



## **Victor Maldonado Timeline Summary**

When you read the complete timeline of Victor Maldonado, as well as his reference letters, you will find that he was born in El Paso, TX and has lived here for 62 years. He is a graduate of Irvin High School and the University of Texas at El Paso. He is a widower of over 7 years, having been married to Elsa Loustaunau for over 39 years. He has two children and two grandchildren. He is a retired career law enforcement officer, where he began his public service at age 20, retiring after almost 35 years.

Victor began coaching and umpiring baseball in the Frank Manning Little League as a volunteer, and eventually moved into high school baseball in El Paso and Las Cruces. He began working junior college, NAIA and NCAA Division III baseball. He attended umpire clinics in Phoenix, AZ and was eventually selected to work NCAA Division I baseball in the Western Athletic Conference, which he did for 12 years. He was recruited by the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball and worked the home schedule of the El Paso Diablos for 6 years. After the Diablos were sold, the El Paso Chihuahuas, of the AAA Pacific Coast League and affiliated with the San Diego Padres of Major League Baseball, signed him to a 3-year contract to work as a substitute umpire, in the event that one of their full-time umpires was ill, injured or reassigned.

Victor has a total of 30 years' experience umpiring baseball. During this time, he has been selected numerous times to work state high school playoffs in both Texas and New Mexico at the bi district, area and regional levels. In 2015, he was selected to work the final four Texas state championship. He has been featured in newspaper articles, magazines, a book and has had appearances on local TV as well as national TV and on ESPN E: 60 and a podcast. He has been through several advanced training camps, and has brought what he has learned back to the El Paso High School Association. He has mentored many an umpire and has made recommendations above the high school level to assignors, so that El Paso, umpires may advance to the level of Division I baseball and the AAA Chihuahuas. He was also on the Board of Directors for the high school association as well as the rules interpreter. Finally, he was inducted into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame in 2016.

Besides baseball, Victor was a high school football official for 22 years, working every position of an official over the years. He was on the Board of Directors for a time, was selected, along with his crew; 8 times for high school state playoffs at the bi district level. He also attended extended training clinics each of the 22 years he was an official.

In following the criteria for consideration for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in the category of Official/Trainer; Victor has shown and continues to show commitment to the

community by volunteering and participating in community service. He was a Boy Scout Leader for 31 years; mentoring these young men and leading them on numerous wilderness adventures, as well as being a merit badge counselor.

He is currently a volunteer Commissioner on the El Paso County Ethics Commission as well as a volunteer board member, on the Paso Del Norte World Affairs Council, which is affiliated with the Paso Del Norte Community Foundation. The council promotes education of global issues in EL Paso County High Schools and sponsors a yearly Student Academic World Quest Competition where he participates as a motivational speaker to the contestants; and with the winner representing El Paso at the national competition.

He was a youth group leader at Queen of Peace Catholic Church. He is currently a guitarist in the Queen of Peace Choir and volunteers at funeral rosaries and masses, as well as a member of the ACTS music ministry. Victor is the Director of Security, a volunteer position at Queen of Peace. He has brought the spirit of his late wife's memory to life by naming a street after her and having the lots blessed by Father Beto Lopez, for which the homeowners were so grateful. He has also brought to his church community, the "Stations of the Cross" and the "La Pieta Garden", in memory of his late wife, but so that the community of Queen of Peace and visitors alike; may pray, contemplate and seek comfort in their lives.

He has supported the Teal Fund, an ovarian cancer fund, administered by the Rio Grande Cancer Foundation for the last four years. As part of the fund, he has sponsored 25, "915 Stars", a special needs athletic organization for the last two years, which introduces these individuals to various sporting activities. In the case of the Teal Fund, the "Stars" have participated in golf tournaments at Top Golf. Through his association with the "Stars", they have developed a relationship with the UTEP softball team, participating in clinics hosted by UTEP. They have also been invited to throw out the first pitch at the UTEP games. Victor introduced the group to the "Tim Tebow" foundation, so several have signed up to participate in a formal "prom" setting, complete with dress, dinner, dance and limo; at no cost to the "Star".

Finally, over the years, Victor has challenged boy scouts, his grandson, granddaughter and himself; physically and mentally, by participating in extreme backpacking, hiking, canoeing, rafting, kayaking and bicycle adventures around the country and overseas. These challenges have improved the participants character, confidence and have made them a better individual in preparing them for life's events and experiences.

---

**Official/Trainer Category**  
**Victor Maldonado Timeline**

**Personal History/Education**

Name: Victor Maldonado

Age:70 (April 30, 1954; El Paso, TX)

Height: 6' 1", Weight: 205

Address 749 Brisa Del Mar, El Paso, TX 79912

Cell Phone: (915) 892-0655

Email: vmaldo@sbcglobal.net

Family: Widowed November 2017, (Elsa Loustaunau married 39 years)

- Children: Dr. Christine Maldonado King, PhD Psychology, 42; Boise, ID.  
Matthew Maldonado, B.A Communications. Realtor, 40, El Paso
- Grandchildren: Michael Jimenez, 17; El Paso and Mabel King, 6; Boise, ID

Crosby Elementary School

Irvin High School 1972

Education: December 1977 B.S. Criminal Justice, University of Texas at El Paso

Resident of El Paso, TX 1954-1978; Houston, TX 1978-1985; El Paso, TX 1985-Present

**Employment History**

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U. S. Treasury Department

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U. S. Justice Department

- Special Agent, April 1978 to January 1983, Houston, TX
- Selected as one of two special agents nationwide for the United States Treasury Department of the Year Award, 1981
- Special Agent, October 1983 to December 1985, Houston, TX
- Undercover Instructor at the ATF National Academy
- Certified Explosives Handler
- Member of the Director's National Recruitment Team
- Senior Special Agent, December 1985 to June 2000, El Paso, TX
- 1990 Houston Division Agent of Year
- Resident -Agent-in- Charge, El Paso Filed Office 1995-2000
- Branch Chief, Office of Strategic Intelligence and Information, Counterterrorism Division, Southwest Border Violent Crime Branch, El Paso Intelligence Center, June 2000-April 2008, El Paso, TX (Retired)
- Supervised the Intelligence gathering from Brownsville, TX to San Diego, CA for Mexican Drug Cartel illegal gun smuggling into Mexico and beyond

United States Secret Service, U.S. Treasury Department

- Special Agent, January 1983 to October 1983, Houston, TX

Protected President Ronald Reagan, Former President Gerald Ford; Vice President George H.W. Bush; Presidential Candidates Ted Kennedy and Jesse Jackson, Former First Lady Bird Johnson; as well as several foreign dignitaries and heads of state

El Paso Police Department, El Paso, TX

- November 1974 to April 1978 (one of the first 20-year-old on the department)
- Worked East-Valley and Northeast Stations in Uniform Patrol Division
- Officer of the quarter twice while at the Northeast Station
- Worked permanent graveyard shift in Northeast so to finish college
- Appointed by the Chief of Police to serve on its Rewrite Board of the Policy/Procedural Manual
- Promoted to Detective in the Burglary Division 1978

### **Officiating**

Worked 30 years at all levels as a baseball umpire from Little League to Professional  
Worked 22 years as a football official at the high school level

### **BASEBALL**

#### **Professional Baseball Umpiring Experience (9 Years)**

2014 to 2016

El Paso Chihuahuas of the AAA Pacific Coast League

- On contract as a substitute umpire in the event a PCL Umpire was ill, injured or reassigned

2014 El Paso Mexican Baseball Fiesta at Southwest University Park

- Hermosillo vs Culiacan of the Professional Mexican Pacific Winter League

2005-2010

Independent Professional Baseball (American Association formerly Central Baseball League)

- The league was played by former affiliated minor league and a few former major league players as well as un-drafted college players.
- One of two local umpires selected to work 48 home games of the El Paso Diablos (Three-man Mechanics). I and the other local umpire each work an

average of 24 games each. The league would bring in two full time traveling umpires and the local umpire completed the three-man crew.

- Besides El Paso, the league at the time consisted of the Ft. Worth Cats, Grand Prairie Air Hogs, Shreveport Captains, Pensacola Pelicans, St. Paul Saints, Sioux Falls Canaries, Lincoln Salt Dogs, Sioux City Explodes and the Wichita Wingnuts.
- Umpired on the field with 12 future Major League Baseball Players, Angel Castro (Oakland); Aaron Crow (Kansas City); Dane De La Rosa (Tampa Bay/L.A. Angels); Chris Jakubauskas (Seattle/Pittsburgh/Baltimore); Brandon Kintzler (Milwaukee/Minnesota/Washington/Chicago Cubs/ Miami/Pittsburg, 2017 All Star American League); Chris Martin (Colorado/NY Yankees/Texas/Atlanta/Chicago/Cubs/LA Dodgers/Boston); James Paxton (Seattle/NY Yankees/Boston/LA Dodgers/); Eddy Rodriguez (San Diego); Tanner Scheppers (Texas); Max Scherzer (Arizona/Detroit/Washington/LA Dodgers/NY Mets/Texas, 3 Cy Young Awards); Ian Thomas (Atlanta/L.A. Dodgers and Luke Hochevar (Kansas City) and was the winning pitcher in the deciding Game 5 of the 2015 Major League Baseball World Series
- Umpired on the field with five former Major League Baseball Players/Managers, who became managers or coaches in the American Association, Mike Marshall (L.A. Dodgers/N.Y. Mets/Boston/California); Pete Incaviglia (Texas/Detroit/Houston/Philadelphia; Johnny Ruffin (Cincinnati, Arizona/Florida); Terry Bevington (Manager Chicago White Sox) and Butch Henry (Houston/Montreal/Boston/Seattle)

### **NCAA Division I Baseball Umpiring Experience (12 Years)**

2006-2016

- Western Athletic Conference traveling to work both conference and non-conference games
- Cal State Fullerton, Chicago State, Grand Canyon State University, University of Missouri at Kansas City, Utah Valley, Seattle and UT Rio Grande Valley
- Many appearances televised nationally on ESPN and other sports networks

### **NCAA Division III Baseball Umpiring Experience (10 Years)**

2006-2014, 2016

- American Southwest Conference traveling to working both conference and non-conference games
- Concordia, East Texas Baptist, LeTourneau, Louisiana College, Hardin Simmons, Howard Payne, Mary Hardin Baylor, McMurry, Sol Ross, University of the Ozarks, UT Dallas, and UT Tyler

### **NAIA Baseball Umpiring Experience (4 Years)**

2005-2008

- Red River Athletic Conference traveling to work both conference and non-conference games
- Bacone College, College of the Southwest, Houston Christian, Huston Tillotson, Jarvis Christian, Norwood, Southwest Assemblies of God, Texas Permian Basin, South Texas College, Wiley, Texas International, Texas Wesleyan

### **National Junior College Athletic Association, Region V Baseball Umpiring Experience (15 Years)**

2004-2019

- Western Junior College Athletic Conference traveling to working both conference and non-conference games
- Clarendon College, El Paso Community College, Frank Phillips, Howard, Luna Community College, Midland College, New Mexico Junior College, New Mexico Military Institute, Odessa College, Western Texas College

### **El Paso High School Baseball Umpire Association (High School) (13 Years)**

- 2013-To Present- El Paso, TX
- Selected for State High School playoffs; Bi-District, Area, Regional 2003-2019
- Selected for State High School Final Four Playoffs 2015
- Rules Interpreter 2014-2020,2022
- Instructor at annual clinic 2016-2020, 2022-2023, 2024
- I attended the annual preseason clinic for 30 years

### **New Mexico Athletic Association/New Mexico Officials Association (High School) (4 Years)**

- 2011-2014 Las Cruces, NM
- Selected for State High School playoffs, District 2014
- Called a "No-Hitter", Ocate High School v Gadsden High School, 2014

### **Texas Association of Sports Officials, El Paso Chapter (High School) (12 Years)**

1999-2010- El Paso, TX

- Board member 2006-2009
- Rules Interpreter 2006-2009
- Selected for State High School playoffs; Bi-District and Area from 2003-2010

