

APPLICATION FOR PARKS, RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FACILITY NAMING

As a policy, parks, recreation areas, and facilities and Redevelopment Agency facilities shall be named in accordance with geographical, historical or ecological features indigenous to the park site or to the immediate vicinity of the site. Parks, recreation areas, and facilities and Redevelopment Agency facilities may be named for an individual (s) under the following conditions:

- 1. Where the individual has made a significant gift of land to the City of Merced and/or the Redevelopment Agency, or**
- 2. In memoriam for an individual who has made a significant contribution to the City of Merced/Redevelopment Agency.**

Recreational facilities or resource management areas within a park may be named for a corporation or an individual, living or deceased, who:

- 1. Has made a significant contribution to the protection of natural, cultural, or horticultural resources of the City of Merced, or**
- 2. Has made substantial contributions to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational opportunities within the City of Merced, or**
- 3. Has made significant contributions to the betterment of a specific park, consistent with the established criteria and standards for the designated facility.**

In support of this policy, nominations for naming parks, recreational areas, and facilities and Redevelopment Agency facilities, shall be evaluated on the basis of the above criteria and upon appropriate documentation.

Person making nomination: Victor A. Patton

Address: [REDACTED]

Contact Phone Number: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Suggested Name: Marci Stenberg Splash Park

Biographical Information:

Of all the photographers who worked for the Merced Sun-Star newspaper over the decades, none were as loved and recognized as Marci Stenberg.

Widely known as the “eye of Merced,” from 1988 until her death in 2012, Marci captured the growth of the city of Merced, and the stories of those who made the community a vibrant place to live. A longtime Merced resident, she died at age 66.

Former Sheriff Mark Pazin called Stenberg a Merced "icon," well-known throughout the community and a constant presence at everything from spelling bees to crime scenes.

Pazin and colleagues remembered Stenberg's gentle nature and positive outlook. But she also was a determined photographer, not above doing a little "sneaking" to get a better shot, Pazin said.

"She was always very professional, but it could be a little cat-and-mouse game," he said. "I'd see her on one side of the street, then she'd pop up on another."

Former Sun-Star photographer Roger Wyan remembered, "Marci came to photography later in life, although she said she was creative from an early age. She began as a part-time photographer for the now defunct weekly Atwater Signal, working her way into a fulltime position at the Merced Sun-Star daily. Both papers at that time were owned by Leshner. Stenberg did not have a formal education in photography, but made up for it with a great passion for the medium and a drive to continually improve. Fellow Sun-Star photographer Greg Hubbard and I mentored her when she came to the Sun-Star and saw her steadily improve."

Wyan added, "Marci was the archetypal daily news photographer. She knew most everyone in community and worked at building trust with the Merced police and fire departments so she could get a scoop on hard news. She had the energy and passion for news photojournalism of someone half her age, responding to police and fire calls in the middle of the night up until the end. Stenberg had a heart of gold and compassion for people that quickly put people at ease. I think her subjects intuitively sensed she was someone they could trust."

Former Modesto Bee chief photographer Al Golub said, "I worked with Marci for a while, she truly was a very nice person and knew everybody in Merced. She was hard working and liked people."

Mike Conway, public information officer for the city of Merced, worked at the Sun-Star with Stenberg for more than 10 years after she was hired in 1988. "She had that ability to just connect with people and to make that instant bridge and put people at ease," he said. "They were able to open up to her and she could translate that into film and, later, digital images."

Conway recalled attending a Merced High School football game with his wife, Diane, also a former Sun-Star employee. "We saw Marci, and she had all her cameras," he said. "We thought she was working, but she was just taking photos." When she came over to chat, she struck up a conversation with an older man sitting near the Conways. She had shot his photograph 15 or 20 years before for a story, and she remembered the man. "It was like old home week with him," Conway said.

Stenberg was nearly as well-known for her cooking as for the cameras, fire department pagers and equipment she carried almost constantly. She cooked and baked often for colleagues, once bringing in an entire Thanksgiving dinner for those who worked the holiday.

Colleagues said they will remember her ready smile and her eagerness to do a good job.

Modesto Bee Editor Joe Kieta, former editor of the Sun-Star, called Stenberg "the paper's greatest goodwill ambassador. Everybody in the building knew her, and we're hurting now because of this loss."

"You couldn't ask for an employee with a more positive outlook," said former managing editor David W. Hill. "In many ways, she was the heart and soul of this newspaper."

Former Sun-Star sports editor Joe Cortez said he has never met anyone with more passion for her profession.

"She came to work each day ready to encounter something 'awesome,' to use her favorite word," Cortez said. "Little did she know it was all of us who encountered the awesome."

She is survived by three sons, John, Eric and Todd and several grandchildren.

Excerpts of the above biography were taken with permission from the Merced Sun-Star newspaper, Dec. 2012

Civic Involvement/Reason for Nomination

Good journalism makes communities stronger, and if anyone was committed to covering hers, it was Marci Stenberg. During her tenure at the Sun-Star, she came to know as many people as any of the mayors she covered. Her relationships served the newspaper and its readers well. She was welcomed -- and allowed to take photos and ask questions -- even when other journalists were not, because people knew and trusted her. Her dedication showed in other ways, too. Marci literally slept with a police scanner so she would never miss a news event that mattered to the community. It is not an exaggeration to say that Marci often beat police to crime scenes and firemen to fires. She loved local journalism because she knew it really mattered to the Mercedians she met every day while taking pictures.

