

Honorable Mayor Gary Singh
City Council Members
City of Manteca
1001 W. Center Street
Manteca, CA 95337

April 7, 2025

Dear Mayor Singh and Council Members:

Enclosed is a petition signed by more than 50 Manteca residents over the age of 18 in support of requesting your consideration to rename Lincoln Park to Marion Elliott Park. This park is a natural choice to name for Mr. Elliott due to his many years as principal of Lincoln School. We are confident of our ability to get many more signatures, but in the interest of time, we are submitting the petition with only slightly more than the required minimum. We are happy to tell you that, in the event that the City Council approves the request to designate Lincoln Park as Marion Elliott Park, we have secured private funding for whatever signage is needed to meet the city's specifications.

Our request and the strong support of many Manteca residents is based on Mr. Elliott's lifetime of service to the citizens and youth of Manteca. Some highlights of Mr. Elliott's attributes are:

- Resident of Manteca for more than 80 years.
- Graduate of Manteca High School 1952.
- An expert on Manteca history contributing by writing articles for Manteca Bulletin for 50 years, 1974-2024.
- Inducted to Manteca Hall of Fame for education.
- Teacher at New Haven, Golden West, and Lathrop Elementary Schools.
- Boys softball coach Lathrop School.
- Vice-Principal, Manteca High School
- Principal, Lincoln School, 1979-1995
- Part-time Manteca recreation director, 1958-1972
- Started first adult softball league in Manteca.
- Manteca Babe Ruth League president.

- Babe Ruth League international board member and district, state, and regional commissioner.
- Grand Marshall of 2013 Manteca Fourth of July parade.
- High school baseball umpire, football and basketball referee.
- Executive secretary, National Babe Ruth Umpires Association.
- City of Manteca Planning Commissioner, 1985-2002.
- Member Manteca Sunrise Kiwanis.
- Member Manteca Historical Society.
- Active member of St. Anthony's Church.
- Member Knights of Columbus and past Grand Knight.
- Member, Manteca Measure M bond committee.

We can think of no person who has given more of himself to Manteca than Marion Elliott. We sincerely hope that the City Council will act favorably on the request to recognize and thank him for his service by renaming Lincoln Park as Marion Elliott Park.

Respectfully,



Jim Thomas
1544 Arnell Place
Manteca, CA 95337
(209)679-7287
jimmmthomas@comcast.net

Marion Elliott was born July 14, 1934, in Bakersfield, CA.

His parent Bert and Goldie Elliott

They moved to Manteca in Spring of 1943. He attended the following schools in Manteca

Castle Grammar School

Lindbergh School

Yosemite School

Manteca High School – Graduated in 1952

He attended Fresno State College (1952 – 1956) (graduated 1956)

Stanislaus State (1979 – Masters – Education)

Holds: Life Diploma – Elementary Education
General Teaching Credential – Secondary Education
General School Services Credential – School Administrators

Member: Association of California School Administrators
Nation Association of Elementary School Principal
Phi Delta Kapp

Drafted and served two years in United State of America, Army

Received the Good Conduct Medal of Honor

Employment: Manteca Unified School District – 37 years

Teacher: New Haven Elementary School
Golden West Elementary School

Lathrop Elementary School - Boys Softball Coach

Administrator: Lathrop Elementary School - Vice Principal

Manteca High - Vice Principal

Lincoln Elementary School - Principal 1979 -1995

Retired: June 1995

ACTIVITIES:

1958 – 2002

Part-time Recreation Director – City of Manteca 1958 – 1972

**Began Adult Softball League; Semi-Pro Tournament of
Champions**

Involved in 1st Manteca BabeRuth Baseball Program

President of Little John League

District Commissioner

State Commissioner

Pacific Southwest Regional Commissioner

At-Large Member of BabeRuth League, Inc. Board of Directors

Planning Commissioner – City of Manteca 1985 – 2002

Served as a member of the Measure M Bond Committee

Northern California Officials Association (NCOA)

Executive Secretary

National BabeRuth Umpires Association

Official: Football, Basketball, Baseball

Active Member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church

Lector/Chairperson of Lectors

Teacher of Religious Education

Knights of Columbus

-Part Grand Knight

-Membership Chairman

- Fourth Degree Member, Ch.

