

Nomination for "City of Chula Vista Veteran of the Year (VOY)"

(Please Print – Information contained will be used for publication and press related materials)

Date: 9/8/2023

Submitting Organization/Corporation Information				
Organization Name:	Villa Rosa Homeowners Association			
Organization Point of Contact:	First Robert	Last Perez		
Organization Mailing Address:	<div>Street Address</div> <div>City</div> <div>Chula Vista</div> <div>State</div> <div>CA</div> <div>Zip Code</div>			
Organization Contact Info	Phone	Phone	Email	
Organization Website (if applicable):				
Veteran of the Year (VOY) Nominee Information				
Selection of your Veteran of the Year (VOY) is to be determined by your organization or agency. <i>Request only one submitted nominee from each organization or agency.</i>				
Nominee Name:	First Rocco	Middle Initial J	Last Sgro	
U.S. Military Branch of Service:	<input type="checkbox"/> Army <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard			
Rank/Rate: E-9/CMDCM	Period(s) of Service:	From (Month Year) 12/1971	To (Month Year) 02/2002	
Nominee Mailing Address:	<div>Street Address</div> <div>City</div> <div>Chula Vista</div> <div>State</div> <div>CA</div> <div>Zip Code</div>			
Nominee Contact Info	Phone (Home)	Phone (Cell)	Email	
Personal information of all entrants is important to the VOY selection process. All personal information will remain private and safeguarded from unauthorized disclosure beyond the purpose of the board.				
Nomination Eligibility/Submission Criteria				
Why Should Your Veteran of the Year Be Selected? Eligibility Criteria: For consideration as the City of Chula Vista Veteran of the Year, your nominee must be a veteran honorably discharged from U.S. Military Service, employed within or a resident of the City of Chula Vista, and a citizen who has made significant contributions to the community since military service. Emphasis should be placed on nominee's accomplishments that support your organization's service to the community, individual contributions to the local community and support of the Veterans community of San Diego. Supporting Documentation: Remember, whether the judges know your veteran or not, the nomination submission package should provide all information necessary for the judges to make their decision without seeking further information. Each nomination package should include two photographs (one in uniform from military service; one of nominee present day) and a narrative highlighting the nominee's contributions. Highlight special characteristics of the nominee that makes him/her an asset to the Veterans Community of Chula Vista (i.e. leadership, professionalism, fairness, integrity, ethics, respect, and trustworthiness). If your nominee is employed, please provide a current job description. Describe contributions to co-workers and/or other organization members, involvement in the organization activities and special contributions to the organization. Describe community service (i.e. participation in church, youth, school, civic activities and other volunteer efforts). Please provide a completed copy of this application/form to your Veteran of the Year. Submit completed package (including all items addressed above) by September 11 th (of the year of submission) to: City of Chula Vista c/o Fire Department Attn: Veterans Advisory Commission 276 Fourth Avenue Chula Vista, CA 91910 Staff POC: Alyssa Moreno / Phone: (619) 409-5839 / Email: CVVeterans@ChulaVistaCA.gov				

From: Director, Villa Rosa Homeowners Association

To: Veterans Advisory Commission

Subj: NARRATIVE SUPPORTING ROCCO J SGRO NOMINATION FOR CITY OF CHULA VISTA VETERAN OF THE YEAR (VOY)

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Rocco J. Sgro for the City of Chula Vista Veteran of the Year. Mr. Sgro served 30 years in the United States Navy who elevated to the rank of E-9, and was selected into the Command Master Chief Program, designated CMDCM(AW/SW). He was awarded numerous medals and ribbons for his service. He deployed to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf as Fighter Squadron ELEVEN (VF-11) Command Master Chief during Operations Desert Strike and Southern Watch onboard USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70) in 1996, and during Operation Southern Watch onboard USS JOHN C. STENNIS in 1998. His final tour in the Navy was Command Master Chief, Commander, Sea Control Wing Pacific, with six S-3B Viking Aircraft Squadrons.

After his retirement, he remained in the San Diego area, working for the Navy as a contractor and a Federal Civil Service personnel. He fully retired in December 2021.