## **Frank Manning Little League at Cloudview Park (2 Years)**

- 1997-1999 Volunteer Umpire
- 1998 Volunteer Coach

## **Training**

2005

- Attended the Western States Umpire Combine in Peoria, AZ; instructed by Tom Hiler, NCAA Director of Umpire Training, as well as other NCAA Division I Umpires, former Major League and Minor League Umpires

2006

- Attended the NCAA Umpire Rules Clinic in Phoenix, AZ
- Selected as the NCAA Division I, Western Athletic Conference representative to the NCAA Fall Umpire Advanced Mechanics Clinic in Peoria, AZ; instructed by the NCAA National Coordinator of Umpires, Dave Yeast

2007-2017

Attended the annual NCAA umpire rules and mechanics training clinic

- Every year the clinic was held in Phoenix, Dallas or a major city in California. The expenses, travel, rental vehicle, hotel, meals and clinic fees were my responsibility with no reimbursement, averaging 1500.00 each time. I would bring back the knowledge that I learned; rules that applied at the high school level, mechanics, game management and on and off the field demeanor; and instruct the El Paso High School Baseball Umpire Association with what I had learned, at no cost to them

## **Playing Career**

- 1962-1966 Boys Baseball of El Paso (Northeast)
- 1967-1968 Pony League (Northeast)
- 1969-1970 Mickey Mantle League (Northeast)
- 1969-1972 Irvin High School JV/Varsity
- Letterman and Captain of Irvin Varsity
- 1972 named MVP at Irvin, my brother Armando (1966) and I both have the honor of having our names inscribed on the MVP trophy
- 1977-1978 Westwind Custom Pools in Alex Gutierrez' Lower Valley League
- 1977 Recognized by the National Baseball Congress in Wichita, KS as having the highest batting average in the Lower Valley League at .521
- 2000-2001 Sunland Park Sun Kings in the Lower Valley over 35 League



## FOOTBALL

### Texas Association of Sports Officials El Paso Chapter (High School) (22 Years)

2001-2022

- Board member 2010-2012
- Crew selected for State High School Playoffs; Bi-District, 8 times during my membership
- Worked every position; Referee (filled in several times on varsity crew), Umpire, Head Linesman, Line Judge, Back Judge, Field Judge and Side Judge
- Attended the annual training preseason clinic for 22 years

### Special Recognitions

- Guest on Wayne Thornton (EPAHOF 1995) and Tom "Joe Fan" Ciaburri's (EPAHOF 2006) Time Warner "El Paso Sports Showcase" television show, promoting the profession and recruiting of baseball umpiring for El Paso High School baseball, early to mid-2000's
- Plate Umpire in an ESPN E:60 National Broadcast "Sacrifice". (A human-interest story of Kevin Jordan, a freshman at Wake Forest University, whose coach; Tom Walter gives continued life to Jordan by donating a kidney to him); February 17, 2012 (see video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iagLI3DIYmA&t=15s>)
- Featured as the subject matter in the El Paso Times Newspaper, by Wayne Thornton, "The Road to Base Ball Umpiring, Memories"; November 15, 2012
- Featured as subject matter, along with wife Elsa, in El Paso Times Newspaper, by Bill Knight (EPAHOF 1999), Camino De Santiago: Despite Cancer, El Paso Couple Walks Nearly 500 miles in Ancient Pilgrimage, July 18, 2015. The article mentions my Division I umpiring experience.
- Inducted into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame 2016
- First Pitch at the El Paso Chihuahuas as a 2016 inductee to the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame (see YouTube Video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgOFgj4IVdM&t=12s>)
- Featured photograph on the cover of the National, NCAA 2017 annual supplement to the NCAA Baseball Rules Clinic and article titled "Respect and Integrity".
- Featured photograph on page 12-13, July 2017, on the National, Referee Magazine article titled "Not So Crazy Talk: Five Maxims to Prevent Communication Blow-Ups"

- Featured photograph of 2016 Induction into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame on page 125 in Book, "Mexican American Baseball in El Paso", by Richard Santillan, Eric Enders, Pete G. Flores, Donovan Lopez, and Jorge Iber: Forward by Ray Sanchez (EPAHOF 1978)
- Featured on Pilgram Lost Podcast, dedicated to pilgrims who have walked the 492-mile Camino de Santiago and to share why they chose to walk this religious pilgrimage. I chose to walk it in the memory of my late wife and for all those who were fighting ovarian cancer and for those who had lost their battle. I dressed all in teal, the support color of ovarian cancer, from my shoelaces to my shirt, jacket, windbreaker rain gear, neckerchief and cap. I carried her hiking boot on my backpack, along with one of the last pictures taken of her. I carried 50 pictures of her throughout her life; with her name, El Paso, TX, and the date she passed and laminated them. I placed them on all the memorials along the Camino. I became known as the man with the boot on his pack. Over the 26 days, many pilgrims would see me place the photos, sprinkle them with holy water, kneel and pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary. Pilgrims would not pass me on the trail until I completed honoring my wife, and some joined me in prayer. Several pilgrims from around the world and the United States saw her photos and honored her on her obituary legacy page by leaving thoughts of sympathy. I contacted friends and relatives and asked if they would provide me with funeral prayer cards or photographs of their loved ones; or just to write their names on a piece of paper. I carried 30 or so pictures including those of my father and father-in-law. Once I reached the Cathedral at Santiago de Compostela in Spain, the official end of the trail, I had them blessed by a priest at the Cathedral and placed them in the tomb of Santiago, in English, Saint James, one of Jesus' apostles. His remains are buried under the altar of the Cathedral. The Camino route that I walked was the route that St. James walked to spread Christianity after Christ's death. The podcast mentions my Division I umpire experience. The podcast can be seen on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5iTtoiFKsw>)
- Featured photograph on the cover of the National, Annual Referee Magazine, Prep Baseball 2021 Edition

### **Community Service**

- Cub Scout (Pack 29, Den 4) and Boy Scout (Troop 4) Assistant Scout Master, Merit Badge and Wilderness Adventure Counselor to hundreds of boys ages 8-17 over 31 years of volunteer service, 1989-2020
  - Youth Group Leader at Queen of Peace Catholic Church to over 100 youths ages 11-14, 1994-1997
  - Guitarist in Queen of Peace Catholic Church Choir playing at the Saturday 5PM mass and returning to play at the Sunday 9AM mass; also volunteer guitarist at funeral rosaries and masses 2013-Present
-

- Adoration, Community, Theology and Service (ACTS) music ministry guitarist, a Catholic Men's Retreat Program for Queen of Peace and San Judas 2012-Present
- Commissioner on the El Paso County Ethics Commission (Volunteer), nominated by then County Commissioner, Precinct I, Carlos Leon. 2018-Present
- Board Member on Paso Del Norte World Affairs Council (Volunteer) which is affiliated with the Paso Del Norte Community Foundation (The Council promotes education of global issues in El Paso County High Schools and sponsors a yearly Student Academic World Quest Competition, with the winner representing El Paso at the national competition). Prior to the local competition, I am asked to give a motivational speech to the 50 or so high school students who compete locally. My talk is centered around my life experience as a federal agent. Administered Martha Vera; 2021-Present
- In March 2021, after bidding on, and winning a "Name Your Street" fund raising auction with the El Paso Diocese; I named a street in Northeast El Paso, "Elsa Maldonado Lane", after my late wife. It is on a 10 house cul de sac. Prior to the homes being built, I hosted a block party and about 90 guests arrived for food and beverages. Father Beto Lopez was present to bless the street sign and walked with me, blessing all 10 lots. After residence moved into their homes, I visited each home and introduced myself and spoke to them about my wife, presenting them with a copy of her obituary, Bill Knight's El Paso Times Camino de Santiago Article and an article that the El Paso Rio Grande Catholic Newspaper did on the naming of the street. All the residence were grateful to know who their street was named after and to know that they live on "Blessed Ground".
- In 2021, I began financially sponsoring two bays at Top Golf, for "Tee Off for Teal", an Ovarian Cancer fund raiser by the "Teal Fund", which I do in memory of my late wife, Elsa. The fund is administered by the El Paso Rio Grande Cancer Foundation and Rachel Schaeffer, the founder of the Fund. Rachel was a three-sport athlete at Coronado High School (Volleyball, Basketball and Softball), as well as a former 4-year catcher on the UTEP softball team. Rachel is also a two-time ovarian cancer survivor and was a mentor to my wife, as they both at one point battled the cancer together. Each bay accommodates 6 participants. For two years, I had family and friends fill the slots. Then in 2023, I saw a story on KVIA sports where a Ron Jimenez organized the "915 Stars", a group of special needs young adults, ages 18-42. In the story, Ron explained that there is not much in the way of sports for young adults with special needs to participate in, so he organized the "Stars". He has them compete in golf, softball, basketball and other sports. After viewing the story, I contacted Ron with the help of KVIA. I offered him my two bays for 12 of his athletes. Ron was grateful and explained that he had almost 30 kids, and it was hard for him to choose 12. With that said, I told him that "ELSA" would be honored to sponsor 5 bays. For the last two years, 25 or so "Stars" have participated in the fund raiser at Top Golf. Because of my association with the "Stars", a relationship has developed with the UTEP softball team, where they have hosted the "Stars" in clinics and have had them throw out the first pitch. I introduced the "Stars" to the "Tim Tebow" foundation,

where several "Stars" have registered to participate in a formal "prom" setting, complete with dress, dinner, dance and limo; at no expense to the "Star". I consider it a win for the "Teal Fund", the "915 Stars", and ELSA'S memory! 2021-2024

- Before Elsa passed, she asked that half of her life insurance benefits go to Queen of Peace Catholic Church. Elsa loved God, her faith and Queen of Peace. So, in keeping with her request and for the benefit of Queen of Peace parishioners and those who visit the grounds, I built the "Stations of the Cross". The stations consist of 14 crosses, each depicting a rendering of the crucifixion of Jesus, beginning when He is seized through His resurrection. One may walk and pray at the stations at any time, but especially during the Lenten Season. A memorial plaque to Elsa adorns the wall, below the first station. The crosses are 6' tall x 4' wide and are lit from dusk to dawn. They are meant to bring peace and comfort for those who visit, 2022
- In keeping with Elsa's request, I completed the "La Pieta Memorial Garden" at Queen of Peace. I ordered the 5' tall, 4 1/2' wide and 3 1/2' deep, 2800-pound marble statue of Michealangelo's, "La Pieta", a depiction of "Our Blessed Mother" cradling Jesus in her lap, after he is removed from the cross. I had a 3' pedestal built, and a garden made of pavers. There is irrigation to water the garden of plants and a bench to sit to observe, meditate and pray. A spotlight also lights the garden at night. The garden is meant to also bring peace and comfort for those who visit "La Pieta". A memorial plaque to Elsa also adorns the pedestal holding the statue, 2024
- Director of Security (Volunteer) Queen of Peace Catholic Church, Edl Paso, TX 2021-Present
- A third and final project honoring Elsa's request is in the planning stage

### **Physically and Mentally Challenging Accomplishments**

Each of my adventures required that I carry in an average of 35-40 pounds of food, sleep system, tent and other gear on my back; except for the canoeing, rafting or kayaking treks.