-Youth Free Throw Contest, Ch.*

***Open to students of MUSD**

"Sports Yesteryear" and "Backward Glance" Columnist for the

Manteca Bulletin - 1974 – 2024

Memberships: Sunrise Kiwanis; Manteca Historical Society

Past President – East Union Athletic Boosters Club

Honors: Manteca High School Hall of Fame

Manteca Boys & Girls Club Hall of Fame Inductee 1997

Personal:

Marion and Mona raised their 3 children in Manteca. The children went to MUSD

4 of their 6 grandchildren were raised in Manteca and went to MUSD

2 children are residents of Manteca, married and raising their children in Manteca

1 is a local Hog Farmer

1 grandson-in-law is a Manteca Policeman

1 grandson-in-law is a Manteca Firefighter

MARION ELLIOTT

The nominee was received into the Roman Catholic Church in 1954 at the age of 20. Soon thereafter, he began offering his time and talents to the Parish and faith community. His participation in the ministries of the Parish is continual and endless. He has touched many lives from the youth to the seasoned. He is a tremendous asset to our Parish as well as the entire Church.

As an educator, he began sharing his talent while teaching eighth-grade Catechism classes for over 10 years. He was awarded the Pius X medal in 1969. Not only was he preparing young adults for Confirmation, he also was a chaperone on many trips with the candidates. He is mentor at St. Anthony of Padua Parish School, having serving on various accreditation review committees. In addition, he has been an instructor with Catholics Returning Home program, as well as an instructor in the Parish RCIA program.

He spent several years as a volunteer visiting wards at the Northern California Youth Authority facility in Stockton.

With a love for music, he joined the choir in 1968 and spent a short time as the director of the Parish Choir. He was a member for several years.

Comfortable as a public speaker, he began volunteering as a Lector during the Sunday Masses. He has been a Lector for more than 35 years. His activities include the interviewing of new lectors and coordinating their assignments. He works closely with the pastor in assigning Lectors for weekly and holiday masses. He currently represents the Lectors group on the Parish Liturgy Committee.

As a Past Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus, he participates in many events in support of the priests and parishioners of St. Anthony's Church, to wit:

- Tootsie Roll campaign to benefit the mentally challenged
- Pancake breakfasts to benefit Manteca's Pregnancy Help Center
- High School and St. Anthony's School scholarships
- Free Throw Contests for youth of the Community
- Essay Contests for St. Anthony School students
- Co-founder of the Annual Priests Appreciation Dinner at St. Anthony's Parish

With exceptional organizational skills, he is often called upon to promote and coordinate Parish and Diocesan fundraisers such as the Bishop's Ministry Appeal and/or Church for Tomorrow campaigns.

Member: Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Italian Catholic Federation

He has volunteered for many years at the St. Anthony's Parish Harvest Festival.



Marion E. Elliott of Manteca, California, is a former member of the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Board of Directors. He began his affiliation as a volunteer in 1962. He first served as a League President and then as a District Commissioner from 1965 to 1977. Mr. Elliott held the position of Central California

State Commissioner from 1977 until 1989, when he was elected to the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Board of Directors as the Pacific Southwest Regional Commissioner. He retired from the Babe Ruth program in the Fall of 2008. Professionally, Elliott is a retired principal from Lincoln School in Manteca. He received his Masters degree from California State University.



