

# **PARK RENAMING PROPOSAL FOR PONDER PARK**

February 27, 2024 City Council Meeting

Also presented at the February 14, 2024  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

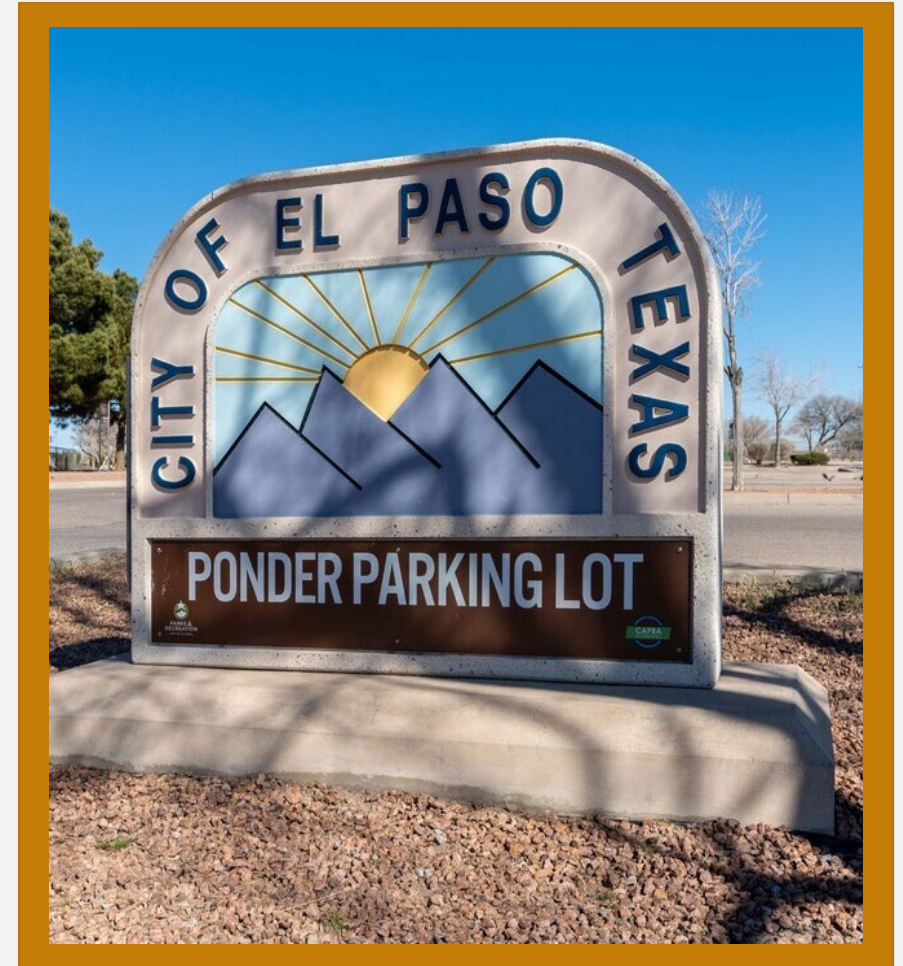
# PROPOSED NAME CHANGE

From: Ponder Park

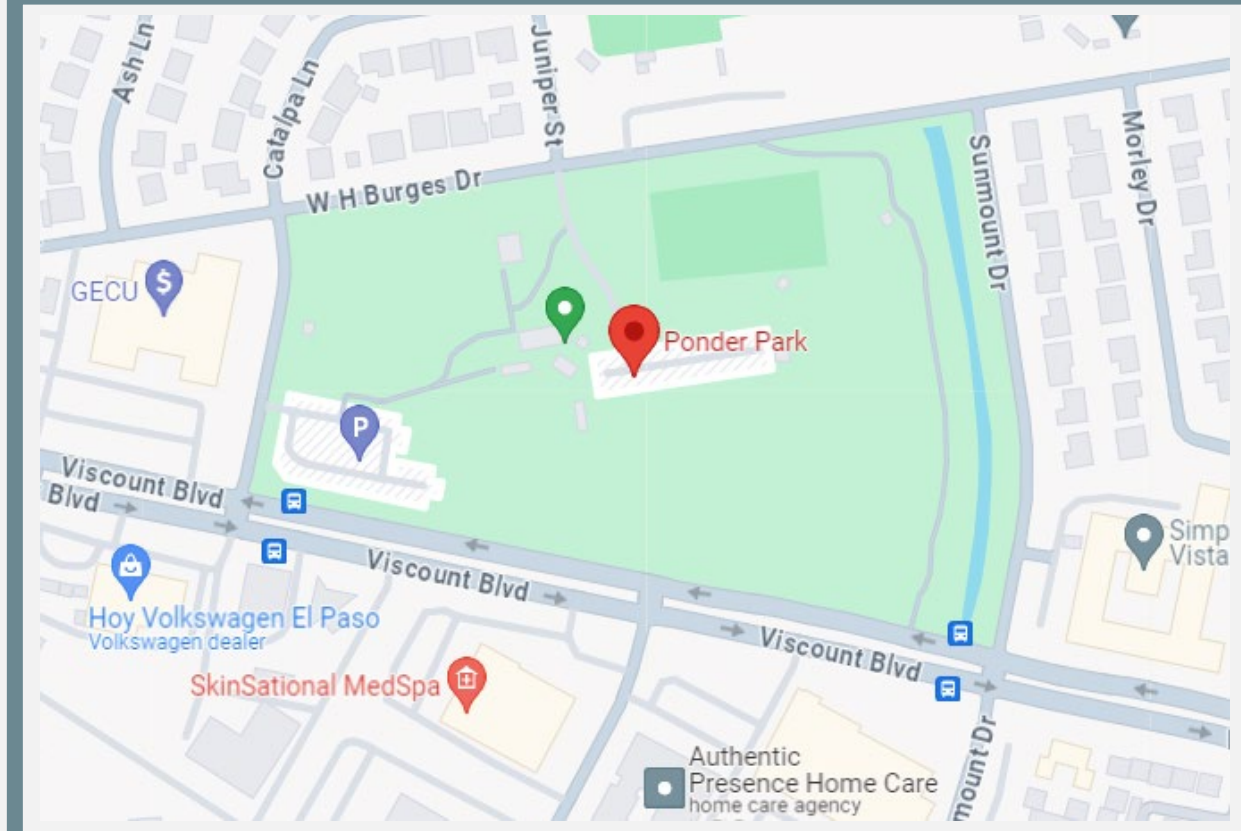
To: *James “Jim” Crouch Park*

*Under the Naming or Renaming Guidelines for  
City Parks and Recreation facilities to name after  
an Outstanding Individual (Non-Living) or Group*

*Applicant: Lillian Crouch, wife*

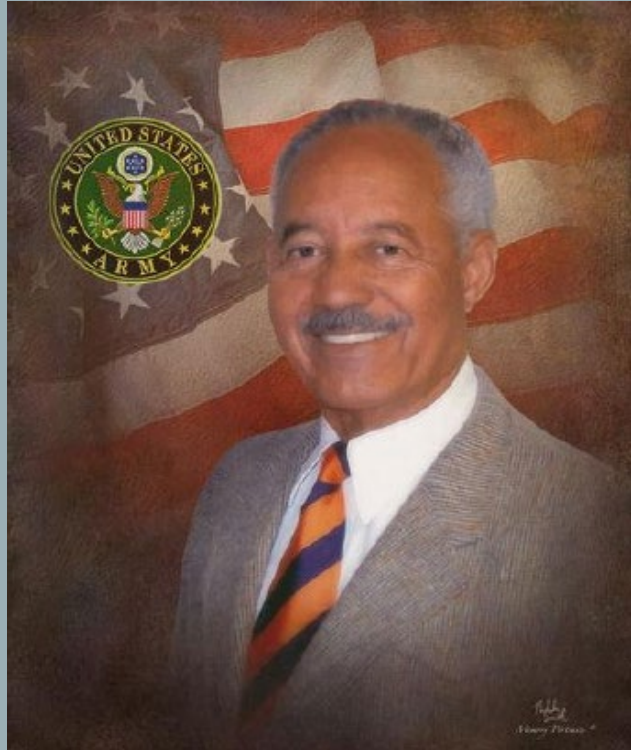


# PONDER PARK LOCATION 7500 W H BURGESS DR IN BETWEEN VISCOUNT AND WH BURGESS





JAMES JOSEPH CROUCH  
APRIL 4, 1927 – JAN. 15, 2018



## MILITARY SERVICE

- Highest-Ranking African-American civilian employee in Fort Bliss's history upon his retirement in 2010.
- Won the Omar N. Bradley Award from the General of the Army.
- Chief of Training for Fort Bliss's artillery systems.
- Congressional Recognition of 33 years with military.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN SPORTS & SPORTS OFFICIATING

- Member of the 1961 & 62' International Fast Pitch Softball Champions from El Paso.
- Officiated 60 + years, softball, volleyball, basketball, for Fort Bliss, local schools, City Facilities
- Officiated 14,000 volleyball and basketball games at the high school level for the Cities Park and Recreation Department.
- El Paso Softball Hall of Fame as a player in 2015
- El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame as a referee in 2006
- Former President for Fort Bliss's Athletic Officials Association.
- Former President of President's Associates for UTEP.