- 1996-Present, I have over 40, 50-mile backpacking and or canoe and kayaking trips in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Hawaii, Alaska and Australia. Many of them as a Boy Scout Leader. I Also have too many to count shorter trips during this period. Including a 35-mile trip to the Grand Tetons on July 1, 2024, in 3 feet of snow
  - I had my grandson Michael backpacking and hiking with me at many locations in Texas and New Mexico once he turned 8, carrying his own pack and averaging a minimum of 20 miles per trek; at one time at 12,000 feet in the Pecos Wilderness of New Mexico
  - 2009 Rafted with my wife, no guides; the Green River and Colorado River in Utah, 120 miles in 7 days
-

- 2015 Backpacked the Camino De Santiago with my wife in France and Spain, 492 miles in 33 days, while she was in temporary remission for ovarian cancer
  - 2018 Backpacked the Camino De Santiago in France and Spain, in memory of my late wife, 492 miles in 26 days
  - 2020 Canoeed the Boundary Waters between the United States and Canada in Ely, MN for two weeks as a Boy Scout Leader
  - I have climbed Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the 48 states at 14,508 feet, 2020; Mt. Elbert, the highest mountain in Colorado at 14,438 feet, 2019; Wheeler Peak, the highest mountain in New Mexico at 13,166 feet, 2011; Guadalupe Peak, the highest mountain in Texas at 8,750 feet; which I have done a minimum of 5 times since 2004
  - I have backpacked the Grand Canyon rim to rim to rim in Arizona 4 times over the years at 48 miles each time, descending and ascending over 11,000 feet
  - In 2019, after completing one of the Grand Canyon 48-mile treks, I arrived home at midnight. The following midnight, I slept in my truck at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. In the morning, I completed the 26.2-mile Bataan Death March, honoring the United States service men and allies in World War II, who had been captured and forced to walk to work camps in the Philippines. Many of them were killed, starved or died of disease. There were 7 survivors at this event who we honored.
  - I attempted the Appalachian Trail, from Georgia to Maine, 2,194 miles; however, I sustained a foot injury at 125 miles. I had to return home, where I had two surgeries to correct the injury, 2023
  - I rode my bicycle on the Hyawatha Trail, a "Rails to Trails" excursion in Idaho, 15n miles with my 6 year old granddaughter, riding through 10 tunnels carved through the mountains, the longest one being over 1 ½ miles and crossing over 7 trestles over Idaho canyons. "Rails to Trails" is where old railroad beds have been transformed into bicycle trails. 2024
  - I rode my bicycle on the Katy Trail, a "Rails to Trails" excursion in Missouri, 240 miles over 7 days, camping out 6 nights. 2024
-





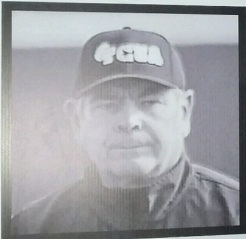









*Budweiser*  
EL PASO  
**BASEBALL**  
HALL OF FAME




HONORED INDUCTEE  
**VICTOR MALDONADO**  
CLASS OF 2016

EL PASO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME  
HONORED INDUCTEE  
**VICTOR MALDONADO**  
29th ANNIVERSARY CLASS OF 2016  
*"Heroes get remembered, but legends never die."  
-Babe Ruth*



*Budweiser*  
EL PASO  
**BASEBALL**  
HALL OF FAME



HONORED INDUCTEE  
**ERIC ENDERS**  
CLASS OF 2016

*Budweiser*  
**BASEBALL**  
HALL OF FAME  
EST. 1988

**"Heroes are remembered  
but legends never die"**

*Budweiser*  
HERES TO  
BASEBALL

Venetian Ballroom  
*Radisson*

ALL SPORTS  
OVERDUE,  
NOT OVERDO

SOFTBALL  
ROLLIN' WITH  
THE PITCHES

FOOTBALL  
NCAA RULE  
CHANGES

SOCCER  
WHAT A  
LETDOWN

VOLLEYBALL  
LJs GET  
SOME RESPECT

BASKETBALL  
LANE  
CLOSURES

# REFEREE

July 2017 // referee.com

REPLAY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
PG. 38

DOES YOUR  
ASSOCIATION  
ACT LIKE ONE

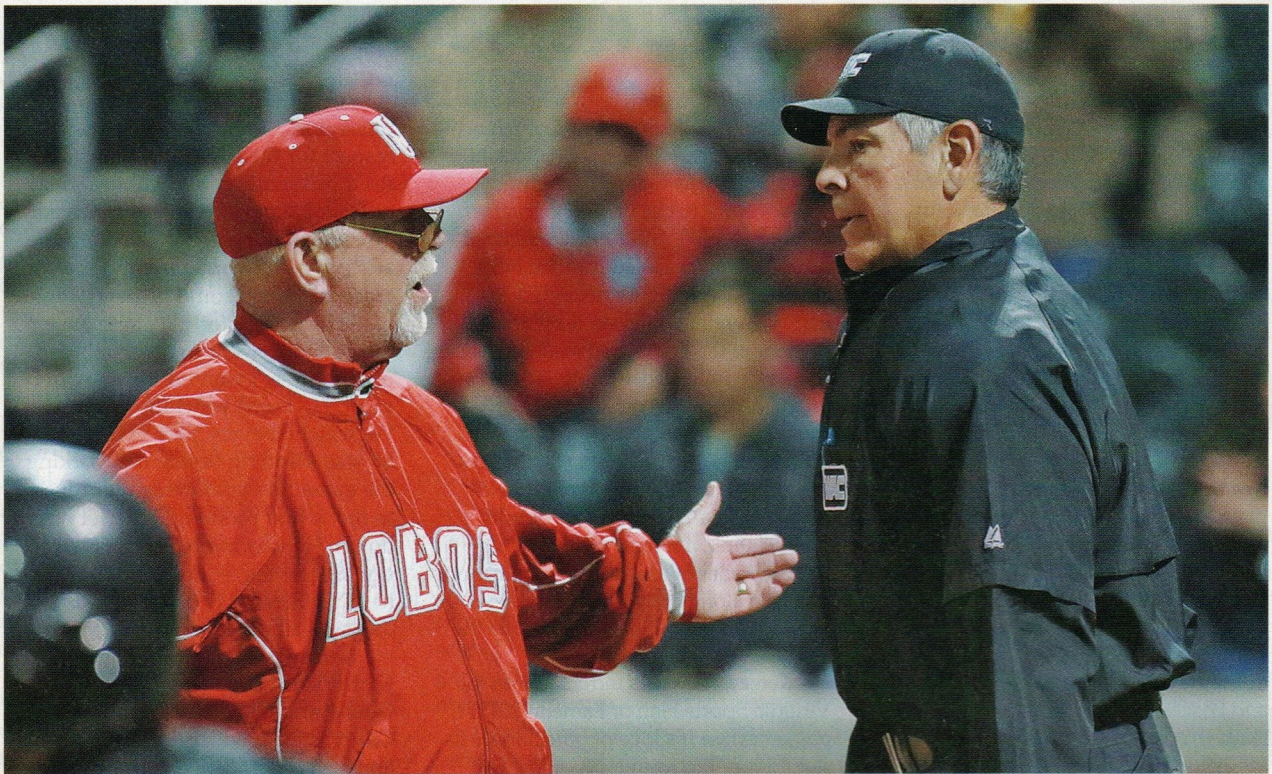
POUR NO  
PG. 12  
GASOLINE

MLB'S CHRIS GUCCIONE  
I WANTED TO QUIT

FOCUS  
PG. 50

NASD MEMBER EDITION \$6.95





In baseball, where disagreements over calls are bound to occur, how those disagreements are handled can determine whether the situation cools down or blows up. Vic Maldonado of El Paso, Texas.

## NOT-SO-CRAZY TALK

### Five Maxims to Prevent Communication ‘Blow-Ups’

By Peter Jaskulski

Umpiring a baseball game poses many challenges. In a single game, hundreds of decisions are made involving balls and strikes, fair, foul and out and safe calls. The stress level can be high.

Add in the probability that you will be recorded on someone’s camera. You don’t want to do or say “bad” things on video. You want to look good.

It’s highly unlikely that everyone is going to agree with all of your calls. Therefore conflict rears its ugly head.

It’s inevitable that conflict will occur. You can’t avoid it, but you can effectively manage it so the game can continue and you can look good.

We lose too many motivated umpires who become discouraged by the amount of conflict that occurs during a game. They aren’t prepared to handle the conflict effectively, which can lead to negative outcomes for them. So they quit. We need to train umpires in effective conflict management skills so we can retain these motivated umpires.

Every human being values being treated with dignity. Baseball coaches, players and umpires are no different. How do we accomplish that? We accomplish it by showing each other respect. Consider this statement: “Can we agree to treat each other with dignity by showing each other respect, even though

we may disagree?” Umpires are not always treated with respect by players and coaches. We can’t focus on that disrespectful behavior and let it affect how we treat others. Umpires have to remain professional in their response to being treated disrespectfully.

There are five “Maxims of Communication” that form the foundation of conflict management for umpires. These maxims demonstrate your respect for the coaches and players.

1. Listen to the players/coaches with all of your senses.

2. When appropriate, ask; don’t tell players/coaches to do something.

3. When appropriate, explain and set the context for your calls/decisions.

4. Give players/coaches options rather than threats.

5. When appropriate give players/coaches a second chance.

Listening to players and coaches with all of your senses means that you hear and interpret accurately what is being said to you and others during the game (not just during the conflict). The opposite of talking should be listening, but for some umpires the opposite of talking is waiting to interrupt the player and/or coach to give them our explanation.

Listening conveys empathy, which is an effective tool in generating a positive relationship during conflict. Listening is not just hearing. Observe the interactions between teams. Pay attention to everything around you. By observing you get a sense of how the game is progressing. Are coaches frustrated with their players, the other team or maybe the umpires? Listening allows you to gather intelligence which allows you to prepare to handle any conflict that may occur. You don't want to be surprised and have it "blow up in your face." You want to have a well-planned response to the conflict.

The next four "maxims" are conditional. The condition is that the players and/or coaches are behaving in a manner that allows you to talk with them in a rational manner. If their behavior requires a bench restriction or ejection, then you have to take action.

Step into the role of a baseball or softball coach. There's a close call on the bases and your bench moans and groans about the call. The umpire says this to you: "Keep your bench quiet." Is that a request or an order? It's an order. Giving orders can create conflict and escalate the situation.

We should be asking people rather than telling them to do things (when it is appropriate). You can simply ask this of the coach: "Coach, can you help me out here and keep your bench quiet?" This is non-

confrontational and demonstrates respect for the coach.

An umpire should always be prepared to answer this question: "Why?" We don't have to explain every call but there are times when umpires have to explain why we made a particular call or why we are asking someone to do something. The explanation may be why you awarded bases on an obstruction or why you called a runner out on an interference play. An explanation helps to promote decisiveness and authority in a respectful manner. It demonstrates your knowledge and competency as an umpire.

Not all explanations satisfy a coach or player. They may continue to dispute your call or decision. You've already explained why you have made the call. Now it's time to continue to play the game. What do you do next? Is it time to eject? They haven't said or done anything that warrants an ejection, so what should you do?

You should offer the coach options, not threats (maxim no. 4). Here's an example. "Coach, I've explained the call. This is a good game. Let's get back to the dugout so we can continue." You can then follow up with a negative option such as, "If you don't go back to the dugout I will have to eject you." He now has a decision to make. It becomes his choice.

The final maxim is to "give players and coaches a second chance" (when you can). Baseball is a sport full of emotion. Not everyone will agree with your calls, which leads to spontaneous outbursts. As long as the behavior doesn't reach a level that is unsportsmanlike, give them a second chance. Address the behavior respectfully and professionally.

A great umpire is one who can talk a player or coach out of being ejected while still maintaining control of the game.

*Pete Jaskulski, Franklin, Wis., is a high school and college baseball umpire and a training consultant on Verbal Defense and Influence for Sports Officials for Vistelar. □*

## QUICKTIP

While pro and NCAA rules do not allow courtesy runners, NFHS rules allow their use by state adoption. The suggested NFHS rules allow the team at bat to use a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher, **but the same individual runner may not be used as a courtesy runner for both positions during the game.** Players who have participated in the game in any other capacity may not serve as a courtesy runner.

## THEY SAID IT

"You have three responsibilities. Your first is to the game of baseball, but that doesn't necessarily mean the commissioner's office. Your second is to your profession, but that doesn't necessarily mean the union, it means the profession. And the third responsibility is to do in your heart what you know is honest, moral and correct. And if you keep 'em in that order, nothing that you do will be wrong."