Marci gently and lovingly helped dozens of young reporters from the Sun-Star get to know Merced -- and come to love it the way that she did. One of her colleagues' favorite things about Marci was how big and bright her eyes would get when she was surprised by or excited about something. She gave her all for the job, such as the time she suffered heat stroke while covering Michelle Obama's graduation speech at UC Merced. When her editor rushed to the ER to see how she was doing, Marci was lying on a gurney in the hallway, hooked up to an IV. He asked how she was feeling. "Where are my cameras?" she asked. "I need to download my pictures." Sure enough, she returned to the newsroom to make sure one of the most important days in Merced's history was fully recorded. That's the type of event that Marci wouldn't have missed for anything. She would have described it with her favorite word: "Awesome."

Marci's humanity was always at the forefront of her work. She truly embodied the notion that a journalist should try to minimize harm. No one who knew her can recall her ever being in a bad mood, except when someone was trying to prevent her from taking a photo. It's such a cliché -- but she really loved life. She also loved her community—warts and all. She captured some of the paper's most heartwarming photos and some of its most iconic. Co-workers and visitors never

grew tired of wandering the G Street building and admiring her work. One Christmas day when she was on duty, a local group banded together to give a needy family the Christmas they deserved. Marci was on hand to photograph it, and she had such a way to connect with people. These, really, were the stories Marci lived for. It is a heartbreaking detail that her house contained gifts for local kids at the time of her death. As a journalist, you learn to appreciate the difference between words. One example is childish and childlike. Marci had a childlike side to her—why aren't all people treated the same? why is someone doing that? why would say such an awful thing? This was disarming and refreshing, especially in a newsroom, where the common mindset is cynicism.

Meridians who knew Marci all say that she was one of the kindest souls, a person who could make you laugh out loud. One reporter once wrote about McNamara Pool, on 11th Street, that had to close because of budget cuts. Marci accompanied the reporter to the pool twice to talk with parents and children. Some of her shots from that story are amazing and engaging. She routinely helped reporters by asking residents to talk with the reporter. She was able to talk with any police officer, city official or ordinary Mercedian because she genuinely cared about people.

She was once on assignment at the Merced Zoo because there was a new baby bear. At the zoo Marci took off running. She actually got into the bear's cage, her eyes alight with glee, and started photographing the bear. It was the end of the day, so any ordinary photographer would be tired, but she was fueled by good assignments and nature. On another assignment at an elementary school, Marci was photographing young students who had raised money for a relief effort. One little girl even asked for her autograph.

Marci loved the outdoors in and around Merced. She often sought out wildflowers in parks, invasive species along rivers and groves of native oaks on county farmland.

Marci was a unique individual. Her friendly, charming, and warm personality brought light to the lives of many people in Merced. She gave hope to the hopeless, she gave a voice to the voiceless and helped tell their stories through her lens. Marci was a tireless woman with a huge passion for her job. She was always ready to jump into her car, camera at hand, to chase a story, regardless of what the story was about. Upon arriving at a crime scene, or at a court trial, or at a school graduation, people would greet her like a friend. On the way to assignments she often stopped on the side of the road at least once because she spotted something that needed to be captured in a photo. Returning from Yosemite National Park, she

stopped many times to make a photo--an opportunity that could not be wasted. Young reporters working with her learned so much from her, including not being afraid to go up to officials when reporting in the field and standing up for those who journalists really work for -- the public.

One reporter remembers taking his family out to the major in-town events. Marci was invariably there with a camera in hand, whether she was working or not. It's just who she was. If something big was happening in her town, she wanted to be a part of it. She knew who the reporter's children were, and that being related, would not be available for use in the Sun-Star, but she always took pictures of them anyway. Without fail, there would be a burned CD loaded with photos of the reporter's children on his desk come Monday. She saw joy in the world and did her best to document it for others through her camera.

Marci covered numerous neighborhood visits by police and the fire department. At one, children played in water shot high in the air by the firetrucks and ate hot dogs and hamburgers the police grilled for them. Once, a young boy watched Marci shoot pictures. He edged closer and closer till he was standing next to her. Marci saw him and said hi. Shortly, she showed him how the camera worked and let him take some pictures. When she returned to the office, she emailed some of his shots to him. She always gave 100 percent of her attention to her photos, but with children that rose to 110 percent. She held a rock-solid belief that everyone was a potential friend.

Over time, Marci grew as a photographer, and the results showed up every day in the Sun-Star and, in later years, on the newspaper's website. Envision a difficult scene when there are too many individuals to photograph with the lends you have. Typically, a photographer would move the group to a new location. Marci's solution: climb a tall, rickety old and stable ladder--and get the shot. Although photography was her occupation, she knew she could always improve. Once at a workshop at White Mountain Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, she signed up as a student. She told the instructor she wanted to learn how to shoot scenic photography. Over the next three days she asked more questions and asked for more advice than all the other participants combined.