# A FEW OF MR. CROUCH'S RECOGNITIONS

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2371

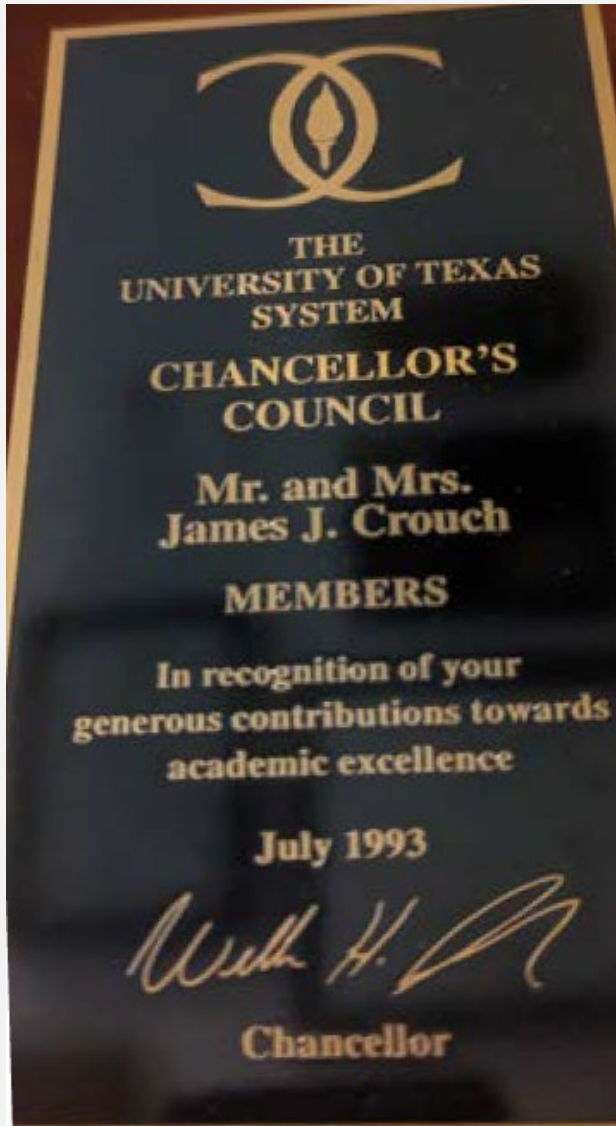
## RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, James J. Crouch of El Paso is retiring in January  
2 2010, drawing to a close an outstanding career in the air defense  
3 industry that has spanned more than six decades; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Crouch studied at Howard University, and after  
5 completing basic training for the United States Army, he was  
6 stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma in 1945; on conclusion of his  
7 service in the Korean War, he began studying missile systems; and

8 WHEREAS, In the 1950s, when Mr. Crouch became involved in air  
9 defense artillery, the field was one of the most technical and  
10 cutting-edge branches of the military, and the first missiles had  
11 just been deployed to counter the threat of jet fighters and  
12 bombers; Mr. Crouch seized the opportunity to learn all he could  
13 about this new industry, taking courses on the Ajax missile, the  
14 Nike Hercules system, and the Hawk missile system, and he went on to  
15 serve as an instructor; he also worked on crews in Germany and  
16 Florida, where he tracked aircraft en route from Cuba, before  
17 retiring in 1974 as ADA chief warrant officer 4 and accepting a  
18 civilian position as a software programmer; and

19 WHEREAS, Later returning to the military sector, Mr. Crouch  
20 has served as the deputy director of training instruction for the  
21 Air Defense Artillery Center and School at Fort Bliss since 1991; he  
22 has been named among the "front four" individuals in the nation's  
23 air defense artillery branch, and he received a special tribute in  
24 2009 from Major General Howard Bromberg, the Fort Bliss commander;



INTRODUCTION OF THE 2006 INDUCTEES	
Merrill T. "Skookie" Autry	Athlete
Alan Culpepper	Athlete
Scott Warman	Athlete
Gene R. Calabro	Administrator
Tony Shaw	Coach
Thomas "Joe Fan" Ciaburri	Media
Joe Gomez	Supporter of Athletics
James J. Crouch	Official
Pete Paredes, Jr.	Posthumous

# WORDS ON MR. CROUCH

“...his spirit, drive and the words of wisdom that he and his wife have given to thousands of young people during their lives will always reign supreme.”

Wayne Thorton, El Paso Times Column, Jan. 27, 2016

“Perhaps the most notable of Crouch's achievements was his attention to the area's youth.”

Wayne Thorton, El Paso Times Column, Jan. 27, 2016

“Crouch helped launch El Paso's golden decade”

Ray Sanchez / El Paso Inc. Feb 5, 2018

“Jim Crouch would take you under his wing and really show you the ropes. He was classy, unexcitable and didn't raise his voice during the game. He is a gold nugget in being very precious in the world of refereeing, and overall just an All-American family.”

Gene Semko, El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Member and attended school with the Crouch children- El Paso Times Column, Jan. 27, 2016



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Over 50 signatures of support from the residents within a 1 mile radius of the Park

Karen M. Roberts  
Cecilia Cisneros  
Albert Ybarra  
Michael Bau  
Beth Keegan  
Adam Butte  
Robert Ramos  
Heura Hara  
Roberto Perez  
Barbara Banuelos  
Dylan Reza  
Scott Weisleitner

Retha Banks  
George Cantigas  
ROBERTO RAMOS  
Jessica Pluhus  
Claudia Martinez  
Robert Martinez  
Ramona Perez  
Naomi Cardenas  
MARGARET SCHAFER  
Chris Morris  
Sergio Michel

- Ponder Park is located within the boundary of the Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association. The neighborhood association has provided their support in renaming the Park after Mr. Crouch.



**Cielo Vista Neighborhood Association**

To whom It may concern,

Re: Support for Renaming Ponder Park to James Jimmy Crouch Park



# QUESTION & ANSWER