— MLB umpire Joe West

SOURCE: NEW YORK TIMES

## SIDELINE

### Chalk Check

Lightning, rain, bus breakdown, traffic — those are common reasons why a high school baseball game gets delayed. But the April 11 game between Excelsior (Victorville) and Academy for Academic Excellence (Apple Valley) in California was delayed because of chalk. Specifically, the lack of it. School officials managed to get the batter's boxes and third-base line drawn before running out. More chalk was found quickly and the delay only pushed the start time back by approximately 20 minutes.



SOURCE: DAILY (VICTORVILLE) PRESS



# BASEBALL 2017

A supplement to the NCAA Baseball Rules • Prepared by the editors of *Referee*

## Respect and Integrity

It is very important that coaches, players and umpires have respect and understanding for each one of their roles and the importance of their roles in a baseball game. Each has a valuable role in their participation. Umpires appreciate these three traits:

- Total control of their team, players and coaches.
- A fundamental respect for the game of baseball.
- A mutual working relationship based on respect.

### Total control

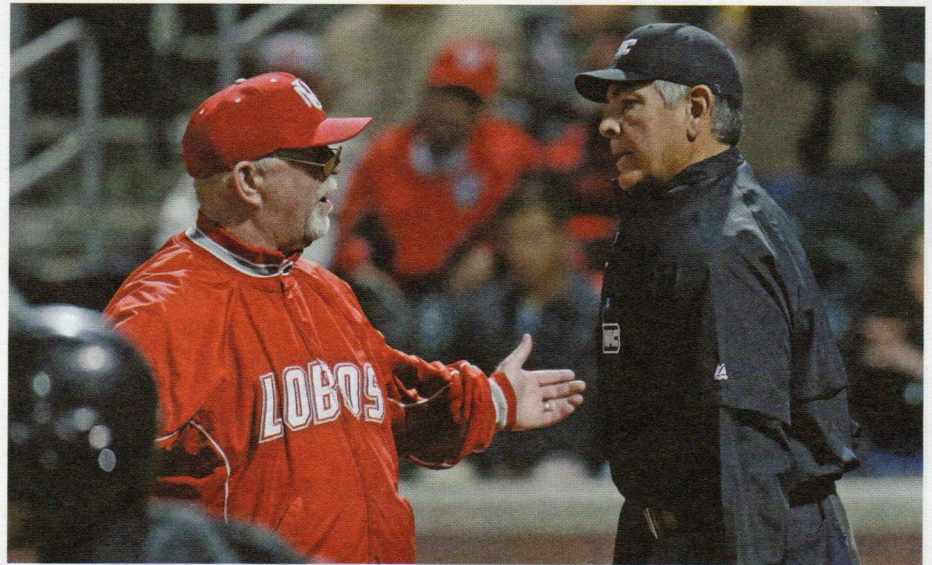
Having total control of their team is what will earn the respect of umpires the quickest. Umpires are a small community of people that have an extraordinary passion for baseball and their role within the game. Umpires love working a game when they know before the game even starts that the coach has such control over his team that if we hear any disagreement it will only be coming from him.

### Fundamental respect

Coaches have a realistic expectation that umpires know the game and have the ability to act in accordance with the situation at hand. On the other hand, umpires respect coaches that understand when is, and when is not, the best situation to address a play with an umpire. Coaches that have control and discuss a play when they should, earn respect.

### Mutual working relationship

It's something that is earned by the umpire over time. Doing the little things,



Coaches and umpires need to work together to make sure that the integrity of game is met as Vic Maldonado of El Paso, Texas, is doing with coach Ray Birmingham.

being in the right place at the right time, ability to really focus, challenge themselves on each pitch, to understand that a play could happen at any time and to react correctly to that situation. This will lead you to build your experience at the highest levels and being assigned the biggest assignments.

"There is tremendous amount of respect between coaches and umpires. Disagreements are going to happen but with college baseball growing in popularity, coaches and umpires need to work together and make the effort to lower ejections and be the best role models to all student-athletes," said Scott See "Respect and Integrity" p. 10

### 2016 NCAA Ejection/Suspension Reports

Division I		
Player	100	
Assistant Coach	23	
Head Coach	141	
	<b>Total: 264</b>	<b>38%</b>
Division II		
Player	92	
Assistant Coach	26	
Head Coach	94	
	<b>Total: 212</b>	<b>31%</b>
Division III		
Player	98	
Assistant Coach	30	
Head Coach	89	
	<b>Total: 217</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Grand Total: 693</b>		<b>100%</b>

# Advancement of Forced Winning Run

The rules committee added the following: "When the winning run is scored in the last half-inning of a regulation game, or in the last half-inning of an extra inning game, as the result of a base on balls, hit batter or any other play with the bases full which forces the batter and all other runners to advance without liability of being put out, the umpire shall not declare the game ended until the runner forced to advance from third has touched home plate and the batter-runner has touched first base."

The exception will be made if fans rush onto the field and physically prevent the runner from touching home plate or the batter-runner from touching first base. In such cases, the umpires shall award the runner the necessary bases with no appeal allowed.

This now allows umpires to simplify the administration of game-



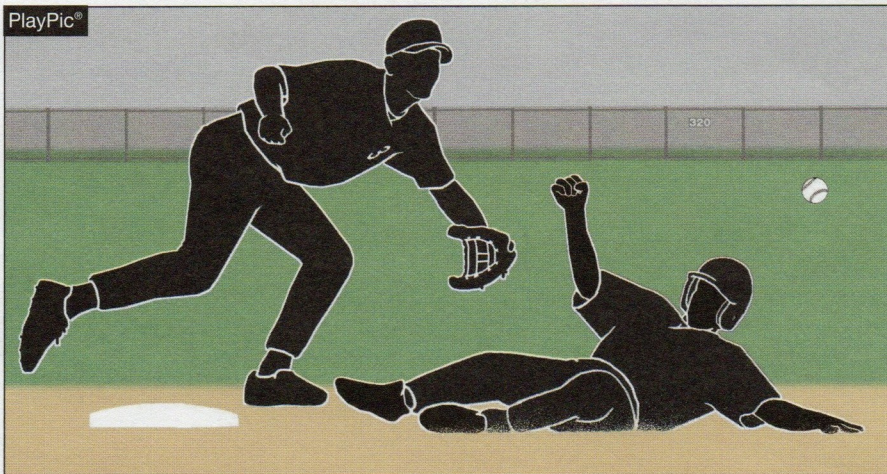
ending bases loaded situations to allow umpires to ensure that only the batter-

runner and the runner on third base have touched the next base safely. □

# Fielder, Runner Tangle

In the event of a wild throw during a steal attempt, if the ball is misplayed by the fielder and if the runner and fielder get tangled up, the fielder is restricted from any further hindrance after the

initial contact. This clarifies that the initial entanglement of the runner and fielder is not obstruction, but any hindrance after the initial entanglement would constitute obstruction. □



## Respect and Integrity

*Continued from p. 1*

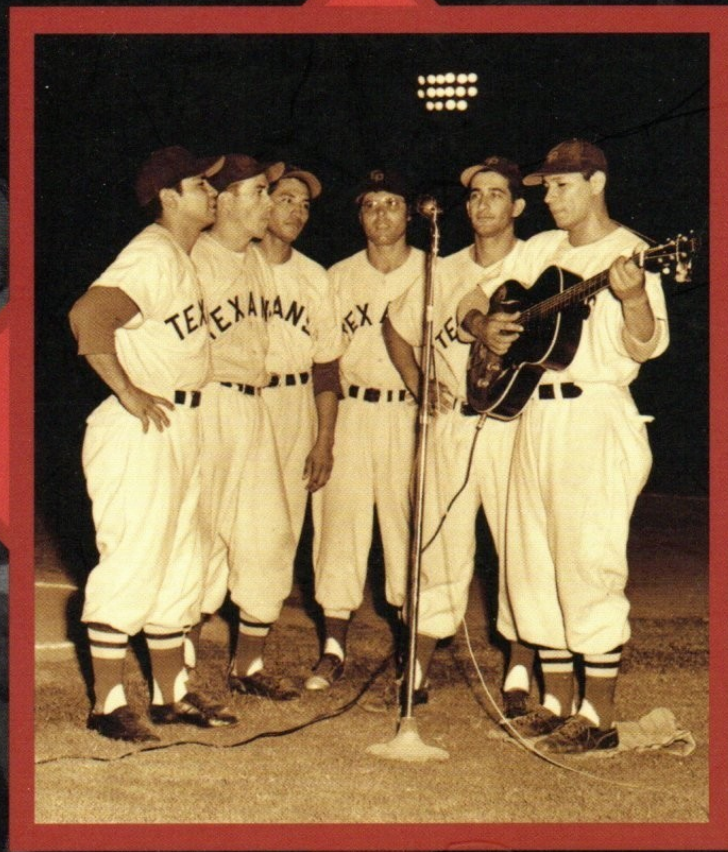
Sidwell, chair of NCAA Division I Baseball Committee.

It's an art form to watch the best umpires manage a baseball game and to see how they keep the game running smoothly and without effort.

"Coaches and umpires need to be professional at all times. We have to be role models to the student-athletes," said Craig Keilitz, executive director of the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Good umpires command respect with their actions and the way they come across with their mannerisms and disposition. At the end of the day, let's respect each other, our roles and the game. □

# MEXICAN AMERICAN BASEBALL IN EL PASO



IMAGES OF BASEBALL

*Richard A. Santillán, Eric Enders, Pete G. Flores,  
Donavan López, and Jorge Iber  
Foreword by Ray Sánchez*





The five newest inductees into the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame pose at the 2016 banquet. From left to right are Matt Hicks, Ben Leyva, Darrin Glenn, Victor Maldonado, and Eric Enders. Leyva accepted the honor on behalf of his late father, Ben Leyva, the founder of the minor-league El Paso Texans. Maldonado, a federal law enforcement officer, spent decades umpiring high school, college, and minor-league games. Hicks was a longtime broadcaster for the El Paso Diablos, Glenn was an infielder in the San Francisco Giants farm system, and Enders has written more than a dozen books about baseball. (Courtesy El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame.)