By Michael "Buck" Tharp, Former Merced Sun-Star editor

Connection to Facility:

Photographer Marc Riboud was once quoted as saying, "Taking pictures is savoring life intensely, every hundredth of a second."

Merced Sun-Star photographer Marci Stenberg relished every moment of her career, and her excitement for the art was truly indicative of her work.

Marci loved many things about the community of Merced, but above all she enjoyed children, particularly photographing them and bringing their stories to life. Because the water park at Stephen Leonard Park is geared toward children, Marci would be the perfect individual to dedicate the park to, as photographing the children of the community was her true passion.

At Stephen Leonard Park, Marci covered many event over the years, taking photographs of young people having fun, engaged in a variety of community activities, for example, like enjoying a bounce house or getting their faces painted during a holiday event.

Case in point, at the end of this application packet there is a photograph collection that's a small sample of the pictures Marci took of Merced's youth during her decades at the Merced Sun-Star.

Whether it was photographing a youth struggling to come up with the correct answer during a spelling bee, or taking a picture of a teen hitting a home run, Marci was keen on capturing the key moments in the lives of young people.

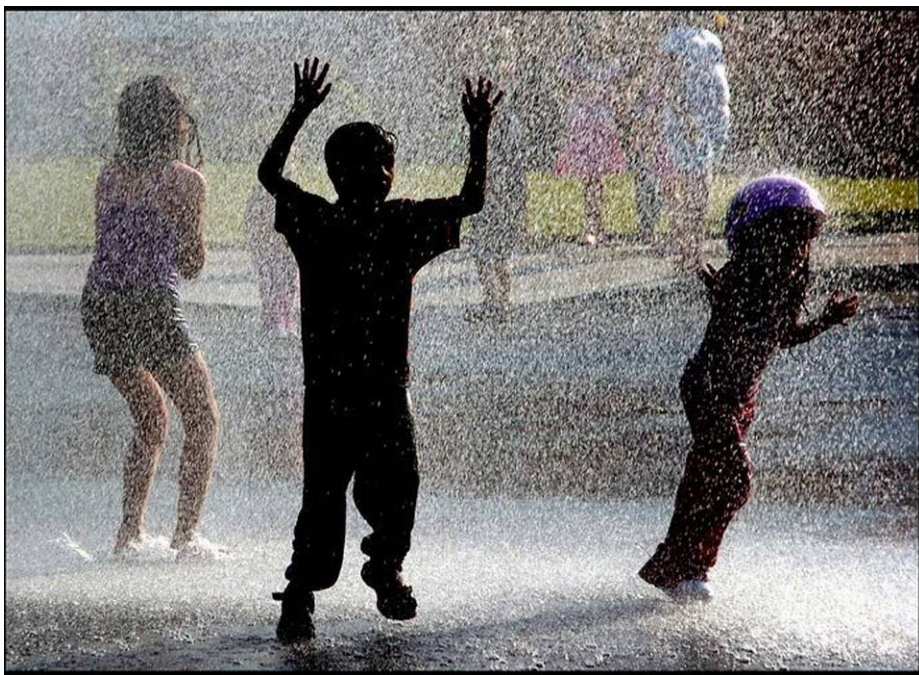
During her funeral ceremony six years ago, Merced Superior Court Judge Brian McCabe commented about how over the years Marci had taken pictures of his children, and how in many ways her photos tell the story of the larger community, because of her dedication to playing an active role in chronicling those special moments for so many years.

Wherever there was a story to be told, at every corner of Merced County, Marci was there with her camera, snapping with enthusiasm and a kind smile.

Marci also made a special point every year of taking time out on certain days to photograph kids. For example, on Veterans Day she would always grab her camera and photograph the various presentations and grammar school events that were done in honor of local veterans.

Halloween was also a favorite day of Marci's, as she would visit several schools to photograph the children in their costumes (sometimes she herself would also wear a costume).

The thousands of photographs the Marci took of the Merced County community and its children during her more than 20 years at the Sun-Star will remain a treasure trove for decades, particularly for those interested in the history of the city and county. She captured all of the moments that truly make the city of Merced and the county a special place.



ABOVE: Merced Sun-Star photo by Marci Stenberg

MORE PHOTOS BY MARCI STENBERG ARE INCLUDED AT THE END OF THE APPLICATION. PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION FROM MCCLATCHY COMPANY.

Additional Comments:

“Good journalism makes communities stronger, and if anyone was committed to covering hers, it was Marci. During her tenure at the Sun-Star, I'd venture to guess that she came to know as many people as the mayor. Her relationships served the newspaper and its readers well. She was welcomed -- and allowed to take photos and ask questions -- even when other journalists were not, because people knew and trusted her. Her dedication showed in other ways, too. Marci literally slept with a police scanner so she would never miss a news event that mattered to the community. It is not an exaggeration to say that Marci often beat police to crime scenes and firemen to fires. She loved local journalism because she knew it really mattered to the Mercedians she met every day while taking pictures.”

Corinne Benedict, former Merced Sun-Star reporter



“Marci Stenberg was a true team player, always willing to go the extra mile to do the best possible job photographically. She would go out at all hours to take an important picture and had a great rapport with everyone she came in contact with. Her enthusiasm and presence at the newspaper are sorely missed.”

