

Application

Date & Time Received by City Clerk's Office:

Please select the recognition that you are requesting:

- ☐ Pins and Medals
- ☐ Community Leader Award of Distinction
- ☐ Wall of Honor
- ☒ Memorial, Monument and/or Facility Naming

Please list your preferred City Council meeting date(s) for the recognition requested and any other related details.

25, November 2025

Requestor Information

For the following recognitions, the requestor must be different from the recipient as this will be considered as a nomination: *Community Leader Award of Distinction; Wall of Honor; Memorial, Monument and/or Facility Naming.*

John
Requestor First Name

Hernandez
Requestor Last Name

Temecula Valley Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 4089
Organization (If Applicable)

Family Friend
Relationship to Nominee

951 232-8072
Requestor Phone Number

[REDACTED] Temecula, Ca
Requestor Email Address

Nominee Information

LOUIS F.
Nominee First Name

CARDIN
Nominee Last Name

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Organization (If Applicable)

DECEASED

Nominee Phone Number

DECEASED

Nominee Email Address

Nominee Address

Suite or Apt.

City

State

Postal Code

Please explain in detail the reason you are making this request and why you would like the Council to consider this recognition:

See Attachment

Impact Statement

For the following awards listed below, please complete the Impact Statement in its entirety:

Community Leader Award of Distinction; Wall of Honor; Memorial, Monument and/or Facility Naming

Period of time as well as contributions recognized by a significant segment of the community and their respective industry (education, nonprofit, business) will be considered upon review of request.

Please attach the following to this completed application:

- Resume-

Please demonstrate proof of impact of the nominee to the community with dates of service included in the resume.

- Letter(s) of Recommendation

- Additional Documentation-

Opportunity to further support the nominee's impact on the community

Any Additional Comments?

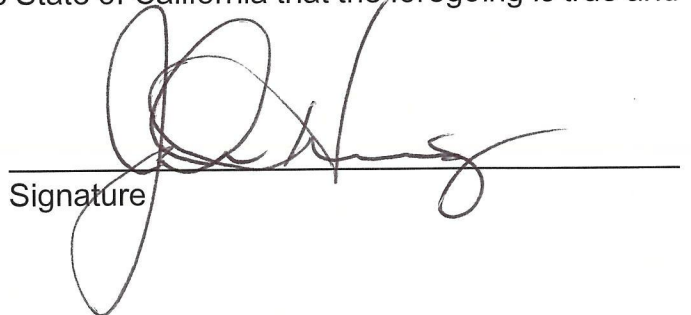
Acknowledgment

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated:

24, July 2025

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Anthony", written over a horizontal line.

It is with great honor that I request that the Temecula City Council consider that the new “Biking/Walking trail” running along Diaz Road be named after former resident and local hero, Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin U. S. Marine Corps.

Louis “Louie” Cardin was born on April 27, 1988 in Riverside, California, grew up in Anza, Aguanga, Temecula, and graduated from Chaparral High School, Temecula in 2006.

He was a decorated Marine who served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He joined the Marines in June 2006, serving as a field artilleryman.

Throughout Louie’s 10-years in the Marine Corps, his service included deployments to Iraq in 2007 and three deployments to Afghanistan. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Louis F. Cardin was tragically killed on March 19, 2016, in northern Iraq. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military's campaign against ISIS. Cardin, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, was killed during a rocket attack by ISIS militants on a coalition base in Makhmur. Eight other Marines were injured in the attack.

The attack occurred when ISIS fired rockets at the base where Cardin and other Marines were positioned. U.S. counter-battery radar provided some warning, and the Marines ran for cover when sirens sounded. One rocket missed, but another hit near Cardin, causing fatal injuries to his chest. He was the second combat fatality in Iraq during Operation Inherent Resolve. Louie was 27 years old.

Staff Sgt. Cardin was remembered and honored for his service and sacrifice. A memorial ceremony was held for him at the Protestant Chapel at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, on July 14, 2016. He is survived by his parents and six siblings

His awards and decorations included:

- **Purple Heart**
- **Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal**
- **Presidential Unit Citation-Navy**
- **Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon**
- **Three Marine Corps Good Conduct medals**
- **National Defense Service medal**
- **Three Afghanistan Campaign medals (two stars)**
- **Iraq Campaign medal (one star)**
- **NATO Medal-ISAF Afghanistan**
- **Global War on Terrorism Medal**
- **Sea Service Deployment ribbon (two stars)**



August 29, 2025

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION IN NAMING CITY WALK/BIKE TRAIL
IN THE NAME OF LOCAL HERO STAFF SERGEANT LOUIS F. CARDIN UNITED
STATES MARINE CORPS**

To whom City of Temecula Mayor and City Council:

My name is Master Sergeant **John Z Hernandez** United States Marine Corps Retired, former Temecula Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Commander and current Junior Vice Commander State Commander.