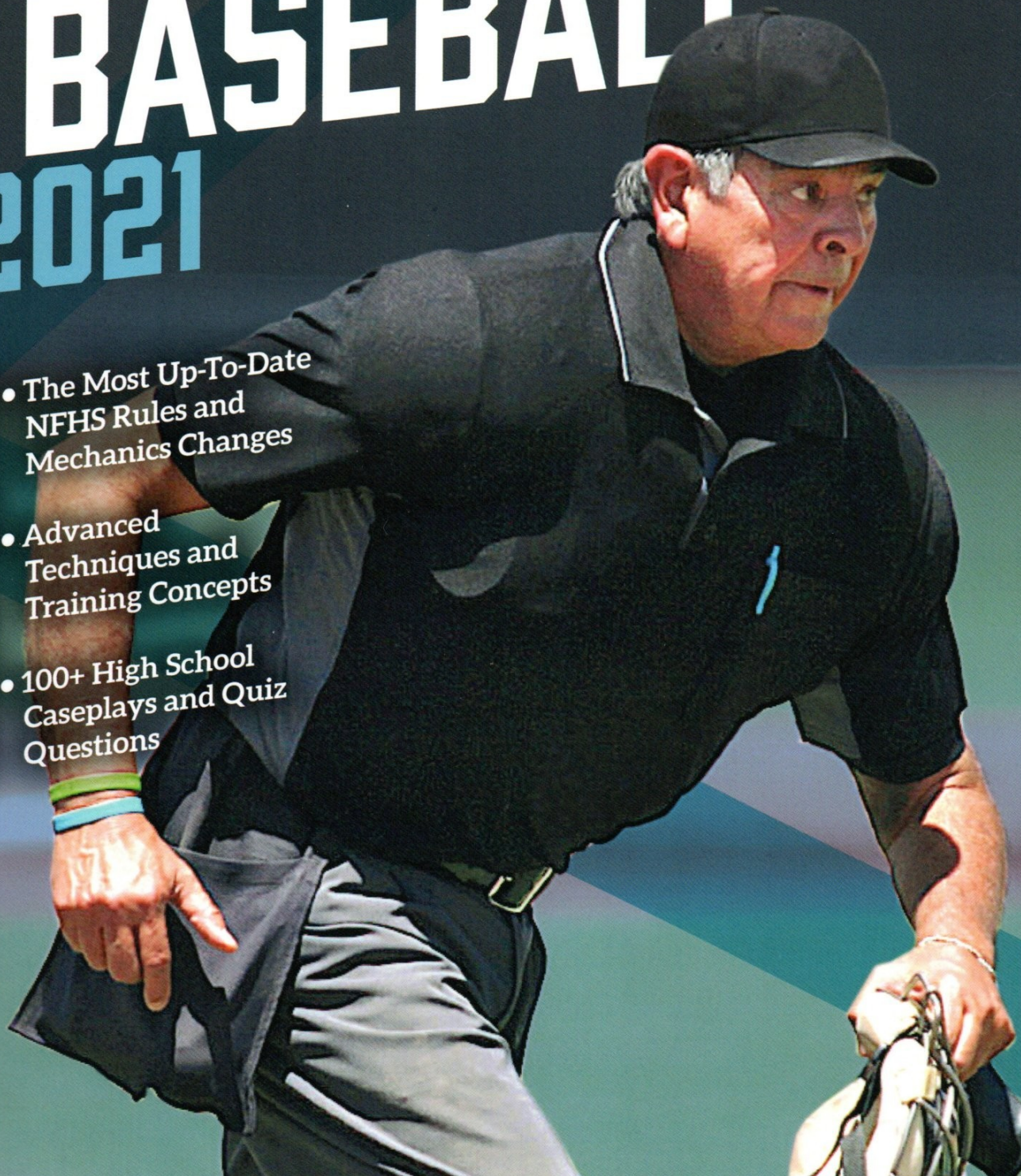


The 2015 inductees into the El Paso Softball Hall of Fame pose at the ceremony. From left to right are (first row) Enrique “Kiki” Bejarano, Jaime Frausto, Nena Olivas, and Enrique “Kiki” Gómez; (second row) Alex Montelongo, Perry Huddleston, Willie Rodríguez, and Ricardo Ramírez. Frausto was a softball legend on both sides of the border, playing in Juárez in the Liga Azteca and in El Paso in the Del Norte Division League, where he pitched eight no-hitters in five years from 1964 to 1968. Olivas accepted the award on behalf of her father, Manuel Olivas, a renowned power hitter and Bowie High School graduate who died in 1994. (Courtesy Bufé Morrison.)

ANNUAL **REFEREE** EDITION

# PREP BASEBALL 2021

- The Most Up-To-Date NFHS Rules and Mechanics Changes
- Advanced Techniques and Training Concepts
- 100+ High School Caseplays and Quiz Questions

























# Get out!

Outdoors & youth sports **D**

El Paso Times

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012

Features Desk, 546-6124, living@elpasotimes.com



WAYNE THORNTON

## The road to baseball umpiring, memories

To some, the job of a baseball umpire is the most difficult in any of the major sports.

Victor Maldonado is one such official.

Maldonado has officiated football and basketball as well and has maintained a high-profile job.

Maldonado, a 1972 Irvin High School graduate, has always been involved with sports along with his brother Armando and sisters Laura, Irene and Ana.

He started officiating baseball games in 1996 when his son started playing in the Frank Manning Baseball League on the West Side.

The organization asked for volunteers to help coach, work in the concession stand and umpire.

Maldonado enjoyed it so much that he started umpiring high school games in 1999 before moving up to the junior college level in 2004.

He would umpire games from the Western Junior College Athletic Conference and even the El Paso Diablos a year later.

He attended many officials clinics and camps to become noticed by the various leagues



Jarod Caviglia, left, and Roman Tejada compete for the puck Sunday during a Blue Moose Kid at Melissa's Gym. Red team goalie Mikayla Biddle guards her goal at right. Jenna Murphree is

'BUZZING  
PUCKS  
BEEPING  
OOOAH!

No doubt, his criminal justice background has also helped him deal with unruly coaches and fans.

Maldonado, who graduated from UTEP with a degree in criminal justice, worked for four years with the El Paso Police Department and later as a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

In 1978, he was one of only six Hispanics in the country with the organization at the time.

Except for a brief stint with the Secret Service, he finished with a 30-year career with ATF, the final eight as the ATF representative with the El Paso Intelligence Center before retiring in 2008.

Maldonado said two things helped push his umpiring career.

One was getting a call from a friend in Las Cruces about doing some free scrimmages for the New Mexico State University baseball team in 2004.

He caught the eye of Kevin Wynn, the coordinator of umpires for the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball, who asked Maldonado whether he would like to umpire an El Paso Diablos homestand.

That one homestand in 2005 turned out to be a six-year gig.

Working the Diablos games helped Maldonado learn from other professional umpires who came in with an extensive knowledge of the game and mechanics by attending and running countless clinics around the country.

Maldonado's wife, Elsa, would videotape him during his games and send the tapes to various Division I conferences.

Please see **Umpiring 2D**

# Umpiring

Continued from 1D

It was not an easy task. "Many of the college conference umpire coordinators are former minor league umpires, and they often look for someone with that level of experience," Maldonado said. "Every year Triple A baseball is going to release two to three umpires per league because as a Triple A umpire you usually have a three- to four-year window to get to the major leagues, and if you don't accomplish that task, you are let go."

After being released, umpires often move to California, Arizona or Florida, which are the hotbed states for baseball and many conference directors pick them up because of their expertise.

If an umpire is going to make it to Major League Baseball, it usually takes 10 to 12 years — and a lot of luck.

He has also been a football official since 2001, and even though he loves baseball, Maldonado said, "I love the crew concept in football as you know that your fellow official always has your back, and football has opened up the door to a whole new set of friendships."

He has worked with his high school football officiating crew for six years. He will be on the field at tonight's Hanks-Chapin bi-district playoff game at Irvin High School.

As Maldonado looked back on his many years of officiating — junior college baseball, WAC baseball, independent baseball league, freshman and junior varsity football games on Thursdays, varsity football on Fridays and middle school games on Saturdays — one game stands out.

Maldonado and his baseball crew were calling a game be-

tween El Paso and Shreveport in 2008.

That Shreveport team was managed by former El Paso Diablos skipper Terry Bevington.

His fellow umpire admitted to Bevington about missing a call at first base. Bevington became irate, and Maldonado had to intervene.

For the next 15 minutes, Bevington turned his attention — and anger — to Maldonado before the coach was ejected.

It just proved to Maldonado that even if you admit making a mistake, it's still not enough for some people.

Maldonado said many umpires wish they could call a no-hitter as their No. 1 memory.

But for him, it had to be a

game between Wake Forest and New Mexico State.

Wake Forest coach Tom Walter had donated his kidney to a red-shirt freshman, Kevin Jordan, and this game was Jordan's debut in in Division I baseball.

By the way, this was turned into a documentary on E:60 ESPN.

Maldonado was the umpire behind the plate for that game. It also impacted his life. Just seeing seeing this young baseball player come from a kidney transplant and back into the batter's box was truly a special moment.

Wayne Thornton may be reached at 373-6708 or [wlegend@elp.rr.com](mailto:wlegend@elp.rr.com). For more, 562-7071 or [www.elpasotexas.gov/parks](http://www.elpasotexas.gov/parks).

**BEST**  
*Iron Works*

- Wrought Iron Fences
- Rock Wall Fencing & Repairs
- Chain Link Fencing
- Windows Guards & Doors
- Concrete Jobs

**FREE ESTIMATE!**  
6 months Same as cash (With approved credit)

915-533-8405 • 1601 E. Missouri • El Paso TX 79902



IMAGE CONSULTANTS  
PLASTIC at the ENVY

Autologous Fat  
"BRAZILIAN BUTTS"

Marco A. Gonzalez  
Lyle D. Weiler

(915) 845-3223 | 7825  
(FACE)

F1

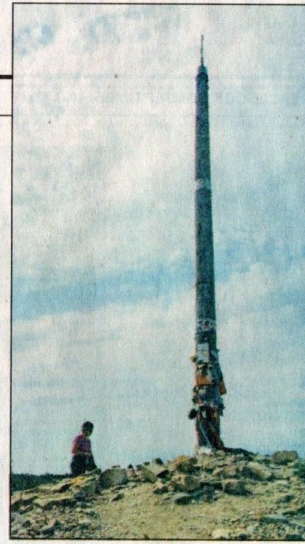
# LIFESTYLE

Sunday, July 19, 2015 » MORE AT [FACEBOOK.COM/ELPTIMES](https://www.facebook.com/ELPTIMES) AND [TWITTER.COM/ELPASOTIMES](https://twitter.com/ELPASOTIMES)

[elpasotimes.com](http://elpasotimes.com)

## CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

# FOLLOWING THE WAY



Like pilgrims for centuries before them, the Maldonados brought a stone from home to place at the Cruz de Ferro along the way. "The stone signifies a burden, trouble," Victor Maldonado said.

COURTESY PHOTO

Despite cancer, El Paso couple walks nearly 500 miles in ancient pilgrimage

**By Bill Knight**  
[bknight@elpasotimes.com](mailto:bknight@elpasotimes.com)  
[@BillKnightept on Twitter](https://twitter.com/BillKnightept)

There are times in this life — extraordinary times for extraordinary people — when a dream becomes a passion. And then the dream becomes that most special of elements.

Unbreakable.

Elsa Maldonado had such a passionate dream. Her husband, Victor, shared it. And the two lived it.

Not her cancer, not debilitating chemotherapy, not mountains





victor, shared it. And the two lived it.

Not her cancer, not debilitating chemotherapy, not mountains and not miles and miles of lonely road could shake this unbreakable dream.

The story began in 2013. Elsa's daughter, Christine, shared a movie, "The Way," with them. The 2010 movie about a journey along the ancient pilgrimage route of Camino de Santiago touched a chord in the spiritual mother.

"We made plans to go and I was so, so excited," Elsa said. "I literally didn't know how I would pass the time until we got to go."

Victor said, "We are both active outdoorsmen. We do a lot of backpacking. We were excited, ready to go."

But even unbreakable dreams can face roadblocks.

Victor, 61 and a retired agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, was umpiring college baseball games. He felt pain. And it got worse. He had a double hernia and had to have surgery.

He still wanted to make the trip. But Elsa would have none of it.

Elsa, 58, also began having pain, discomfort. She underwent a hysterectomy and they discovered that worst of words. Cancer. Ovarian cancer.

"That was the hardest," she said, tears welling. "I woke up and I could see it on my daughter's face. I had cancer."

And then began a different type of journey ... the journey no one ever plans, the journey no one ever wants to make.

Elsa Maldonado began her treatment in December 2013. She went into remission in January

**THE WAY » PAGE 8**



COURTESY PHOTO

Elsa and Victor Maldonado in Spain. While going through chemotherapy for ovarian cancer, "I had a middle-of-the-night one-on-one with God," Elsa Maldonado said. "I just said 'Whatever happens, I accept. Just give me one Camino.'"



VICTOR CALZADA — EL PASO TIMES

Back home in El Paso, the Maldonados show their compostelas, documents with seals from stops along the almost 500-mile Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain.

## ABOUT THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

The Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James) is a series of routes that lead to a hilltop cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, a northwest Spanish city that tradition says is the resting place of the remains of St. James. The ancient pilgrim routes were supposedly the roads traveled by the apostle to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ on the Iberian Peninsula.

**Camino Frances:** Walking the full Camino Frances, the most popular route, has soared in popularity in recent years — fueled in the United States by the 2010 movie "The Way" starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez. The route runs from St. Jean-Pied-de-Port in the Pyrenees to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, a journey of 484 miles across northern Spain. There are albergues, or hostels, all along the way, ranging from rough, open-air shelters to homes to upscale B&Bs with all the amenities. In late June, a U.S. tourist disappeared while walking the trail, leading to worries about its safety, but the route remains popular.