Doane Yawger, longtime Merced Sun-Star reporter, Merced resident

“Marci's humanity was always at the forefront of her work. She truly embodied the notion that a journalist should try to minimize harm (SPJ Code of Ethics), and I don't really recall her ever being in a bad mood, except when someone was trying to prevent her from taking a photo. It's such a cliché--but she really loved life.

She also loved her community—warts and all. She captured some of the paper's most heartwarming photos and some of its most iconic. I never grew tired of wandering the G Street building and admiring her work (and all the other talented photogs).

In terms of specific memories, I recall working a Christmas day with her, when a local group banded together to give a needy family the Christmas they deserved. Marci was on hand to photograph it, and she had such a way to connect with people. I was always a bit uncomfortable at these sorts of events. But these, really, were the stories Marci lived for, I think. (I'm reminded of the heartbreaking detail that her house contained gifts for local kids at the time of her death.)

As a journalist, you learn to appreciate the difference between words. One example is childish and childlike.

Marci had a childlike side to her—why aren't all people treated the same? why is someone doing that? why would say such an awful thing? I think this was disarming and so refreshing, especially in a newsroom, where the common mindset is cynicism.

I can't think of a better tribute to her, and I'm happy to do whatever else I can to make this happen.

The greatest heartbreak? She won't be there to photograph it.”

*Scott Hernandez-Jason, former Merced Sun-Star reporter
Public Information Officer, UC Santa Cruz*



“The day that Marci died was crushing for me. She was a great photographer and a good friend. She embedded herself in the community with a relentless passion and an infecting kindness.”

Joshua Emerson-Smith, former Merced Sun-Star reporter

Reporter San Diego Union-Tribune,



“How could I ever forget my pal Marci...from the moment they shoveled dirt for UC Merced, Marci and I were high above...Marci with her ever-ready camera.....rough air, hot sun, low altitude, round and round we flew while Marci snapped away...first one camera and then another ...all stashed away in little bags on the back seat of my trusty Cessna 170B. Several times, I feared that air sickness might ruin our flight, but Marci was always calm, cool and collected.”

Gail McCullough, longtime friend of Marci Stenberg

“Marci and I covered a bunch of neighborhood visits by police and fire departments in Livingston over the years. The kids played in the water that was shot high in the air by the firetrucks and ate burgers and hot dogs the cops grilled. At one of these visits a kid around 13 was watching Marci shoot and he got closer and closer until he was standing right next to her. Marci saw him and said hi to him. In just a few minutes she was showing him how the camera worked and let him take some pictures. And when she got back to work she emailed some of his shots to him. She always gave 100 percent to her photos, but when it was kids she made it 110 percent. And her rock-solid belief that everyone was a potential friend made her a special person and someone I was proud to call friend.”

Carol Reiter, former reporter, Merced Sun-Star

“Marci was a very unique individual. Her friendly, charming, and warming personality brought light to the lives of many people in Merced. She gave hope to the hopeless, she gave a voice to the voiceless and helped tell their stories through her lens.

Marci was a tireless woman with a huge passion for her job. She was always ready to jump into her car, with her camera at hand, to go chase after a story,

regardless of what the story was about.

Upon arriving at a crime scene, or at a court trial, or at a school graduation, people would greet the well-known journalist.

Sitting across from Marci in the newsroom was a treat for me. She would hear something on the scanner and would ask me: "Do you want to go with me?"

I treasure the memories I have of riding in Marci's car on our way to assignments. We would stop on the side of the road at least once because Marci would always spot something that needed to be captured in a photo. We must have stopped at least 20 times one day on our way back from Yosemite National Park.

She just knew what would make a great photo and couldn't let that opportunity be wasted.

It was an honor to have worked with her for two years. I learned so much from her, including not being afraid to go up to officials when reporting in the field and standing up for those who, we as journalist, really work for -- the public.

Marci earned the respect of many, many Mercedians through her job dedication, but also through the kind of unique person that she was."

Yesnia Amaro, Former Merced-Sun Star reporter

Reporter, Phnom Penh Post



As a past environmental reporter for the Merced Sun-Star, Marci and I spent quite a bit of time together outdoors covering stories. We sought out wildflowers in parks, invasive species along rivers and explored groves of native oaks on farmland. To this day, I still think of Marci and her beautiful

pictures any time I find myself within the San Joaquin Valley passing a natural space.

Dhyana Levy, Former Merced Sun-Star reporter

I knew Marci mostly from photography adventures, and was totally surprised as I watched her in action.

Picture a difficult scene, where there were too many individuals to photograph with the lens you have.

What you would expect: The photographer would probably move the group to a new location.

Marci's solution: Climb a tall rickety old and unsafe ladder – and get the shot.

You would expect a newspaper photographer to be well rounded, know their equipment well, and be able to shoot almost everything. Not Marci.

I taught a workshop in the White Mountain Ancient Bristlecone Pine forest. Marci signed up as a student! She told me she wanted to learn how to shoot scenic photography, claiming she knew all about people but nothing about nature. During that 3-day workshop, Marci asked more questions and asked for more advice than the rest of the entire class combined.