I speak for thousands of local Veterans when recommending that the newly completed "walking trail" along Diaz Road be named and dedicated in the name of our local hero **SSgt Louis F. Cardin** who **paid the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq on March 19th, 2016** defending our country's freedoms.

I urge you all to grant this request this coming year on the 10th anniversary of Louie's death.

Sincerely,



John Z. Hernandez - Master Sergeant USMC (Retired)

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
951 232-8072**





SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT #1057

Larock W. Benford, SgtMaj/USMC Ret. Paymaster/Past Commandant Phone: 951-775-1191 E-mail: rockusmc@ca.rr.com

August 28, 2025

From: Sergeant Major (Retired) Larock W. Benford, XXX XX 9735, USMC
To: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the Temecula City Council

Subj: **ENDORSEMENT TO CONSIDER THE NEW "BIKING/WALKING TRAIL" RUNNING ALONG DIAZ ROAD BE NAMED AFTER FORMER RESIDENT AND LOCAL HERO, STAFF SERGEANT LOUIS F. CARDIN, U. S. MARINE CORPS**

1. I am writing this letter in support of endorsing/naming the **"Biking/Walking Trail"**, running along Diaz Road, after fallen Marine Corps Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Louis F. Cardin, a Temecula native & graduate of Chaparral HS. This tribute would serve as a powerful and lasting reminder of his sacrifice and service to our surrounding communities & this great Nation.

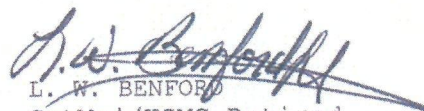
2. I am a retired Sergeant Major (Senior Enlisted Leader/Advisor) who served "30.5" years of military service, which includes billets as a Platoon Commander, Drill Instructor, Assistant Marine Officer Instructor at Purdue University, Sergeant Instructor duty at Officer Candidates School, and at the General Officer level serving in combat (Iraq). In retirement, I am a small business owner & have remained dutifully connected to our military & civilian community via my Life Membership in the Marine Corps League & VFW, and being a Director in the Navy League of the United States (Inland Empire area). With my honorable reputation, I strongly support & endorse this prestigious honor of naming the trail, **"The Staff Sergeant (USMC) Louis F. Cardin Biking/Walking Trail"**.

3. SSgt Cardin was a decorated Marine who embodied courage and selflessness. After joining the Marine Corps in 2006, he served multiple tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan. He was killed in action on March 19, 2016, in northern Iraq while providing fire support to Iraqi security forces during Operation Inherent Resolve. His final moments demonstrate his heroic character & why he deserves such an honor. During a rocket attack by ISIS militants, ignoring his own safety, SSgt Cardin took immediate action directing his Marines to cover in a bunker. Because of his selfless actions, he did not make it to safety in time. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for his valor.

4. Naming a **"Biking/Walking Trail"** in his honor would be a meaningful way to pay tribute to SSgt Cardin. It would ensure that every resident and visitor is reminded of the patriotism and service within the community. His name would symbolize the courage and commitment demonstrated by many in the armed forces. Thank you for considering this request. The City Council is urged to take the necessary steps to make this tribute a reality.

5. If you have any questions concerning this letter, I can be reached at cell: (951) 775-1191 or email: rockusmc@ca.rr.com.

Respectfully Submitted,


L. W. BENFORD
SgtMaj/USMC Retired

Jesus "Jesse" Santillano
Commander – VFW Post 4089
Temecula Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars
28075 Diaz Road
Temecula, CA 92590
Commander@temeculavalleyvfw.org

8/28/2025

Temecula City Council
41000 Main Street
Temecula, CA 92590

Subject: Letter of Recommendation – Naming of Walking Path Along Diaz Road in Honor of Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin, USMC

Dear Honorable Members of the Temecula City Council,

I am writing this letter in strong support of the proposal led by **John Hernandez**, Department of California Junior Vice Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to name the new biking and walking trail along Diaz Road in Temecula in honor of **Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin**, United States Marine Corps.

As a prominent veteran advocate and former District 3 Commander of Riverside County and Past Commander of Temecula Valley VFW Post 4089, Mr. Hernandez has spent over a decade championing causes that uplift and honor our local military heroes. His leadership on the **Fallen Heroes Memorial Committee**, which resulted in the dedication of the beautiful monument at the Temecula Duck Pond in 2017, stands as a testament to his commitment.

Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin, a proud graduate of Chaparral High School and a true son of Temecula, made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation in March 2016. As we approach the 10th anniversary of his passing, naming this public trail in his memory would be a fitting and lasting tribute to his bravery and dedication. It would serve not only as a place of reflection and remembrance but also as an educational symbol for future generations in our community.

This recognition would ensure that Louie's sacrifice and legacy continue to inspire residents and visitors alike, reminding all who walk the path of the cost of freedom and the valor of those who defend it.

I respectfully urge the City Council to approve this commendable and heartfelt proposal. Thank you for your consideration and continued support of our veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JS' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesus "Jesse" Santillano
Commander Temecula VFW Post 4089
Veterans of Foreign Wars



NAVAL JROTC UNIT

CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL

27215 Nicolas Road
Temecula, CA 92591
Tel (951) 695-4200 Ext. 702
Fax (951) 695-4219



August 24, 2025

**SUBJ: Naming of Diaz Road Biking/Walking Trail in Honor of Staff
Sergeant Louis F Cardin, USMC**

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Chaparral High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC), we write in strong support of naming the new biking/walking trail along Diaz Road in honor of Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin, United States Marine Corps.

Staff Sergeant Cardin, known to many as "Louie," was a 2006 graduate of Chaparral High School and a proud member of the Temecula community. He selflessly answered the call to serve our nation, enlisting in the Marine Corps immediately after graduation. Over the course of ten years, he deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan, earning numerous awards and decorations, including the Purple Heart, for his valor and sacrifice.

Tragically, Louie gave his life on March 19, 2016, while serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. His courage and dedication to his fellow Marines and his country embody the very values that we in NJROTC strive to instill in our cadets every day—honor, courage, and commitment.

Naming this trail after Staff Sergeant Cardin will not only serve as a lasting tribute to his legacy, but it will also stand as a powerful reminder to our students, families, and the broader Temecula community of the cost of freedom and the character of a true hometown hero. For our cadets at Chaparral High School, walking, running, or biking on a trail that bears Louie's name will inspire them to live with the same sense of duty and service.

We respectfully urge the City Council to approve this request and ensure that future generations of Temecula residents know the name and sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin.

Thank you for considering our wholehearted support for this important and meaningful recognition.

Semper Fidelis,

Russell Thiem, Commander, USN (Ret.)
Senior Naval Science Instructor

Ruiz, Leo, First Sergeant, USMC (Ret.)
Naval Science Instructor



GREAT OAK HIGH SCHOOL

AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC
GREAT OAK HIGH SCHOOL
32555 DEER HOLLOW WAY
TEMECULA, CA. 92592



Temecula City Council
41000 Main Street, Temecula, CA 92592
To Whom It May Concern,

I am proud to recommend SSgt Louis F. Cardin for the Fallen Heroes Memorial. United States Veterans are one of our nation's greatest resources and those that have given their very life for our freedom require special recognition. Staff Sergeant Louis F. Cardin (Louie) United States Marine Corps, who was a 2006 Chaparral High School graduate, died while serving the country that he swore to protect. It is only fitting that we honor his life with a memorial built for he and his family to commemorate a life of service and one well lived.

I give this memorial my absolute highest support and recommendation.

Respectfully,

Colonel (Ret.) Scott Barberides,
USAF Senior Aerospace Science Instructor
Great Oak High School
Sbarberides@tvusd.us

From: [Randi Johl](#)
To: [Randi Johl](#)
Subject: FW: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 1:21:00 PM

From: Randi Johl
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:40 AM
To: James Stewart <James.Stewart@TemeculaCA.gov>; Brenden Kalfus <brenden.kalfus@temeculaca.gov>
Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>
Subject: FW: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail

Good Morning Subcommittee – please note below that the VFW is in agreement that the portion of the trail to be renamed and maintained is the one-half mile stretch that runs from Rancho Way to Rancho California fronting the VFW facility. Unless you have any concerns, this item will be on the agenda for the 11/18 meeting for full Council review and approval at your request. Thank you.

Randi Johl, JD, MMC, CDE
Legislative Director / City Clerk
(951) 694-6421
randi.johl@temeculaca.gov
41000 Main St, Temecula, CA 92590



Please note that email correspondence with the City of Temecula, along with attachments, may be subject to the California Public Records Act, and therefore may be subject to disclosure unless otherwise exempt.

From: Hernandez CTR John Z JR <john.hernandez.ctr@usmc.mil>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 1:23 PM
To: Randi Johl <randi.johl@temeculaca.gov>
Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>
Subject: RE: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail

Randi,

I apologize for not getting back to you in a timely manner.