He was a resident of San Diego, where he was the Chairman of the Otay Mesa/Nestor Planning Group for over 5 years. He then moved to Chula Vista in 2007.

He has been involved as a Board of Director, Vice President, and President of the Villa Rosa Homeowners Association since 2008 to present. He has served 10 terms as President during this time. His leadership in that position has vastly enhanced the overall community by self-help and contracted improvements. Rocco, as well as the Vice President and other Directors worked extremely well as a team in these efforts such as development of the park picnic area and dog park, tree planting, xeriscape water tolerant landscape, lighting improvements, security gate replacement, and most recently the addition of a flagpole and U.S. Flag for our community.

Throughout this period, Rocco has been the Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, ensuring the safety of our gated community. He has a great relationship with the Chula Vista Police Department, contacting them if an issue arises in the community such as trespassing, graffiti, or other incidents. He contacts City Departments on issues like overgrown vegetation and street repairs.

He is a member of the South West Chula Vista Civic Association, where he has met with the Chula Vista Chief of Police and the respective Captain concerning the illegal pot shops that were an issue in our community. He gained a better understanding of their efforts, and with the work of City Council, they were able to close these down. He also praised the City Manager and staff on their initiatives regarding the revitalization of Downtown Chula Vista on Third Avenue and the major project for the Bayfront Hotel and Resort area. Where others were critical, he openly supported their efforts.

He recently contacted the Mayor regarding thefts. He observed the manager of the Dollar Tree at the Target Shopping Plaza on Palomar and Broadway walking behind a homeless person who had just shoplifted his store. Rocco talked to the manager the next day to understand the enormity of the issue, and the manager explained that the store lost over \$230,000 over the past year in theft and that the homeless population, removed from the park, set up encampment behind the plaza stores. Shoplifting has been a major issue for all the businesses in the plaza. Rocco contacted Mayor McCann regarding

this, and he responded and had his staff reach out to the manager. The Mayor also contacted the City's Police and Homeless Outreach Team to clear out the encampment there.

Rocco has also been the President of Chula Vista Branch 61, Fleet Reserve Association for three terms. First from 1983-1984, then 1989-1990, and most recently from 2022-2023. He took on major issues that came up during his term. His strong firm but fair leadership approach, and teaming skills gained the trust, respect, and support of the Board of Directors there. His emphasis was support and advocacy for benefits to Active Duty, Reserve, Retired, and Veterans of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel for their service.

He was the Chairman of Americanism and Patriotic Holidays, where he coordinated and emceed the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Glen Abbey Memorial Park. He interfaced with Glen Abbey management, Chula Vista Boy Scout troop, and other veterans' organizations to pay tribute to those veterans who lost their lives in the defense of our great Country.

He also oversaw and presented the Scholarship awards for Chula Vista Seniors and also for the annual FRA Essay Contest for Grades 7-12. Rocco, along with the Board of Directors contributed \$500 to the Firefighters for their local youth activities support. He also coordinated the celebration of the Branch's 75th Anniversary, which the Branch was awarded a Proclamation from the City of Chula Vista.

He also supported the City with their events, participating in the Third Avenue Block Party, Lemon Festival, and Taste of Chula Vista activities. This enabled the community to understand what the FRA stands for, and the ability to reach out to veterans so they can join and benefit from FRA's advocacy.

The Branch building, due to age and damage, had major issues. Through his superb leadership, inspiration, and direction, Rocco and a team of three other officers invested many volunteer hours during the week in restoring and renovating the building over a 12-month period.

Rocco J. Sgro is the culmination of professionalism and integrity. He is extremely caring, and thinks of others before himself, providing service to the Chula Vista Community as a whole. He devotes a majority of his time, energy, and efforts volunteering for the Homeowners Association and Fleet Reserve Association. His patriotism as well as support of veterans is evident through his actions as a great leader. The positive impacts on the City are a direct result of his engagements with and support of the City's leaders. He is greatly deserving of the award of the City of Chula Vista Veteran of the Year.

Robert Perez

Villa Rosa HOA Director