**Easier:** Some choose to walk just a portion, or portions, of the path. If you want to get a compostela — a document that certifies your pilgrimage — you'll need to get a "pilgrim passport," a credential that is stamped along the way, and show that you've walked at least 100 kilometers (62 miles).

**Information:** [caminoadventures.com](http://caminoadventures.com)

— Compiled from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, The Miami Herald and The Associated Press



COURTESY PHOTO

**“We learned to appreciate every moment, the joy of each day.”**

— *Elsa Maldonado*



VICTOR CALZADA — EL PASO TIMES

Above, the Maldonados collected seashells and sand from their pilgrimage. Scallop shells have been the symbol of the Camino de Santiago for centuries. In photo at left, pilgrims approach one of many historic towns that lie along the French Road, a Camino de Santiago route in northern Spain.

## The Way

FROM PAGE 1

2013. But the cancer came back in August 2014. She underwent chemotherapy again — this time with her father, who was battling his own cancer demons.

Along the way, Elsa, a graduate of Loretto Academy, had a special moment of understanding.

“I had a middle-of-the-night one-on-one with God,” she said. “I jus’ said ‘Whatever happens, I accept. Just give me one Camino.’”

Pausing, reflecting, she said, “I’m not sure why I was so passionate about doing this. What is my purpose? Maybe I’ll find it when I’m there.”

But there was still an obstacle.

Elsa was put on a maintenance drug, one she took every three weeks, one she had to be here to take. Traveling the Camino de Santiago takes more time than that.



COURTESY PHOTO

A guidepost full of symbols, including a blue-and-yellow stylized scallop shell design, points the way.



ago takes more time than that.

But, after four months, the drug proved to be more hindrance than help.

Her doctor at Texas Oncology, the man she calls 'not just my oncologist but my therapist and friend,' Panagiotis Valilis, told her, "You know that trip you've been wanting to go on? Go."

Smiling, she said, "Our backpacks were literally still packed. 'OK, let's do this. Let's go.' It was kind of a leap of faith. How will I know if the cancer comes back? But I truly believed God had given me this."

### On the Camino

And then the original journey began ... the passionate dream turning to reality ... one step at a time, one day at a time.

The couple flew to Paris, took a train and they were ready. They began at St. Jean-Pied-de-Port and they traveled the Camino Frances, the "French Road," across northern Spain.

"We actually gave ourselves 40 days to do it," Victor said. "Just in case we needed to rest."

There are many different routes in the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. This one is about 490 miles. The first day brought a hike over the Pyrenees Mountains, going from France into Spain. The first day might have been the most difficult. It took 10 hours.

They traveled light. One change of clothes. Something to sleep in. A sleeping bag. Toiletries.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Maldonados rest on the steps of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela at the end of the 490-mile pilgrimage. They walked for 33 days, from 13 to 19 miles each day.

"There were times when we wore the same clothes two or three days at a time," he said. "We averaged 15, 17 miles a day. The shortest day we had was 13 miles. The longest was 19 miles; twice.

"There was village after village after village along the way. The first thing you would see was the church bell. Each of these villages had a big church."

The two would stay in hostels, paying a few Euros for the night, just like the others making the pilgrimage.

"There were people from all over the world and they were all doing it for different reasons," Victor said.

Elsa smiled another big smile and said, "I told Victor if the church was open, we would go in. We saw so many churches, had such a wonderful, wonderful experience."

They finished their daily hike, showered, ate, went to church, washed their clothes — sometimes by hand — and slept, and were up at 4 a.m. and leaving at 5 a.m. each day, wearing a headlamp to guide the way.

Elsa smiled yet again and said, "We planned to take a break if we ever needed it. But we never did. Victor and I were just ready to go. Every day. We never felt the need to take that break."

Pausing, shaking her head, she said, "It's funny. I couldn't really conceive of actually getting to Santiago. I would just focus on each day. Focus on the joy of the day. Focus on the beauty of the day."

She was amazed when they reached the special point in the journey, when Victor told her, "Elsa, Cruz de Ferro will be in today's

hike."

For centuries, pilgrims have placed stones at that cross. Victor and Elsa had each brought a stone from their yard in West El Paso. "The stone signifies a burden, trouble," Victor said.

And on they walked, each step bringing them closer to that dream ... that dream burning with a fire that would not be extinguished.

Elsa kept two mantras in her mind.

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step," she said. "And, in Spanish, there is a saying that 'where there is a dream, there is a way.'"

A camino.

They began on May 17. They finished on June 18, arriving in Santiago. They took 33 days, never needing those rest days, never needing a break ... the dream always pulling them forward,



COURTESY PHOTO

Elsa Maldonado with the Santiago de Compostela cathedral in the background.

always showing them the way.

### A good life

The Maldonados are home again. Their dream deferred has become a dream come true. And it was life-changing.

"I felt so good, I felt so normal," Elsa said. "I didn't feel the cancer had weakened me. I got to live my dream and I can't imagine doing it with anyone but Victor. It was truly a blessing."

"And I did find out why I needed to go, why I wanted to go," she said softly. "It was for thanksgiving."

There was a quiet moment and Victor said just as softly, "I always knew I would make this journey. There were times when I thought it might be by myself."

Tears were again on the horizon.

Elsa Maldonado, dream chaser and dream catcher, said, "That would be my message to other patients."

Go. Travel. Do what you want to do."

The Maldonados are back home, back to reality and they are loving each moment of it. Their daughter, Christine, and their son, Matthew, are grown and healthy. Sunrises and sunsets are there to be seen and treasured. One day at a time.

"The Camino taught me that God is in charge," she said. "I don't know where my life goes from here. Cancer can come back at any time. But Victor and I saw so many beautiful sunrises every day on the trail. We learned to appreciate every moment, the joy of each day."

"Like I said, I don't know where my life goes from here. But whatever else I have in front of me is gravy."

A dream that becomes a passion that comes true is, after all, a powerful, powerful thing.

*Bill Knight may be reached at 546-6171.*

## Street Sign Blessed, Honors Beloved Queen of Peace Parishioner

By Sofia Larkin  
Major Gifts Officer

El Paso street signs tell great stories. Hawkins was named for the Hawkins Family, owners of Hawkins Dairy, Morehead after the pioneer banker who established State National Bank in 1881, and Ange, angel in French, the wife of Dr. J.A. McKinney, a prominent citizen of the 1880's. One of the newest streets in our community is Elsa Maldonado Lane. Her story is inspiring.

Elsa was born in El Paso on October 12, 1956. She attended Blessed Sacrament School, graduated from Loretto Academy in 1974, and was a 1977 Honors graduate of The University of Texas at El Paso. She was the only child in her family to attend Catholic school all the way through high school. Nuns had a profound effect on Elsa, so much so that she considered becoming a religious sister. She would eventually choose marriage and motherhood, but used her extraordinary spiritual gifts to lead and heal others her entire life. Elsa met her soul mate, Victor, in 1973 at Furr's Supermarket at Hondo Pass and Dyer (named



On Saturday, May 22, Father Edilberto "Beto" López, pastor of St. Pius X Parish and family friend, blessed Elsa Maldonado Lane. Photo Courtesy of the Catholic Foundation for the Diocese of El Paso

for John L. Dyer, a lawyer, City Attorney, and Secretary for the Grandview Realty Company). It was a match made in heaven and their union would last 39 years.

As a parishioner of Queen of Peace, Elsa was active, led, or at one time participated in, the Ladies Guild, KINGS Youth Group, Catholic Scripture Studies, Lecturer, Choir, and Chaplet of the Divine Mercy on first Friday. She

organized and recited an annual Patriotic Rosary every July 4th, and attended Mass daily. She attended the first ACTS retreat held in El Paso and eventually served several times on Team. She was an ACTS Co-Director, Director, Spiritual Director and Music Ministry Director. As part of her devotion to Our Blessed Mother, Elsa made pilgrimages to the Holy Ground of Medjugor-

je, to the Shrines of Fatima, and twice to Lourdes.

Elsa's passing in 2017 after a valiant battle with cancer left her husband and self-proclaimed trail and tent mate, Victor, reeling from the loss and focused on keeping her memory alive. In 2019, he attended the 13th Annual Foundation of Faith Dinner: When We Sing, We Pray Twice with Catholic singer songwriter Matt Maher, and discovered an opportunity to do something special for his angel. He purchased the Name Your Own Street sign package, donated by CareFree Homes, because it reminded him of Elsa's strength, grace, and tenacity when they walked the Camino de Santiago following her third round of chemotherapy, and brought to mind the Way of St. James, which goes from Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

On Saturday, May 22, Father Edilberto "Beto" López, pastor of St. Pius X Parish in the Diocese of El Paso and family friend, blessed Elsa Maldonado Lane. Victor invited family, friends, and the Queen of Peace community to enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and a blessing in cel-

ebration of the life of a beautiful woman of God and faith. That same morning while setting up, Victor met a future homeowner and invited him to bring his wife and son to the blessing. The joyful event included burritos and donuts, reunions, laughter, tears, prayer, and songs of praise for the glorious day. Victor made everyone feel welcome and special. It was a day to remember and a testament to our Catholic faith. Elsa Maldonado Lane, located in Northeast El Paso where Victor and Elsa grew up, has a beautiful view of the Franklin Mountains. It's a location fit for a queen, now welcoming new families to the neighborhood to live joyfully and happily ever after.

Join us for the 15th Annual Foundation of Faith Event: Ignite Your Hearts with keynote Mark Hart and musical guest Sarah Hart on Thursday, September 23. The event will be livestreamed on YouTube. You will have the opportunity to name your own street sign!

For more information, please contact Major Gifts Officer Sofia Larkin at (915) 872-8412 or [slarkin@elpasodiocese.org](mailto:slarkin@elpasodiocese.org).

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
Nomination Committee  
February 4, 2025

To Whom it may concern:

I have known Vic Maldonado since 2006 during my time running the El Paso Diablos Professional Baseball team. Vic was one of the local umpires that was paired with a traveling crew of two other umpires. To say that Vic was depended on immensely would be an understatement. Independent baseball consists of coaches, players, trainers, and umpires all in various stages of their baseball careers with many having the goal of getting to the Big Leagues. In the case of the umpires, they were all trying to crack into Affiliated baseball and work their way up the ladder. Many of these young and inexperienced umpires carried with them a cockiness to go along with quick tempers which didn't always play well in a professional baseball setting. This is where Vic came in, and gave invaluable tutelage to these young umpires, time and time again bringing a calming influence and leadership that was desperately needed.

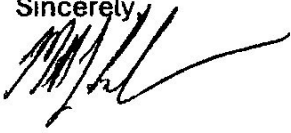
When I think of Victor Maldonado, the words that immediately come to mind are integrity, honesty, patience, preparation, and ability. Being a professional umpire in Minor League baseball or Division 1 College baseball is an extremely challenging and fast paced task day in and day out. Not only did Vic rise to that challenge each and every day he was out on the diamond, but he did so with all the attributes I mentioned above. Vic not only excelled at his craft, but maybe more importantly, he took the time to teach, and help those less experienced than him. In my 25+ years of working in professional sports I've found that there just aren't many people willing to take the time and the effort to stop and teach the younger less experienced, specifically in the profession of umpiring and refereeing.

One day, Vic was in my office before he was to work an evening baseball game and we were just chatting about things and I remember asking him why he rarely ever ejected a manager, coach, or player when it seemed as if the younger umpires seemed to do it on a nightly basis. In true Vic fashion, he just said that you need to be patient and have an even temperament when you're between those white lines. After he had told me that, I remember paying more attention to how Vic handled himself on the field and witnessed first hand that calm demeanor and even temperament that he had explained to me. Even when I'm not sure how he was able to maintain that during certain situations of unhinged managers in his face. That's just one of things that made him truly great at his craft and made him an example to ALL the younger umpires who had aspirations of making this their career. The amount of respect I hold for Vic Maldonado could fill many, many, more pages.

