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Parking Structure Named for Fred Barrera

Dedication Honors Barrera for His Lifetime of Service to the City of Orange, Including Three Terms as Mayor Pro Tem

ORANGE, Calif., June 8, 2006 One of Chapman University’s parking structures was named for and dedicated to Orange Mayor Pro Tem Emeritus Fred L. Barrera in honor of his lifetime of service to the city in a special ceremony on Thursday, June 8 on the Chapman campus. The newly named Fred L. Barrera Parking Structure is located in back of the Chapman University School of Law, on University Drive between Glassell and Lemon Streets.

What comes rushing back to me are memories, said a surprised Barrera, who reportedly had been under the impression that the university was merely dedicating a parking space to him. With his arm around his wife, Josephine, he gazed up at his name over the entrance to the structure. I was born just around the corner eighty-plus years ago, and I grew up just a block from here. I went to school here, and I played on this very spot when it was just a field, he said.

Chapman president James L. Doti said, Freddie could be a role model for anyone he’s a businessman, a public servant, and one of the sweetest guys I know. Mark Murphy, the mayor of Orange, added, Fred Barrera has always been there for the city of Orange. With him, it has always been about what’s best for the community.

Barrera, a lifelong resident of Orange, was elected to the Orange City Council in 1976 and served five four-year terms three of those as mayor pro tem. He was named Orange’s Citizen of the Year in 1977. Upon his retirement in 1996, the city council bestowed upon him the title of mayor pro tem emeritus.