



**Date:** May 25, 2021

**To:** Mayor and City Council

**From:** Executive Assistant to the Mayor and City Council

**Subject:** Adjournment of the May 25, 2021 City Council Meeting

Please adjourn the May 25, 2021 Council meeting in memory of the following individuals:

**John G. Darouze, Lifetime Santa Clara Resident**

- John George Darouze, lovingly known as "Farmer John" was born in Santa Clara on April 15, 1926 to John and Wilhelmina Darouze – the fifth of seven children.
- He grew up on the family farm which is now a section of San Tomas Expressway. As a child and adolescent, he raised rabbits and sold pears along the Old Bayshore Highway to help support his family.
- When the family farm flooded, the family moved to Market Street across from the Harris Lass museum property. Johanna Lass and her family were neighbors and family friends.
- As a teenager, John worked as a janitor in Sunnyvale at Joshua Hendy Ironworks which later became Westinghouse and is now Northrop Grumman.
- During World War II, he left for two years to serve as a sailor in the U.S. Navy. Afterwards, he returned to Westinghouse, where he worked his way up the ranks from machinist to foreman, mostly working on the graveyard shift.
- After 39 years with the company, he retired from Westinghouse in 1984. His final role was supervising machinists in the Marine Division.
- John was an Iwo Jima survivor. He was assigned to the South Pacific and served as an LCM Coxswain. Unknown to John, his father passed away in Santa Clara on D-Day of Iwo Jima February 19th, 1945.
- On that same day he transported U.S. Marines ashore and the wounded back out to hospital ships. He also undertook many rescues of B-29 flight crews who had to ditch their bombers offshore. He witnessed the raising of the flag on Iwo Jima twice. John was one of the longest serving Navy sailors on the island of Iwo Jima – from February 19 to November 1945.
- John married his wife of 62+ years, Jean Bernard of San Francisco, on November 24th, 1946, and had three children, Jeff, Jeanette, and Jim.

- John's favorite hobby for 75 years was his backyard garden. It garnered him the nickname "Farmer John." He grew copious quantities of fruits and vegetables that kept his family, friends, church and neighbors blessed. He would also prune family and neighbor's fruit trees and help pick and distribute their fruit.
- John and Jean enjoyed extensive travelling in the 1970s and 80s, including a trip to his ancestral home in Madeira and to Portugal with Santa Clara Sister Cities.
- Through his last years John was cared for at home by his loving family, who honored his wish to live at his home for as long as possible.
- John Darouze died peacefully at home on April 5th, just 10 days before his 95th birthday.
- He was a true pillar of our community and will be missed by all who had the good fortune of knowing him.

**Mateus R. Vargas, Long term Santa Clara resident and father of Ana Vargas Smith, Historical and Landmarks Commissioner and President of the Santa Clara Parade of Champions**

- Mateus Vargas was born September 8, 1928 in Silveira, Pico, Azores, Portugal. He was the loving son of the late Manuel and Maria Rodrigues Vargas.
- He was a proud resident of Santa Clara for over 58 years.
- Mateus's love of Pico, his family, the farm, and Portuguese traditions, were firmly embedded in his heart. Upon moving to Santa Clara, Mateus quickly went after his American Dream and built a life for his beloved wife and daughter.
- He bought two homes, joined St. Clare's Parish, supported his daughter through Catholic school through University--one of the firsts in his family.
- He was a member of the Santa Clara Our Lady of Fatima, St. Anthony and the SES (Society of the Holy Spirit)—a 125-year-old historic nonprofit with deep roots in Santa Clara since 1896.
- He was also a founding member of the Portuguese Social Hall in Silveira, Pico. Mateus loved community, festas and parades—he was a real people-person and relished giving back generously of his time, love, and attention.
- Mateus fearlessly chose to start a new life in America and made the most of the land of opportunity. He believed anything was possible with faith, family, a plan, and hard work in America. Mateus believed his biggest accomplishment was his family, whom he loved and was so loved in return.
- Mateus Vargas passed away on May 6, 2021.

- He was the beloved and adoring husband of Edalina Bettencourt Vargas for nearly 70 years, and a devoted father to his daughter Ana Vargas-Smith, and his son-in-law Darry Smith, and was preceded in death by his 11 siblings, and was a proud uncle, cousin and friend to numerous beautiful nieces, nephews, extended family, and lifelong dear neighbors.