That is a testament to Vic and the kind of person he is. He had a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, and I believe he used those same attributes to make him the very best at his umpiring craft, and why he took the time to teach, and how he was able to

deal with any situation with a calmness and professionalism like no other. I was proud to have him on my field, and even more proud to call him my friend. The El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame will be that much better to have Victor Maldonado as a part of it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt LaBranche', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Matt LaBranche**

To the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame,

This letter is to express my support for Victor Maldonado (Vic) to be accepted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. There are three words that come to mind anytime I think of Vic, tenacity, patience, and perseverance. Three qualities I think exemplify his qualification for the Hall of Fame. I hope to encompass them in this letter.

I first met Vic when I was a local High School baseball player while playing Varsity baseball at Hanks High School from 2003-2005. I would go on to graduate and play collegiately at El Paso community college and in New Mexico, all the while, continuing to have Vic as a periodic umpire. I was a catcher, so I had a unique perspective and relationship with umpires that worked our games. Out of the hundreds of umpires that called pitches behind me, Vic was one of the ones I was always glad to have. He was a player's umpire. He allowed us to play our game but made sure our attitudes and focus stayed between the lines. (He also got yelled at the least)

I would later become re-acquainted with Vic when I became an umpire myself. I dabble in High School and College baseball from 2008-2013 before 2014 when I joined the EL Paso High School Umpires association and became an umpire for the Region V Western Junior College Athletic Conference to umpire "full time". Vic was the rules interpreter for the local association, which was an unpaid volunteer position that came with a lot of challenges due to umpires wanting to "stump the ump" instead of improving themselves. I remember not envying him because of this, however Vic always managed to turn every scenario into an opportunity to improve not just a particular umpire, but the association as a whole. This is when I first noticed Vics tenacity, patience, and perseverance. This same year, Vic and several other local El Paso Umpires were selected to work the El Paso Mexican Baseball Fiesta at Southwest University Park. An umpire was injured on day 1 of the 2 days the Mexican Fiesta series was being played. Out of the 100's of




umpires who had more experience in the region, Vic gave my name to fill in. Not just on the field, but behind the plate calling pitches for former and future Major Leaguers in front of a huge El Paso Crowd. I was the youngest umpire, and person on the field. This opportunity was not only the experience of a lifetime but would help start to pave the path for my career as an umpire. From 2014-2017 I worked with Vic in the NCAA DIII American Southwest Conference. Looking back, I imagine this made Vic, or any umpire I worked with uneasy. At the time I was a young and “green” umpire, calling a game for student athletes that were not much younger than myself. If Vic had any reservations, he never showed them. While on the field, Vic made sure I felt like I belonged all the while keeping me out of “trouble”. Working these games involved several road trips. One road trip in particular comes to mind because I learned about Vic the person in depth, instead of Vic the umpire. On the 6 hours we would spend in the car driving across West Texas, Vic helped me grow as a person and an umpire. Answering questions about life, financial decisions, umpire opportunities and how to balance life with baseball as a husband and eventual father. This is above and beyond what is expected as an umpire partner, let alone what was essentially an acquaintance at the time. I truly felt Vic took an invested interest in me as a person, and as an umpire, not out of any kind of obligation to me, but because I was a young fellow El Pasoan trying to succeed. It was during these road trips, I would learn about Vics time working in the American League, the experiences he had, both good and bad, how they helped him grow as an umpire, and how I could avoid those same learning experiences, and learn from him then and now. This particular road trip not only showed me a greater depth of his tenacity, patience, and perseverance as Husband, father, and Umpire, but also how he was paving the way for other umpires, like me. It is important to note, that from 2005 – 2017 it is easily arguable to say that Vic was either the best, or one of the best umpires in El Paso. I have been the High School Assignor from 2016 – Present and every year, Vics name is picked among the first by local area high school coaches. There has never been a year that I have known





Vic that his name was not among the first to be “drafted”. High School playoff assignments are not assignments. The local coaches literally “bid” and “draft” the umpires they think are the best and Vics name is always among the first. So it is not just my opinion that Vic is one of El Pasos best umpires, but it is also exemplified by coaches across our city. Umpiring is a unique profession as there are only so many games, with so many spots, that need umpires. Never once while knowing him during this time, did Vic convey the perception that he wanted to keep that title for himself, and the games that came with it. I say this confidently, as eventually I would step into his shoes on the field.

I would continue to learn from Vic in our weekly meetings, weekday High School games, and weekend road trips. Eventually the NCAA caught my eye beyond DIII and I began to walk the path to become a NCAA DI umpire. At the time, Vic worked in the NCAA DI Western Athletic Conference. The list of umpires that are not only from El Paso but continue to reside and represent El Paso at that level is extremely short. I imagine they can be counted on one hand. Vics tenacity, patience, and perseverance helped pave a path to the door that leads to NCAA Division One Baseball for El Pasoans. Around 2017 Vic made the decision that his NCAA Div 1 career would be coming to a close. There are 1000’s of umpires across the country that want to receive assignments at this level. Instead of just “retiring”, Vic made phone calls and emails on my behalf, and created an opportunity for me to step into the Western Athletic Conference which I am proud to say that I did, and continue to do. Fast forward to today, because of that one door, created by an El Pasoan, for an El Pasoan, I have worked conference weekends in the Multiple Division 1 conference including Power 5 conferences.

I believe Vics athletic resume will speak for itself. However, Vics tenacity, requires letters like these. I can not count how many times while traveling the country working with umpires I have never heard of, who reside thousands miles away go “oh you’re from El Paso? Do you know Vic 

Maldonado? I worked with him when I was in the American League.” Vic went from just an El Pasoan playing and umpiring baseball, to truly leaving a national impact that people from across the country associate “El Paso” with. That is an impact that cannot be measured. That is tenacity.

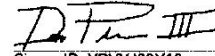
Then you have his patience. How do you express patience when dealing with ignorance of those wanting your job? Taking a “kid” like myself and helping guide and groom him to become better than yourself and possibly taking your job, for no other reason that it was the right thing to do, and because Vic believes El Pasoans, should help El Pasoans.

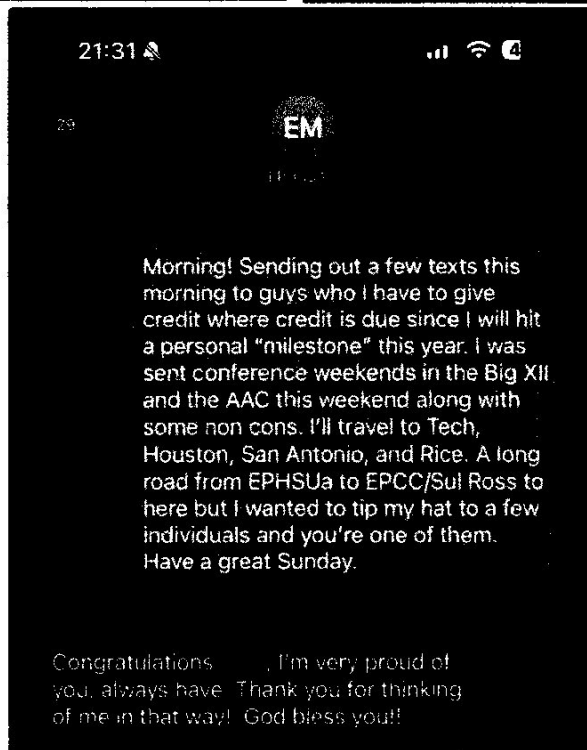
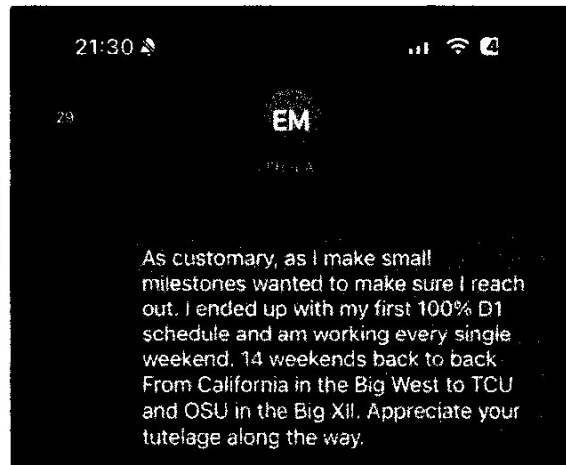
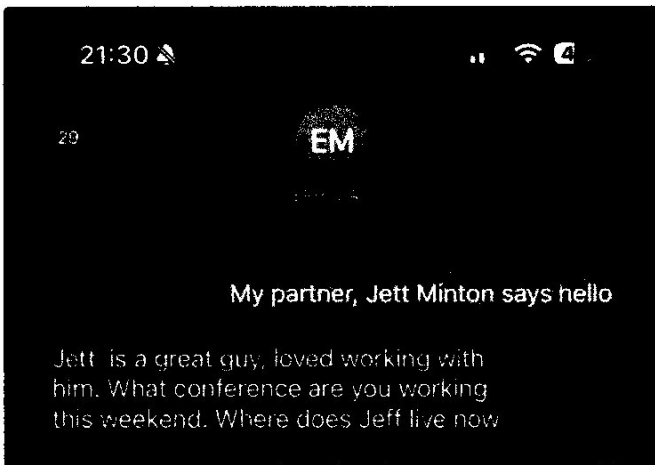
How does one describe the years and financial burdens associated with becoming a D1 umpire. Only one word comes to mind, Perseverance. Traveling to other major cities across the country to meet NCAA Eligibility requirement at a huge financial burden with no reimbursement. Only the “hope” of receiving assignments with no guarantee. How do you create something that didn’t exist before you. To my knowledge, before myself, only 2 true El Pasoans, those that spent their lives here, and continue to spend their lives here have worked NCAA Division 1 baseball. Thanks to Vics perseverance, that number has doubled, and I intend to continue to see it increase because Vic has paved the way, and I hope to embody the perseverance by representing El Paso, and continuing to bring other El Pasoans into the fold.

To make all this hopefully resonate I have attached my resume. While reading it, I must confess that over the past 3-5 years, as my accomplishments have grown, I have taken the time to send Vic a text saying “Thank you” for getting me to where I am, and that I am aware, I likely would not be here without his tutelage. I hope those messages resonate with the committee responsible for the Hall of Fame selection. I truly hope the Hall of Fame is not just based off resume or accolades, but character as well. Vic exemplifies what an Athlete from El Paso should be. Not just playing or coaching the game but continuing to give back to it over the course of one’s life. He



embodies what it means to be #ElPasoStrong. When looking at Vics on field resume, it is easy to say he is qualified for the Hall of Fame. There is no resume for what he has done off the field, and so I hope this letter serves as evidence, that the El Paso Athletic community is in a better place thanks to Victor Maldonado's tenacity, patience, and perseverance.

  
Signer ID: YPVYJ33Y10...





Trey Plummer  
11989 Paseo Del Rey  
El Paso Texas 79936  
915-256-0670  
915umpires@gmail.com

**Umpire**

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS:**

Experienced umpire ready to go to work immediately. Excellent athletic personnel relations, reliable, and an honest person.