You would expect someone who drove alone to multiple places in the county would be able to do basic navigation. Not Marci.

On the way home from the White Mountains, there is basically one turn to get back to 120 through Yosemite. When you get to 395, turn right and head north. Well, she turned south and made it almost to Los Angeles before she realized she was heading away from home. She got home in the wee hours of the morning.

You would expect someone who drove several hours the wrong way would be embarrassed and keep quiet about it. Not Marci.

After her sojourn on 395, Marci told her story almost as if she was proud of it.

She always laughed and said that she'd never been there before.

Another time, I took Marci to shoot some wild animals near Mariposa.

A game farm from Montana was conducting a photo workshop and this was a work assignment.

She went crazy, picture after picture, animal after animal. I thought we'd never leave. Finally, she was ready to go.

On the way home, I asked her what shots would she expect to be used in the paper.

With a look of surprise, she said something like, "Oh crap, I forgot all about the assignment! Do you think we need to go back?" We didn't.

Marci – a true paradox.

Tom Frazier, Fellow photographer and guest columnist for the Merced Sun-Star (Sundog)

One of my favorite parts about working for the Sun-Star is taking my family out to the major in-town events we cover. Marci was always invariably there with a camera in hand, whether she was working or not. It's just who she was. If something big was happening in her town, she wanted to be a part of it. She knew who my children were, and that being related to me, would not be available for use in the Sun-Star, but she always took pictures of them anyway. Even when I had no idea she'd seen us. Without fail, there would be a burned CD loaded with photos of my kids on my desk come Monday. She saw joy in the world and did her best to document it for others through her camera.

Sean Lynch, Merced Sun-Star sports reporter



Date received By City staff: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Approved by: (Department Head) _____

Submit to City Council for Direction: _____

Date scheduled for review by Selection Committee: _____

Date person submitting nomination notified: _____



ABOVE SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG As Damian Leon, middle, along with his three-year-old niece, Jacquelyn Rosa, right, and seven-year-old nephew Gonzalo Rosa, left, are saddened as they look through the black ironed bars surrounding the McNamara Pool, with a tarp covering it on 11th street, Friday, June 24, 2011 afternoon. Mercedians won't be able to take advantage of the

city's pools to keep cool this year, because the pools will be closed due to budget cuts.



ABOVE SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG

Susett Mena, 8, and Dominique Hernandez, 8, right, joust it out during Sheehy Elementary API celebration on Tuesday October 21, 2008 at Stephen Leonard Park, from 10:55 a.m. to 12:55 pm. They celebrated a 31-point increase on the Academic Performance Index, announced in late August. There were bounce houses of all kinds, Sumo wrestling, face painting, basketball, and hula hoops, put on by the Merced City Parks and Recreations Departments.



ABOVE SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG -- Mr. Joel Knox, Sheehy Elementary Schhols, special day teacher, helps Samuel Evans as he tosses him against the Velcro wall. Sheehy Elementary held an API celebration on Tuesday October 21, 2008 at Stephen Leonard Park, from 10:55 a.m. to 12:55 pm. They celebrated a 31-point increase on the Academic Performance Index, announced in late August. There were bounce houses of all kinds, Sumo wrestling, face painting, basketball, and hula hoops, put on by the Merced City Parks and Recreations Departments.



ABOVE SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG

During the kids' fair at the Sunnyside Apartments on D Street and Childs Avenue, Rick Osorio, right, was in charge of the tree with apples hanging on it. The children curiously watch as Osorio demonstrates the right way to eat an apple without using their hands. The one who ate the most of their apple within thirty seconds won. All the children received a prize. So, did Osorio get a bite of the apple?



ABOVE SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG -- Merced Police Lieutenant Tom Trinidad and Malachy Harts, 9, observe as Leon Evans ring up their purchases during a shopping spree with money raised from the pancake breakfast with Santa on December 1st, 2012. Evans bought for everyone in his family first and then bought something for himself. Breakfast with Santa is an annual fundraiser that helps the police officers and firefighters raise money to help needy families in our community during the Christmas holiday. Some \$2,280 was raised from the pancake breakfast and the rest came from residents and local businesses. Nineteen children were selected by the Principal of each elementary and middle school in the City of Merced. The children spent the morning with a Merced police officer, who escorted each child to a local retail store. The officer assisted the child in selecting and purchasing gifts for themselves, their parents, siblings or others who have made a difference in the child's life. Each child received \$120 for their shopping spree Friday, 12-14-2012 morning.



ABOVE PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG

Walker Murphy, 10, Ada Givens School stresses over the word "Verbatim" during the Merced County 2012-2013 Spelling Bee held in the Atwater Community Center Wednesday 12-05-2012 morning.

He ended up misspelling the word which took him out of the competition. The students were allowed four misses and that was his fourth misspelled word.



ABOVE PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG – Children from New Life Academy sing "Jingle Bell Rock" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" before the Merced Police Officers and firefighters received money during a brief ceremony at the Merced Mall, Friday 12-14-2012 morning.

