

SanTanSun News

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Relentlessly local coverage of Southern Chandler and our neighboring communities

Three receive recognition in Celebration Plaza

Three individuals will be honored by Mayor Boyd W. Dunn and the City of Chandler as the inaugural inductees into Celebration Plaza at Tumbleweed Park at 10 a.m. Sat., March 29.

Celebration Plaza, located at the center of Tumbleweed Park on the southwest corner of McQueen and Germann roads, is a permanent monument designated as a place to recognize individuals whose civic leadership, public outreach and outstanding personal service and commitment have resulted in significant and enduring contributions to the community. The plaza displays brass plaques honoring those chosen for inclusion.

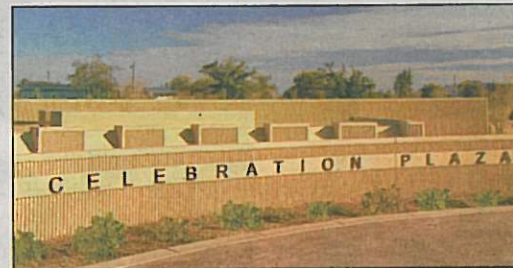
The first three individuals to be recognized in Celebration Plaza are Lenford Calley, Officer Robert Nielsen and Henry Salinas:

Lenford C. Calley, the Chandler Superintendent of Public Works from 1941 to 1959, was killed in an automobile accident on a return trip from a City of Chandler gravel pit. His responsibilities included street development and maintenance, the waterworks, parks, sewers, garbage collection and street sweeping. Calley guided the infrastructure development of 20 to 25 subdivisions and saw water department connections increase from 324 to 21,000 during his time of service.

Officer Robert J. Nielsen joined the Chandler Police Department shortly after graduating from Arizona State University. As a young, energetic and athletic officer, his peers gave Nielsen the nickname "Moose." Officer Nielsen proudly wore badge No. 445 and served the people of Chandler from 2000 until June 12, 2002. Officer Nielsen gave his life in the line of duty while driving to a call for assistance.

Henry Salinas founded Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods (ICAN) in 1991. Through ICAN, he created an institution that addressed problems facing youth in the poorer areas of the City. Salinas helped area youth achieve a new appreciation for life by showing them the importance of obtaining an education, learning new skills and having people in their lives who cared for them. His dedication and creativity have improved the lives of many young people and strengthened neighborhoods in Chandler through ICAN.

The public can submit nominations for 2009 inductees to the Community Services Department between June 1 and August 31. There is no nomination fee. A new Celebration Plaza brochure and nomination form is available at City facilities including libraries and recreation centers, and on the City website at www.chandleraz.gov/parks.



Submitted photo

CELEBRATE: Celebration Plaza is located in Tumbleweed Park, and will honor individuals who have made great contributions to the community.