**Assigning Experience**

Assign 1500 Games Annually for El Paso High School Umpires Association - 2016 - Present  
Co-Assign WJCAC - 2021 - Present  
Assignment Liason for CUSA NMSU Non Conference 2025

**Officiating Experience:**

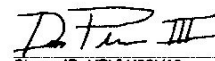
Southland - 2015 - 2020  
WAC - 2018 - Present  
BIG12 - 2018 - Present  
AAC - 2023 - Present  
Big West - 2025 -Present  
Mountain West - 2018 - 2021  
SWAC DI - 2016 - 2020  
Lone Star DII - 2017 - 2019  
ASC DIII - 2010 - 2019  
WJCAC - 2010 - Present  
PCL AAA Fill In 2015-Present

**TRAINING:**

CBUA Indiana - 2019  
TCUA 2 Man Camp - 2014-2015-2016 - 2017 - 2018  
Mid American Advanced 3 Man Camp - 2015 & 2017  
Mid American Invite Only - 2018  
SCUA Umpire Camp - Tomball TX - 2015 - 2016 - 2017  
Triple Play Umpires Waco 2016  
Triple Play Umpires Edmund 2017  
AP Wester Umpires - Tony Prater - 2017  
WJCAC - Instructor - 2019 - Present

**RECOGNITION:**

NJCAA Regional Tournament - 2018, 2019, 2022  
NJCAA Super Regional - 2021  
ASC Conference Tournament 2018 & 2019  
NCAA DIII Regional List - 2018 & 2019  
PCL AAA El Paso Chihuahuas Fill In Umpire - 2015 - Present  
2025 JUCO(D1) World Series Selection - Grand Junction Colorado

  
Signer ID: YPVYJ33Y10...



February 4, 2025

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
Nominations Committee  
El Paso, TX

Dear Nominations Committee

My name is Dana Eisenga. I have work with the El Paso Community College (EPCC) Athletic program starting in 1996 to present. During this period, I was the Intercollegiate Coordinator and Assistant Athletic Director. My duties with the baseball program included announcing, scoreboard operator keeping the scorebook and game administrator.

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Victor Maldonado. I highly support his nomination as a sports official for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

I first met Victor Maldonado in 2004 when he started umpiring El Paso CC Tejanos baseball games, which he continued to do so through the 2019 season.

I consider him as one of the finest umpires to call baseball games for EPCC Tejanos baseball. His knowledge of the game and rules is unquestionable. He is a true professional on the field at all times. During his 15 years of umpiring EPCC games he only had five ejections. In a game where some umpires keep a tally (like WW2 fighter pilots shooting down enemy aircraft) he tried to resolve the situation calmly and with dignity with the player and coach involved.

Being a season ticket holder for EL Paso Diablos and El Paso Chihuahuas, I would see him umpire games for the independent league El Paso Diablos from 2005 to 2010. He was selected to umpire the 2014 El Paso Mexican Baseball Fiesta and for the El Paso Chihuahuas from 2014 to 2016.

In closing, Victor Maldonado is truly deserving of being elected into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dana Eisenga'.

Dana Eisenga  
El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame, Class of 2012  
Sergeant Major, US Army Retired



## El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

Dear Committee Members,

It is with the utmost honor and respect that I write this letter of recommendation for Victor Maldonado's induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Victor's contributions to the officiating world, particularly in baseball and football, are unparalleled, spanning over three decades of dedication, professionalism, and mentorship.

Victor has officiated baseball at every level—from Little League to professional games—demonstrating an exceptional commitment to the sport for over 30 years. His officiating career also extended to football, where he served as a high school official for 22 years, working sub-varsity and varsity games. His versatility was evident in multiple positions, including Referee, Umpire, Head Linesman, Field Judge, Side Judge, and Back Judge. Additionally, he served on the TASO El Paso Football Board in 2010.

I first met Victor when I joined the TASO-El Paso Football Chapter, and I vividly recall witnessing his ability to balance professionalism with camaraderie. During my eighth season as a varsity official, we worked together on a crew, and his positive outlook, communication skills, and leadership proved invaluable. He taught younger officials not only how to uphold the integrity of the game but also how to enjoy the experience.

Beyond football, I later learned that Victor had been a distinguished baseball umpire, even calling games for the El Paso Diablos, some of which I unknowingly attended as a fan. His professional officiating experience includes working at the AAA level, NCAA Division I and III, NAIA, NJCAA, WAC, and the American Southwest Conference.

Victor's contributions to the El Paso High School Baseball Umpire Association (EPHSUA) since 2013 have significantly shaped the local officiating community. His extensive rules knowledge and mentorship have helped countless umpires refine their skills, and his evaluations continue to improve the quality of officiating at both the plate and on the bases.

Given his lengthy athletic career that began in 1962 and outstanding contributions as an athlete, official, and mentor, I strongly and wholeheartedly endorse Victor Maldonado for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. His impact on sports, especially in the El Paso Community, is undeniable, and it is an honor to call him a colleague and a friend.

Sincerely,  
Eddie Hernandez  
TASO Football Chapter President  
El Paso, TX



**SAM SNODDY**

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
1518 MONTANA  
EL PASO, TEXAS 79902

TELEPHONE (915)542-4287  
FACSIMILE (915)533-7421  
EMAIL SSNODDY@AOL.COM

TEXAS STATE BAR NO. 18798000  
LICENSED IN NEW MEXICO #3978

January 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with the utmost respect and admiration that I wholeheartedly recommend Victor Maldonado for any leadership, mentoring, or outdoor education role. Victor has been an integral part of Troop 4, dedicating countless hours to the development and success of young Scouts. His commitment to Scouting, his knowledge of the outdoors, and his ability to lead and mentor have left a lasting impact on both the troop and the many Scouts who have had the privilege of learning from him.

Victor's journey in Troop 4 began when his son, Matthew Maldonado, transitioned from Cub Scout Pack 29 (Den 4) and joined Troop 4 as an 11-year-old. Under the guidance and support of his father and fellow leaders, Matthew went on to achieve the prestigious Eagle Scout rank—a testament to the environment of excellence and encouragement that Victor helped foster.

Victor quickly became one of the most dedicated and active Assistant Scoutmasters in Troop 4. His leadership extended far beyond weekly meetings; he was fully engaged in helping Scouts progress from Tenderfoot to Eagle, ensuring that they learned valuable life skills, developed confidence, and embraced the core values of Scouting: leadership, responsibility, and perseverance.

One of Victor's most significant contributions was his deep involvement in high-adventure outdoor experiences. Over the years, he participated in and helped lead more than 40 Fifty-Miler trips, including backpacking, canoeing, and kayaking expeditions across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Hawaii, Alaska, and even Australia. A Fifty-Miler is a demanding achievement, requiring Scouts to trek or paddle at least 50 miles over a minimum of one week in the wilderness. These expeditions tested the Scouts' endurance, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, and Victor was instrumental in ensuring their success.

Victor's outdoor expertise, patience, and ability to teach survival and navigation skills were invaluable. Whether guiding Scouts through rugged backcountry terrain, paddling down challenging rivers, or teaching essential wilderness skills, he always led by example. His calm demeanor, combined with his wealth of knowledge, made him a trusted mentor who could both inspire confidence and instill discipline in young Scouts.

Beyond the adventures and achievements, Victor embodied the spirit of Scouting. He was a mentor, a role model, and a leader who believed in shaping young men into responsible, capable, and honorable individuals. He gave selflessly to the troop, always putting the needs of




the Scouts first, and worked tirelessly to ensure that each boy had the opportunity to grow, learn, and achieve their full potential.

For over 37 years, I have had the privilege of leading Troop 4, and I can say without hesitation that Victor Maldonado was one of the most outstanding and dedicated leaders I have ever worked with. His contributions to Scouting have been profound, and his legacy lives on in the countless Scouts whose lives he has helped shape.

I give my highest and most enthusiastic recommendation for Victor Maldonado. Any organization, program, or group that has the opportunity to work with him have benefited tremendously from his experience, leadership, and unwavering commitment to youth development.

Very Truly Yours,



---

Sam Snoddy, Attorney at Law  
Scoutmaster, Troop 4 (1987-2022)  
Boy Scouts of America  
1518 Montana Ave.  
El Paso, Texas 79902  
Telephone: (915) 542-4287  
Facsimile: (915) 533-7421  
ssnoddy@aol.com

February 3, 2025

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
Nomination Committee  
El Paso, TX

To Whom it May Concern;

My name is Carlos Leon and I am a retired Chief of Police with the El Paso Police Department. After retiring from the police department, I ran for public office and was elected as El Paso County Commissioner, Precinct 1 for which I served three terms.

I have known Vic Maldonado since 1975, when we were patrol officers together on the same shift at the, then East/Valley Sub Station. After three and a half years, Vic left the department and became a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in Houston, TX. I became reacquainted with Vic when he transferred back to El Paso with ATF and I was a lieutenant in the Narcotics Division. Vic worked very closely with our division in drug and firearms investigations. After I became Chief of Police, Vic became the supervisor of the El Paso ATF Field Office, and our agencies continued to work closely with one another.

In 2019, I happen to see Vic and found that he had lost his wife of 39 years, I found him to be quite taken by her loss. A few days later, I had an opportunity to make a nomination for an appointment of a Commissioner to the El Paso County Ethics Commission, a volunteer position. The Ethics Commission, is comprised of 10 members which adopts, publishes, and enforces an ethics code governing county public servants.

I contacted Vic and told him that I knew that he was depressed about losing his wife. I told him that I knew that he still had something to offer the citizens of El Paso County, so I asked him if I could place his name in nomination for the position, before Commissioner's Court. Vic agreed, so in January 2019, Vic was appointed by the Court to the Commission. Vic has served honorably on the Commission since 2019. Although I recently retired as the County Commission of Precinct 1, Vic continues to serve at the pleasure of my successor, Commissioner Jackie Arroyo Butler.

I not only chose Vic to help him through his grief, but based on my experience with working with him in a law enforcement capacity, I knew him to be very diligent in his work ethic, to include his honesty and integrity. I know that Vic is a dedicated and trustworthy individual and his personality

is positive and friendly. I take great pleasure in offering my support in his nomination to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. If selected I know that Vic will represent this prestigious organization well and with honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlos Leon', written over a horizontal line.

Carlos Leon

February 6, 2025

To the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I find myself writing this letter of recommendation for Victor Maldonado. I met Mr. Maldonado approximately two years ago after he gave me a call and wanted to meet my group of special needs kids (915 Stars Special Needs Group). He said he had seen a feature Channel 7 had presented on my 915 Stars group. He came out and met my kids at a golf practice and instantly showed a great interest in them. He said he was involved in the fundraising event Top Golf Tee Off For Teal after someone close to him passed away from cancer. After watching the feature and seeing how the 915 Group strives to provide kids with special needs an opportunity to play sports, he felt my kids might be interested in participating in the event. He reserves several bays with the event and has family and friends participate. That year he wanted to offer the bays to my 915 athletes. Thanks to his generosity 21 of my kids were able to experience an event they otherwise would not be able to and they all had a great time. The following year Mr. Maldonado offered the event to my kids again and 25 kids were able to participate.

The UTEP softball team is also a supporter of the Tee Off for Teal. I mention this because at the event Mr. Maldonado introduced me to several UTEP softball players at which time I asked them if they would like to come out and practice with my kids who play softball. They were very excited and came out several times to train with my athletes. I was also able to speak with their coach, T.J. Hubbard, who arranged a night for his players and my kids to play a scrimmage at the UTEP softball field. This never would have occurred without Mr. Maldonado's kind generosity and continued offer of having my kids participate in the Tee Off for Teal event.

I will always be thankful for the day Mr. Maldonado contacted me and came out to meet the 915 Stars athletes because he has opened a whole new world for my athletes. His particular interest in the 915 Special Needs Athletes and the UTEP softball program brought the two together and created great friendships between the athletes in both groups.

Mr. Maldonado also provided me a connection with the Tim Tebow Foundation Night to Shine event. The event provides a prom night experience for kids with special needs. Some of my kids are signed up for the event and are looking forward to it. It just takes one individual to make a change in someone's life and that person for me and my group is Mr. Maldonado. On a side note, Mr. Maldonado was active in the law enforcement community, as am I, and turns out we have mutual law enforcement friends. This goes on to prove the saying "everyone knows everyone in El Paso". I would sum up Mr. Maldonado's carrying for the El Paso sporting community is, "El Paso Strong". Therefore, I firmly believe he would be a great addition to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Jimenez', written in a cursive style.

Ronald Jimenez

Retired DEA Special Agent

Head of Delegation 915 Stars Special Needs Group

5837 Clydesdale Drive

El Paso, Texas 79924

(915) 204-2231

RNRBJIM@SBCGLOBAL.NET