Jim Lemp of Cheyenne, Wyoming, a member of the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Board of Directors, started in the Babe Ruth program in 1959 serving as a Team Manager, League President, Secretary and Treasurer. After leaving the local league level, he served as District Commissioner, Assistant State Commissioner, State

Commissioner and Assistant Regional Commissioner until being elected to the Babe Ruth League, Inc. Board of Directors as the Pacific Northwest Regional Commissioner in 1983, and in 2000 when he became an At-Large Member. Mr. Lemp retired from the Union Pacific Railroad after 43 years of service. He was awarded the Wyoming Park and Recreation Award for a Non-Professional and Cheyenne's "Golden Deeds" Award for "Man of the Year".



The Dodson/Sun Post

LEADING FOR THE SIDELINES: Manteca resident Marion Elliott talks about his decades of service to Babe Ruth youth baseball at East Union's Agostini Field where Babe Ruth teams played postseason contests this past summer. Elliott has volunteered at various levels of the Babe Ruth organization the past 44 years and will wrap up his final term as an international board member in 2008. Still, he plans to keep watching games.

One dedicated fan

Longtime youth baseball volunteer ready to retire

The Dodson
Sun Post

Manteca's Marion Elliott has been a humble servant to local youth baseball for 44 years. In all that time, he has never received a paycheck.

His only wages are the sights and sounds of Manteca's youngsters playing the game they love.

"The bottom line is I love to watch kids play baseball," Elliott said. "I am very proud of being able to provide activities for kids who want to learn to play baseball and keep them busy at a very critical time in their lives."

Elliott will wrap up his final term as Babe Ruth League Inc. international board member in October 2008. By then,

he will be 74 and will have held titles as a district commissioner, state commissioner, regional commissioner and, of course, Manteca Babe Ruth president.

He has been an active international board member for 17 years, during which he has been involved in Babe Ruth's budgetary decisions and rule changes. He also runs a Babe Ruth World Series each year, the same type of tournament East Union High's 16-year-old team attended in 2008.

In 1962, Elliott — then a struggling young teacher working in the summertime for the Manteca Parks and Recreation department — founded the Manteca Babe Ruth program.

He recognized the lack of a program for 13- to 15-year-olds in Manteca, so he got in touch with Stockton Babe Ruth. He threw together two teams to play in Stockton that year, before fielding four in 1963 and six a year later.

Now, the Manteca Babe Ruth program is in full bloom and is often a contender in the district and regional playoffs. Last year, a 15-year-old Babe Ruth All-Star team advanced into the Central California State Tournament, where it finished third.

"There have been some good ball players to come through Manteca, and some mediocre ones," Elliott said. "But they all have fun and learn some skill about the game of baseball."

Despite his deep involvement in Babe Ruth baseball, it won't be too difficult for Elliott to step down from his post.

He says he looks forward to spending time with his family.

"I am enjoying being a grandfather, and that's probably something I will focus on after my term is up," Elliott said with a laugh. "I don't think I will miss it much, because I will still be around to watch some games."

"The bottom line is I love to watch kids play baseball."

— Marion Elliott
Manteca Babe Ruth volunteer

Fourth of July 2013



Bulletin file photo

Marion Elliott is shown with his national Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame induction plaque.

Elliott serves as parade grand marshal

Marion Elliott — a man who has devoted his life to educating youth as well as supporting recreational activities for young people — is serving as the Grand Marshal for this year's Manteca Fourth of July parade.

The parade starts Thursday, July 4, at 10 a.m. It departs Jason Street/Golden West School and heads south on Main Street to Center Street where it will turn to the west and end at Library Park.

Elliott was born in Bakersfield on July 14, 1934 and moved to Manteca at age 9.

