

February 11, 2021

Mayor Mathew Serratto and City Council Members  
Merced City Hall  
678 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street  
Merced, CA 95340

Dear Mayor Serratto and City Council Members,

We, Merced Special Guerrilla Unit (SGU) Veteran write this letter in great respect to the mayor and all council members for taking their time to hear us out on naming a city park in honor of the Hmong Leader General Vang Pao (GVP).

General Vang Pao has been a great Hmong Leader going back to the Vietnam War by protecting Laos from communist. GVP and his army supported America in the Vietnam War, by cutting off access to the Ho Chi Min trail and rescuing down American fighter pilots. In the eyes of the Hmong people, Laotians, and Mien communities, GVP is their hero that brought hope to them. When Americans left, it was GVP who worked hard to make sure his people were able to come to America to escape persecution. GVP helped started the Lao Family Community nonprofit organization and helped raised awareness of his people to the American society. GVP also registered the SGU Veteran through the U.S Veteran. Due to GVP's hard work and due diligent, the Hmong Community now have Doctors, lawyers, Senators, Judges, and etc. that now service the community not just in Merced but across the US.

It is in great respect to General Vang Pao, SGU Veteran., and the Hmong, Laotian, and Mien Communities would like to honor and pay tribute to this hero by naming a city park after him. This way we would keep his memory and legacy alive in the hearts of the Hmong, Laotian and Mien Communities and preserve his legacy our kids' future.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance provided by the mayor and all city council members and we look forward to collaborating with you and the city council members as you continue to work to improve our community for the future of all Mercedians.

Sincerely



Ya Va Moua

SGU Veteran Merced Chapter