Garza.

She was born, live, and passed here. She spent several years in service to McKinney's citizens on council and off.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
David W. Nichols