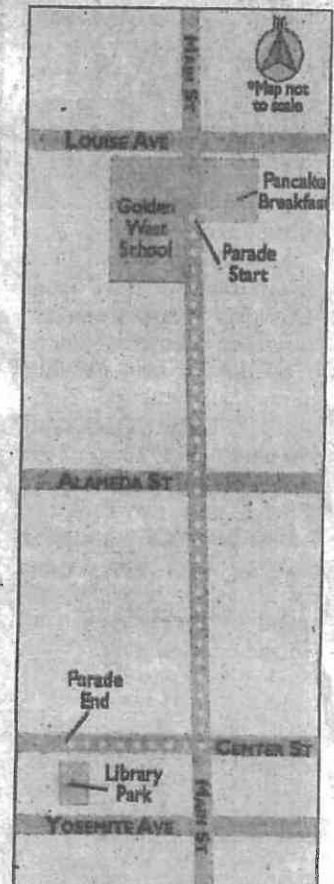
The 1952 Manteca High graduate was hired as a sixth grade teacher for the then-new New Haven School after a two-year stint in the Army at White Sands in New Mexico.

The Fresno State graduate obtained his Masters in Education from Stanislaus State in 1979. He was employed for 37 years in the Manteca Unified School District. He taught at New Haven, Golden West, and Lathrop. His administrative

PARADE

career included stints as vice principal at Lathrop School and Manteca High and 17 years as Lincoln School principal when he retired in June of 1995.

He was a part-time recreation director for the City of Manteca and was responsible for starting the adult softball league. He was involved in the first Manteca babe Ruth Baseball League and has served as district, state, regional, and international commissioner for the baseball organization. Elliott served as executive secretary of the National Babe Ruth Umpires Association and served as a high school baseball umpire and has officiated basketball and football in previous years. Elliott is a big fan of Manteca history, writing the "Manteca History" and "Sports Yesteryear" columns for the Manteca Bulletin. He is already a member of the Manteca High Hall of Fame and the national Babe Ruth Hall of Fame.



RYAN BALBUENA/The Bulletin

Route for Thursday's Sunrise Kiwanis Fourth of July parade and location of the Manteca Kiwanis pancake breakfast

Introduce yourself, what you do and your relation to Marion Elliott: *My name is Susan Swift. I am Marion's oldest daughter – the middle child.*

What do you know to be true about Marion? *He is a statistician and a historian. My dad is very organized and structured. He has always said you get more done and accomplished by being organized. He said he learned that in the Army.*

Tell me a funny or just a great story: *If you are at my parents' house around 9:00pm, he will start taking off his shoes and socks, he will say good night and then head to the shower – that's your clue to leave.*

What does Marion like to do for fun? *He enjoys visiting with his family and friends and going to sporting events – especially high school sporting events.*

Why is Marion Elliott such a treasure to Manteca? *He loves Manteca and the history that formed Manteca. He was raised in Manteca. After college and serving in the Army, he and my Mom returned to Manteca where they worked and raised their family. He has volunteered and continues to volunteer with many different organizations benefiting Manteca. He has done this throughout his entire adult life. I cannot remember all of the things he has been affiliated with or involved in.*

For a number of years, he was the part-time Recreation Director for the City of Manteca. During that time, he organized not only youth sports but adult softball and basketball leagues and he put on tournaments.

He began Babe Ruth baseball in Manteca.

While teaching, he was the softball coach at Lathrop School. He also took his algebra class to the Math tournament at UOP every year. He chaperoned school dances. He and my Mom chaperoned a bicentennial trip to Boston with high school students.

He is very involved with his faith community at St. Anthony's Catholic Church. He taught eighth grade CCD at St. Anthony's for many years.

For the city, he has organized essay contests and was on scholarship committees. Manteca used to have high school marching band reviews (or parades). He organized those. He organized basketball tournaments.

When we were in high school in the 1970's, he would write the East Union High School sports articles for the Manteca Bulletin. After the games, he would also call in the stats to the Stockton Record and Modesto Bee. He continues to write the history and sports history columns for the Manteca Bulletin.

He also umpired or officiated high school football, basketball and baseball games.

Is there anything that that you would like to say about Mr. Elliott – that I did not ask you. *Not only was he a great teacher, educator, administrator, he enjoyed organizing youth sports and adult leagues because these activities kept and keep kids and people "off the street" and out of trouble so to speak.*

If you grew up in Manteca from the 1940's, you may have gone to school with him, were a student of his, you knew him from St Anthony's or knew him from a sporting event or was on a committee with him.