The money they received was raised from a pancake breakfast with Santa on December 1st, 2012. Breakfast with Santa is an annual fundraiser that helps the police officers and firefighters raise money to help needy families in our community during the Christmas holiday.

Some \$2,280 was raised from the pancake breakfast and the rest came from residents and local businesses. Nineteen children were selected by the Principal of each elementary and middle school in the City of Merced. The children spent the morning with a Merced police officer, who escorted each child to a local retail store. The officer assisted the child in selecting and purchasing gifts for themselves, their parents, siblings or others who have made a difference in the child's life.

Each child received \$120 for their shopping spree Friday, 12-14-2012 morning.



SUN-STAR PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG

The law firm of Berliner-Cohen treated 75 kids from the Merced Boys and Girls Club to a fun filled day of rides, face painting, food, and a gift bag filled with candy, little Frisbees, tiny flashlights, and other surprises, Friday, July 30, 2010 at Kiddieland in Applegate Park. The Go-Gator was a fun thrill seeking ride. Kids raising their hands as they rode around the tracks.



The Winfield Windjammers wave the American Flags while singing "Remember America" during dress rehearsal before preschoolers through second graders, Friday, 11-2-2012 morning in the multipurpose room. This year's program will be honoring all veterans on Nov.7th at the annual Veteran's Day Program. This year's theme is "Remember, America." Students will be reminding America through script, poetry and song of our lifetime commitment to our veterans for their service. Veterans will be represented with a tribute as they stand to be recognized. Families who have lost loved ones, prisoners of war, and spouses of deceased will also be recognized, as well as those currently serving. The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 691, will post Colors in the morning program, while the Winton VFW Post 7792 will present them in the evening.



ABOVE "After the Rainstorm." 2004 photograph by Marci Stenberg Merced Sun-Star



ABOVE PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG -- Thirty of Lorrie Rose's friends gathered on the curb on M Street, across from the San Simeon Professional Center, where Rose was taken by ambulance to a mediflight helicopter with a gunshot wound to the head. Rose was later pronounced dead at the hospital. Funeral was held for Rose on January 28, 2011. Merced Sun-Star



ABOVE PHOTO BY MARCI STENBERG The 2012 Buhach Colony Make A Wish Rally received many meaningful and heart touching wishes. With all the hard work of the Buhach Leadership many wishes came true. MC Darin Dupont, right, announces that Karissa Cota, left, and her sister Anisa will receive two tickets to a Giants game from an anonymous donor

These two girls have gone through a lot the last 8 months. Their mother had surgery and had severe complications due to it. The two sisters gave up their own social lives and many school activities to be at their mother's side and take care of her so their dad could work and support their family, Wednesday, 12-12-2012, during a Wish Rally at Buhach Colony High School. Merced Sun-Star



ABOVE PHOTO BY SUN-STAR BY MARCI STENBERG Mike Anderson Sr. keynote speaker at the First Responder's Day Parade ceremony, receives a big hug from Regina Cake after he spoke before the community during the 9/11 ceremony at the American Legion Post 83 on Main Street in Merced on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011 morning. Merced Sun-Star

09/30/2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Recently we have been notified of the request to rename or name a park in honor of our mother Mary Marcia "Marci" Stenberg , in the City of Merced. We are honored that the request is being made and would be equally honored if the request were to pass. We grant permission to the organization and or individuals that are making the proposal. If you should need to speak to me or need further authorization please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,


Eric Stenberg

Son to Mary Marcia "Marci" Stenberg

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

January 23, 2017

Merced City Council
To Whom It May Concern:

I believe it would be an honor to have the splash park, located at the Stephen Leonard Park, named after my mother Marci Stenberg. My mom was a resident of Merced from 1985 to the day of her passing on December 21st 2012. She was a stay at home mom for most of my childhood. She was very active and involved in her children's lives and activities. Whether it be designing and creating soccer team flags or performing recess duties at her children's schools, she was always volunteering and always willing to lend a helping hand, all the while making it incredibly fun. She always had a passion for photography and during my middle school years she decided to follow that passion by enrolling in photography classes at Merced College and immersing herself into the art. She was willing and eager to learn all that she could about photography and was not afraid to think outside of the box when it came to taking pictures. She was able to find a connection between her love of photography and the local newspaper when she was offered a position at Merced Sun-Star. What started out as a part time job in her spare time, became a full time adventure and love of her work. It was also an avenue for her to have a self sustaining income. I say adventure rather than job because she had such a positive outlook to every new day. The possibility of meeting someone new or capturing something unique through her camera lens was so exciting to her. This positive outlook of hers was contagious to those around her, both at work and in the field. The field soon became her sweet spot. The people she photographed weren't just her subjects, they were her new friends. New friends that soon became old friends. Friends that she got to know so well that she became part of their family. My mom captured what can only be described as a timeless vault of photos around the Merced community, making memories for everyone to treasure. I believe one of her true joys was capturing the local children and the activities they participated in through the schools and community programs as they grew up. One might see her on the sideline of any one of the local youth sporting events or at Christmas time getting endless pictures of the kids sitting on Santa's lap. Using the same eagerness and willingness that was such a part of my mom's personality, she made every effort to get to know people on a personal level that people opened up to her and related to her. Because of that, she was able to snap such natural photos where people were at absolute ease. Her approach was sensitive and real, just like her. Every situation was different and sometimes difficult, but she was always able to adapt to each situation. The end result being memorable moments, memories forever captured of and for the community she loved.

