



Board of Supervisors  
**County of Ventura**  
State of California

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**John C. Zaragoza**  
5<sup>th</sup> District

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**SUPERVISOR ZARAGOZA CELEBRATES  
GENARO GOMEZ  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Office of County Supervisor John C. Zaragoza recently honored Mr. Genaro Gomez of El Rio for his patriotism and for his volunteer work honoring the American flag. A formal ceremony to honor Mr. Gomez took place at the County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, at 10:30 AM on Tuesday morning, March 2, 2010. But, the story of how Supervisor Zaragoza met this Korean War veteran and American patriot started several months ago at the 2009 Veteran's Day ceremony in El Rio.

Supervisor Zaragoza met Mr. Gomez last November at the Veterans Day ceremony at the El Rio community center. Every year the El, Rio Lions Club sponsors a Veterans Day Ceremony to honor local Veterans. Of course, there were many El Rio veterans present at the little community center, but, Supervisor Zaragoza says, "What really impressed me was how many of their sons or daughters were currently serving in the military". Supervisor Zaragoza adds, "Out of that group of proud Americans, one person stood out to me. That was Mr. Genaro Gomez".

Mr. Gomez asked Supervisor Zaragoza if I could help getting the halyard fixed on the flag pole at the Albert Solis Library in El Rio. Mr. Gomez had been told that funds were not available to take care of this much needed repair. As the two men talked further, Supervisor Zaragoza learned that Mr. Gomez goes to the library every day and raises the United States flag, and then goes to the El Rio Community Center and raises the flag there, also. He then returns every evening to finish the job by taking the flags down at both locations.

Genaro Gomez was born in Flowing Wells California, seventy nine years ago. His father worked for the railroad throughout the Imperial Valley, and over time the Gomez family ended up in Ventura County. Genaro attended Somis Elementary School and later Oxnard High School.

After graduating from high school, he joined the Army, because he thought it would be good adventure. That adventure took him to a freezing fox-hole in Korea, where he thought he would never get warm again. After returning to sunny California, Mr. Gomez married and started a family, raising two sons and one daughter.

Supervisor Zaragoza says Mr. Gomez's story is one that he can easily relate to, because both families have a strong military involvement. In the Gomez family, Genaro Gomez and his eight brothers all served in the military. Supervisor Zaragoza says, "The Zaragoza family is a proud military family. My father was a WW II Veteran, one of my uncles died in the Korean War, one of my brother served in Vietnam, my son served in Operation Desert Storm and two of my nephews served in Iraq".

For his part, Mr. Gomez just continues to quietly and consistently do what he has done for years- honor the United States flag. If it is raining, he takes down the flag right away. When the weather clears, he puts it back up. When the flag needs to be replaced, he replaces it with his own personal funds, never asking for the County or anyone else to reimburse him. Mr. Gomez says he loves this country, and does this out of respect for the flag and what it represents.

Supervisor Zaragoza and the Board of Supervisors honored Mr. Gomez by adopting a County Resolution, praising and commending him for his work. Supervisor Zaragoza's office also arranged with Congresswoman Lois Capps Office for Mr. Gomez to receive a flag which flew over the Capital Building in Washington, DC.

For more information on this ceremony to honor Mr. Gomez, please call Supervisor John Zaragoza at (805) 654- 2613.