

Macario Garcia Park named in Honor of Medal of Honor Recipient

Rosenberg's Macario Garcia Park, 716 Blume Road, is named in honor of a local Congressional Medal of Honor recipient. The Congressional Medal of Honor is the United States' highest military honor. Next time you drive past or spend time at Macario Garcia Park, let it serve as a reminder of the sacrifices so many make for the future of our great Nation!



Macario Garcia was born on January 2, 1920, in Villa de Castano, Mexico, and at the age of 3, his family moved to the United States, eventually settling in Fort Bend County. In 1942, following the outbreak of World War II, at the age of 22, with only a third grade education, Macario enlisted in the Army and was assigned to Company B, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. Mr. Garcia was wounded in Normandy, France, in June of 1944, but returned to his unit. In November of the same year, Staff Sergeant Macario Garcia's unit became pinned down by a barrage of mortar fire near Grosshau, Germany. Despite his wounds, Garcia refused to retreat, and found a way to advance and single-handedly cripple two enemy machine-gun emplacements, capturing German soldiers in the process. Only after his unit's objective was complete, did Staff Sergeant Garcia allow himself to be removed for medical treatment.

As a result of his exemplary military conduct, inspiring heroism, and unparalleled bravery, Garcia earned a Bronze Star for bravery and a Purple Heart for being wounded in action. Most prestigiously of all, on August 23, 1945, at a ceremony in the White House, President Harry S. Truman awarded Staff Sergeant Macario Garcia the Congressional Medal of Honor – the United States' highest military honor. Receiving a Congressional Medal of Honor placed Garcia in an elite group of American heroes. Moreover, Garcia cemented his place in American history by being the first Mexican immigrant to receive the illustrious decoration.



Macario Garcia became an American citizen on June 25, 1947, and earned his high school diploma the same year. Along with his wife, Alicia Reyes, he raised three children in Fort Bend County, and spent the next 25 years working for the Veteran's Administration while serving in the Army Reserves. Sadly, Mr. Garcia's life was cut short when, at the age of 52, he died in a car accident. He was buried in Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. As a further tribute, there are numerous civic locations bearing his name, including the Macario Garcia Army Reserve Center in Houston, which then Vice President George Bush dedicated in 1983.



Following Macario Garcia's death, the City of Rosenberg built and opened Macario Garcia Memorial Park, which was recognized with an official Historical Marker by the Texas Historical Commission in 2006. This community park, located at 716 Blume Road, boasts over twelve (12) acres with picnic shelters, barbecue grills, playground equipment, lighted basketball courts, a lighted ball field, walking/jogging trails, and a restroom facility with water fountains. In recent years, upgrades have been made to the trail system, fencing, and lighting. Most notably, Macario Garcia Memorial Park received new playground equipment in 2010, and in 2011 the ball field was reworked into a much-needed adult softball field. In 2011, thanks to the generosity of the Rosenberg Development Corporation, a pergola was built and a flagpole was erected, so that the City might honor the park's namesake, Macario Garcia, on military holidays.

City offices will be closed Monday, September 5, 2011, for Labor Day.

Garbage WILL NOT be collected on Monday, but will instead be collected the next regularly-scheduled pick-up day - Thursday.