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04/25/2024

City of El Paso Hosts Renaming and Unveiling Ceremony for Popular Park

WHO: City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department

WHAT: Park Renaming and Unveiling Ceremony

WHEN: 10 a.m. Friday, April 26

WHERE: 7500 W H Burges Dr.

The City of El Paso invites the community to the Renaming and Unveiling of Jim Crouch Park at 10 a.m. Friday, April 26, at 7500 W H Burges.

The ceremony will include Mayor Oscar Leeser, City Representative Cassandra Hernandez, and other City leaders as well as the Burges High School Band and cheerleaders. Refreshments will also be served.

Through the City of El Paso renaming process, more than 50 park area residents signed the application in support of renaming Ponder Park to James "Jim" Crouch Park in remembrance of his legacy as a referee, athlete, highly decorated soldier, and as a guiding light for El Paso youngsters.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board passed the renaming application in February of 2024. The El Paso City Council passed a resolution to officially rename the park.

James 'Jim' Crouch earned acclaim from both the U.S. Army and the El Paso athletic realm for his steadfast commitment. He forged a lasting legacy as a versatile figure, distinguishing himself as a referee, excelling in softball, earning accolades as a highly decorated soldier, and attaining the esteemed distinction of becoming the highest-ranking African-American civilian employee in Fort Bliss history upon his retirement in 2010.

Crouch made substantial contributions to the world of sports as a member of the International Softball Congress Fast Pitch teams, from El Paso in 1961 and 1962 that won back-to-back championships. He earned an induction into the El Paso Softball Hall of Fame as a player in 2015.

In 2006, his guidance to younger officials, care for students, and the multitude of accolades bestowed upon him by the Texas Association of Sports Officials culminated in his induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame as a referee.

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