Regards,



Eric Stenberg



Johnson, Lindsey

From: Conway, Mike
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 1:41 PM
To: Johnson, Lindsey
Subject: FW: Support for water park named in honor of Marci Stenberg

From: Scott Hernandez-Jason [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2017 1:28 PM
To: Conway, Mike [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for water park named in honor of Marci Stenberg

Dear members of the City Council,

I had the pleasure of working alongside Marci Stenberg for the three-and-a-half years I was with the Merced Sun-Star.

Marci's humanity was always at the forefront of her work. She embodied the notion that a journalist should try to minimize harm (SPJ Code of Ethics), and always treated those she photographed with dignity. She was also simply a delightful person. I don't remember her ever being in a bad mood, except when someone was trying to prevent her from taking a photo.

Marci loved her community—warts and all. She captured some of the paper's most heartwarming photos and some of its most iconic. I never grew tired of wandering the G Street building and admiring her work.

I recall working on one Christmas day with her, when a local group banded together to give a disadvantaged family the Christmas it deserved. Marci was on hand to photograph it, and I was struck by how she could connect with anyone. These community-building stories really were Marci's favorites.

As a journalist, you learn to appreciate the difference between words. One example is *childish* and *childlike*.

Marci had a childlike side to her—why aren't all people treated the same? why is someone doing that? why would say such an awful thing? I think this was disarming and so refreshing, especially in a newsroom, where the common mindset is cynicism.

I can't think of a better tribute to her, and I encourage you to name the section of the park after Marci. The greatest heartbreak? She won't be there to photograph the grand opening.

Regards,
Scott Hernandez-Jason

12/29/16

Dear Mr. Conway,

I am writing to strongly support the naming of the Stephen Leonard splash park after the late Marci Stenberg.

I had the joy and privilege of working alongside Marci during my time as a reporter and anchor for ABC30 News. My office was located in the Merced Sun-Star building, where Marci was a beloved photographer. It didn't take long for me to understand why her co-workers, professional contacts, and community members held her in such high regard. Marci's cheerful and caring nature was contagious. She truly loved her job, and through her lens we saw many of the people and places that make Merced special.

That includes the children and the parks she photographed countless times over her career. Whether it was a student performance, a graduation ceremony, or a special youth event organized by the City of Merced, Marci was there to capture the emotions that exuded from our youngest residents. Those were undoubtedly her favorite assignments. If only the camera had been turned on Marci, you would have seen a smile from ear to ear as she clicked through her photos examining each shot to ensure she had the perfect one. And she always did.

It only seems fitting to honor Marci's contributions to our community by naming the Stephen Leonard splash park after her, especially since she often photographed children in that exact area and at Sheehy Elementary School, which is just across the street. I should mention that this idea began with the photojournalist I worked with for nearly a decade at ABC30, Alex Ruiz, who also loved and admired Marci. We both feel this would be a wonderful way to remember a woman who has preserved the memories of so many Merced moments for all of us.

I have attached just a few of the many photographs Marci took of children enjoying life in Merced to support the sentiments above. Please don't hesitate to let me know if I can provide any additional information about this request.

Sincerely,
Sara Sandrik Goins

Johnson, Lindsey

To: Conway, Mike
Subject: RE: Hello and a note for Marci!

From: Ameera Butt [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 11:42 PM
To: Conway, Mike [REDACTED]
Subject: Hello and a note for Marci!

Dear Mike,

VP had mentioned sending a note about Marci in time for the hearing on Monday night.

There are many, many memories of Marci I would love to share with the public today. I started working at the Sun-Star in the summer of 2010 and I came in, fresh faced, never ever even living in California, let alone Merced. And Marci was one of the first people to walk up to me and exclaim "Hi! I'm Marci! I take the photos here. Welcome!" Instead of a co-worker, Marci became a close friend and confidant.

She was truly one of the most genuine and special photojournalists who made working in a news-town a treat and such fun. Whether it was getting in her green, little car to go to a news conference or attend a event helping the homeless, Marci was always in her element, always on the go, always ready for the perfect shot in whatever angle and position she had to get to BUT she was always there to lend a helping hand, to remind me of a name of someone since I was so new to town, to suggest I ask the police officer/the fire fighter/the paramedic this or that question. And the story ideas! She had countless story tips and ideas to share since I covered the city. Marci was one of the coolest and most talented photographers I had the privilege of working with and I remember her every single day I try to take a photo or get a shot for a story. She taught me a lot about photography and how to frame a shot and how to handle those massive cameras she touted around. I miss her. But she also taught me a lot about reporting and life as a journalist.

My memory of Marci was how we would keep driving out to the McNamara Pool in South Merced for a few stories about how it could possibly re-open in the summer. Leave it to her to dodge around the pool and take photos of the kids but also have them open to her and then send them my way so I could get their quotes -- even if I was interviewing other kids and adults. She was always helpful in that way. I miss her. She made Merced feel like home and she was always there to lend a hand and a reassuring word and gesture. I am so happy that Merced is getting a splash park at Stephen Leonard Park named after her. She would have loved to see the families and children enjoying it. I'm sure she is, though.

