

July 17th, 2025

City of Costa Mesa
Public Services Department
77 Fair Drive
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628

To whom it may concern,

My name is James Ortiz, and I am reaching out in hopes of having a tree planted to honor my father, Jim Ortiz. My father was the embodiment of resilience and determination. He began his career with the city before I was born in the golf division. I have very fond memories of waking up early on Saturdays with my dad to go and turn on the water system for the golf course, as well as setting up the flags for the day. My dad rose up the parks division ranks and became (I don't know the title.) My dad was also a very active participant in the neighbors for neighbors program. I was fortunate enough to attend events with him when I was in high school. After each event, he would always express how great it felt to give back to the community.

Becoming an arborist was by far the accomplishment that he felt the most pride in achieving. I remember him staying up late studying and I quizzed him during his prep for his licensing. My father was elated when he was able to include "certified arborist" whenever someone asked him what he did for a living.

Whenever we drove anywhere, his favorite game to play was "what kind of tree is that?" it was always a very one-sided game, but I knew how much it meant to him. The place he loved playing the game the most was TeWinkle park. TeWinkle park was without a doubt his happy place. We spent many weekends at TeWinkle park enjoying the ponds, the wildlife, and the trees. I truly cannot think of a better way to honor my father's memory, than to have a tree planted in his honor.

Thank you for your consideration,

James Ortiz