The one-half mile stretch that runs from Rancho Way to Rancho California north towards the DMV seems very reasonable to maintain by the VFW membership.

Please let me know what other information you'll require.

Thank you,

John Z. Hernandez - Master Sergeant USMC (Retired)

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
951 232-8072**



From: Randi Johl <randi.johl@temeculaca.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 10:32 AM
To: Hernandez CTR John Z JR <john.hernandez.ctr@usmc.mil>
Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail

Hi John – just wanted to follow up on this. Please let us know how you would like us to proceed. Thank you.

From: Randi Johl
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2025 3:21 PM
To: john.hernandez.ctr@usmc.mil
Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>
Subject: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail

Good Afternoon John –

Thank you for submitting the attached proposal for the City Council's consideration. It was received and processed pursuant to the City's Public Recognitions Policy.

While the Council Subcommittee consisting of Mayor Kalfus and Council Member Stewart were generally in support of the concept, they did want to clarify which portion of the trail along Diaz Road the VFW was interested in naming and/or maintaining. The proposal only mentioned the trail along Diaz Road. If you do not have a specific stretch of the trail already noted, staff is suggesting the portion of the trail that runs from Rancho Way to Rancho California. This one-half mile stretch of the trail is easily identifiable with intersections and covers frontage to the VFW facility. Signage for this portion of the trail could be provided through Public Works.

Please let us know as soon as you can if this is acceptable or if you were thinking something different. We would like to take the item to the full Council at the November 18, 2025, meeting.

Thank you.

Randi Johl, JD, MMC, CDE
Legislative Director / City Clerk
(951) 694-6421
randi.johl@temeculaca.gov
41000 Main St, Temecula, CA 92590



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From: [Randi Johl](#)
To: [Randi Johl](#)
Subject: FW: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 1:20:00 PM

From: Randi Johl

Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 10:08 AM

To: Hernandez CTR John Z JR <john.hernandez.ctr@usmc.mil>

Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>; mattrahn@wildfireconservancy.org; Zak Schwank <zak.schwank@temeculaca.gov>; Jessica Alexander <jessica.alexander@temeculaca.gov>; 'jesse_santo@yahoo.com' <jesse_santo@yahoo.com>; alvin.bozeman@yahoo.com; thomasraysmithii@gmail.com; Frank Correa <ogvbfm@aol.com>; Mark LeTourneau <mark.letourneau@gmail.com>; Maggie Hernandez <mycharmlocket@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail

Hi John – we'll include this request in the agenda item for Council consideration. March 16, 2026 is a Monday and relevant staff are copied on this response to consider the operational needs related to this request. Thank you again, we have everything we need for the agenda item for November 18th.

From: Hernandez CTR John Z JR <john.hernandez.ctr@usmc.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 10:04 AM

To: Randi Johl <randi.johl@temeculaca.gov>

Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>; mattrahn@wildfireconservancy.org; Zak Schwank <Zak.Schwank@temeculaca.gov>; Jessica Alexander <Jessica.Alexander@TemeculaCA.gov>; 'jesse_santo@yahoo.com' <jesse_santo@yahoo.com>; alvin.bozeman@yahoo.com; thomasraysmithii@gmail.com; Frank Correa <ogvbfm@aol.com>; Mark LeTourneau <mark.letourneau@gmail.com>; Maggie Hernandez <mycharmlocket@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Response Requested - Proposal to Name Section of Trail

Randi,

I also request that the city consider having a dedication ceremony on March 16, 2026 on the 10th anniversary of Louis Cardin's passing?

Thank you,
John

Staff Sgt Louis F. Cardin
Died March 19, 2016 Serving During Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Marine Corps has identified the North Carolina-based artilleryman killed in Saturday's indirect fire attack in northern Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Louis F. Cardin, a 27-year-old field artilleryman with Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines, was killed at about 9 a.m. Saturday when Islamic State group militants launched a rocket attack on a coalition base in Makhmur. Eight other Marines were injured in the attack on the newly established base, which is roughly 60 miles outside of Mosul.

Cardin was deployed with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which sent a detachment of Marines to Makhmur to guard the base. The Marines were supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, the U.S. military's campaign against ISIS.

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To: Hernandez CTR John Z JR <john.hernandez.ctr@usmc.mil>
Cc: Aaron Adams <aaron.adams@temeculaca.gov>; Kevin Hawkins <kevin.hawkins@temeculaca.gov>; Luke Watson <luke.watson@temeculaca.gov>; Matt Peters <matt.peters@temeculaca.gov>; Ron Moreno <ron.moreno@temeculaca.gov>
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