

Rick Gomez was a true Buena Park hometown hero. He lived in Buena Park his entire life, and with his wife, Roilene, raised their son Daniel and daughter Taylor here. Following in his mother, Ruby Billings Gomez's footsteps who served on the Senior Citizens Commission, Rick learned early on that volunteering for your community was one way to make a difference in his City and in the lives of his neighbors.

Rick first started volunteering for the City in 1991 as a Park & Recreation Commissioner. For 28 years, and until his passing, Rick was a devoted volunteer and leader. Rick served as Chair of the Park & Recreation Commission frequently and mentored the incoming chair and new Commissioners with his City and program knowledge and experience.

Rick also coached in the City's P-nut Baseball League and flag football program for many years, even after his children Daniel and Taylor grew too old to play in the program. Rick always had a cheerful demeanor about him, and brought a contagious enthusiastic energy to the programs. It was this energy and enthusiasm that made Rick such a popular coach.

It is said that in order to make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful, or perfect. You just have to care. Rick cared. Every year, the City would receive far too many requests from players to be placed on his team. He would have had to coach two to three teams to accommodate the requests.

One thing Rick did every year before the big tournament he would personally visit every player's home late at night and leave a sign on the front porch with words of inspiration. The sign would be small, but the words impactful: "Go, Robert!" or "Good Luck, Jennifer." When the players woke up in the morning, they would run to the front porch to get their special sign, the sign made specifically for them by Coach Rick.

The City will always be grateful for Rick's dedication to his community. He will be missed for his quick-witted humor and the genuine love he had for Buena Park.