Thank you!

Ameera

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Ameera Butt

Journalist and Online Web Producer



Johnson, Lindsey

From: Conway, Mike
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:24 AM
To: Johnson, Lindsey
Subject: FW: Splash Park naming

From: Chris Winterfeldt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:42 AM
To: Conway, Mike [REDACTED]
Subject: Splash Park naming

Mike,

I want to put in my vote for naming the splash park, at Stephen Leonard Park, after Marci Stenberg.

After working with Marci at the Sun-Star for two years and seeing how much she loved to serve the Merced community, and her ability to connect with children of all backgrounds, I think it would be a fitting tribute to her memory to have the splash park bear her name. I think this is a great opportunity for Merced to honor a true pillar of the community.

Thank you for considering this action at today's hearing.

Sincerely,

Christopher Winterfeldt
Merced Sun-Star Photographer

Johnson, Lindsey

To: Diane Conway
Subject: RE: Marci Stenberg/Naming City Park for her

From: Diane Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:56 PM
To: Johnson, Lindsey [REDACTED]
Subject: Marci Stenberg/Naming City Park for her

This is a letter of support to name a City of Merced park for the late Marci Stenberg. I was a co-worker of Marci's for several years -- when we both worked at the Merced Sun-Star. Covering stories together -- it didn't matter what it was, Marci loved what she did and it showed. She was always professional but she always brought a child-like joy to everything she did and always made friends wherever she went. And anyone will tell you, when you made friends with Marci, you made a friend for life.

The first photos my husband and I have of our sons were taken by Marci just minutes after they were born 23 years ago. She took photos of so many of Merced's kids, from newborns to high school graduates, capturing moments from a band review performance to a soccer match or a swim meet. Our community's scrapbooks, walls and mantels are filled with photos taken by Marci.

The last time I saw Marci was at a Merced High School Bears football game -- the first home game on their own field. Marci had the night off but she brought her camera and was taking pictures just for fun. We were sitting on the bleachers catching up with her when a man she had photographed recognized her and started talking to her. It turned out that Marci had taken a picture of the man at his farm for work and he had asked her about getting a copy of the photo. She made a print of the photo back then and had gone out of her way to drop it off to him. He thanked her again at the game for the print of the photo. That was such a Marci thing to do.

She was the kind of person who did so many nice things for so many people -- never asking for anything in return but a smile. Naming a park for her would be the sweetest tribute to someone who was an ambassador for all that is good about Merced.

Thank you for your consideration,

Diane Booth Conway

Diane B. Conway
[REDACTED]

Johnson, Lindsey

From: Conway, Mike
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:26 AM
To: Johnson, Lindsey
Subject: FW: Letter of support for Marci

-----Original Message-----

From: Yesenia amaro [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Conway, Mike [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of support for Marci

Dear Mike Conway:

Greetings from Cambodia.

Below you will find a letter of support to have the splash park named after Marci.

Please reach me by email if you need clarification or further information.

Thank you for the consideration to read my letter.

All best,
Yesenia

Electronic letter:

Roughly 7,900 miles away from Merced, from the other side of the world in Cambodia, I can firmly say no one else is more deserving for such honor than Marci.

I would like to request that the City of Merced's Recreation and Parks Commission strongly consider naming the splash park after Marci so her legacy can continue to touch the lives of many more Mercedians in years to come.

Merced should not allow the memory of this iconic photojournalist to be erased, but instead, it should keep it alive.

Marci was a very unique individual. Her friendly, charming, and caring personality brought light to the lives of many people in Merced. She gave hope to the hopeless, she gave a voice to the voiceless and helped tell their stories through her lens.

Upon arriving at a crime scene, or at a court trial, or at a school graduation, people would greet the well-known and highly respected journalist.

I treasure the memories I have of riding in Marci's car on our way to assignments. We would stop on the side of the road at least once or twice because Marci would always spot something that needed to be captured in a photo. We must have stopped at least 20 times one day on our way back from Yosemite National Park.

She treasured parks, and having a park named after her, I'm sure would have overjoyed her tremendously.

I can still picture her happy smile and her bright blue eyes. Marci will always hold a very special place in my heart, as I'm sure it will for many Mercedians and even non-Mercedians like myself.

I hope that the commission will see the kind of impact that Marci has had on many people, including myself, and will honor her by naming the park after her.

Thank you,
Yesenia Amaro
Journalist

Sent from my iPhone

Johnson, Lindsey

To: Conway, Mike
Subject: RE: Marci Stenberg

> On Feb 27, 2017, at 7:32 PM, [REDACTED]
>
> Good afternoon,
> I hope I am not too late for this.
>
> I worked with Marci for many years at the Merced Sun Star. She was the sweetest, most humble woman I have ever met. She had so much pride in what she did and absolutely loved the community. She always volunteered to take family photos. Seeing families put a smile on her face. I strongly recommend we honor her for all the work she did for the community. No better way than naming a park after her.
>
> Thank you for your time.
>
> Adriana Barnum