

Memorandum

January 17, 2020

To: MJC College Council

From: George Boodrookas, Executive Director, MJC Foundation

Subject: Naming of the baseball field in honor of Mr. Jerry Streeter

It is with great pleasure that I write to recommend the naming of the Modesto Junior College Baseball Field in memory of Mr. Jerry Streeter. This recommendation is made pursuant to Yosemite Community College District Policy and Administrative Procedure 6620. The “criteria for naming” section of the administrative procedure states that “from time to time the District may want to honor the extraordinary, distinguished contributions to the Colleges and/or the District. Such naming opportunities shall be proposed no earlier than five years from the time of the individual’s separation from the District or, if the person is deceased, from the time of their passing.” Jerry Streeter certainly made an extraordinary contribution to our college. He was a local legend in the baseball community and a longtime beloved coach of the MJC baseball team. Sadly, Mr. Streeter passed away on July 5, 2019 at the age of 87.

Mr. Streeter was an alumnus of MJC, graduating in 1951. He was a three-sport standout in baseball, football and basketball while attending college. Following his time at MJC he played professional baseball in the minor leagues, chasing his dream of playing in the Big Leagues. In 1964, he returned to MJC as a member of the physical education faculty and in 1966 became the head baseball coach at MJC, taking over the job from Ralph Johnson, who had served in that capacity since World War II. Mr. Streeter would serve in this role for 17 years, leading the college to several successful seasons. Mr. Streeter served as a faculty member for a total 27 years at MJC. His contributions, both as a student and an employee, were recognized when he was elected to the MJC Athletics Hall of Fame.

Hundreds of MJC athletes can attest to the impact that Mr. Streeter had on their lives. He guided many students to graduation and to transfer and was called a “father figure” by many. Along the way he also helped some students reach their dreams of playing professional baseball. Current and former players, coaches, staff and various community members have reached out in support of honoring Mr. Streeter’s contributions to MJC, including Mr. Bo Aiello, longtime head coach for baseball, who took Mr. Streeter’s place in 1983, and current head coach, Zeb Brayton. The Modesto Junior College Foundation Board of Directors concurs with the Athletics Department that Mr. Jerry Streeter is deserving of this naming opportunity. They voted to approve this naming designation last fall.

Now we ask the College Council for its support for this naming opportunity. All YCCD procedures for college naming opportunities including signage will be followed meticulously. We ask for approval on January 27, so that a formal agenda item request to the YCCD Board of Trustees might be submitted shortly thereafter. Thank you all for your consideration.