He is a great public speaker. He has emceed many events. When he was in College (he went to Fresno State) he would come home on Fridays to announce the Manteca High Football games.

Tell me something about Mr. Elliott that you'd like to say to him, that you have never told him. *He is the best father anyone could ask for. He is a great role model. We have awesome parents and I love them very much. I definitely do not say that enough.*



Babe Ruth League, Inc.

1770 Brunswick Pike • P.O. Box 5000 • Trenton, NJ 08638 • Phone: 609-278-2300 • Fax: 609-695-5171

STEVEN M. TELLEFSEN
President/Chief Executive Officer

October 1, 2008

Mr. Marion Elliott
421 April Way
Manteca, California 95336

Dear Marion:

You have certainly had a tremendous "career" with Babe Ruth League, Inc. Words cannot express how grateful we are to you for wearing many hats for the program -League President, District Commissioner, State Commissioner, Regional Commissioner and Board Member.

I do not think there is another youth organization that has a more dedicated and unique volunteer than "Marion Elliott". Where else could you find a person who has not only helped grow the program nationally, but who has also provided a host of innovative ideas over the years?

Please also thank Mona for her support throughout the years. She is a very special lady, and we have the utmost respect for her.

When we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. Thank you for being a vital part of the change that has made Babe Ruth League, Inc. one of the premier youth sports programs in the country.

Marion, you and Mona will always be family. We have enjoyed working with you and look forward to a continued relationship. We wish you great fun and happiness and hope that your futures are everything you expect them to be and more!

Sincerely,

Steven M. Tellefsen

SMT/tc

 **Vernon Gebhardt**
Edit Profile

WRITES

News Feed
Messages 15
Events 3
Photos
Browse

GROUPS

History of Mant... 20+
East Union High ... 16
Create Group...

APPS

Games 20+
DoubleDown Ca... 1
Norton Safe Web
Bubble Safari
Music
Pokes 10
Social Calendar
Games Feed 20+
On This Day

FRIENDS

Manteca Unified ... 1
University of the... 20+

PAGES

Pages Feed 20+
Like Pages 20+
Create a Page...

INTERESTS

Pages and Public Figures
Add Interests...



History of Manteca California

Members

Events

Photos

Files

Notifications

Create Group



Bob Scharmann

This man has been vice principal at two schools and 17 years as principal at Lincoln Elementary . He is responsible for getting adult softball started in Manteca . He is still involved in umpires association for Babe Ruth . Also served as director for the first Babe Ruth league in Manteca . Changed many young peoples lives . A great man and friend Mr. Marion Elliott



Like · Comment · Share · 19 hours ago

Joe Brocchini, Mitchell Ahles, Athena Hoover and 98 others like this.



Sara Brophy Alexander My first boss for Manteca Unified.

19 hours ago · Like · 2



Odus Stotts Boy , do i remember himspent more time in his office than he did

19 hours ago · Like · 3



Bob Scharmann Did he have a BIG PADDLE Odus?

19 hours ago · Like



Odus Stotts I never got a swat bob

19 hours ago · Like · 2



Tim Erwin A true gentlemel

19 hours ago · Like · 5



Angela Marie I remember him as my principal....alot of good times and some bad. As an adult, I must say, a wonderful man!

18 hours ago · Like · 1



Bob Scharmann A great man . I have known Mr Elliott all my life

18 hours ago · Like · 1



Daniel Gonzales I remember him from Lincoln school. Nice guy.

18 hours ago · Like



Chris Spurgeon Anyone else remember him coming by the classroom and allowing each student of the month to cut off a piece of his tie and keep it as a souvenir? Oh the silly things we placed value on as kids.

18 hours ago · Like · 4



Robert Miranda I can't believe all the grief I put this man

About

2,005 members

Open Group

Manteca Hlstory And Historical Sites

2,005 members (1,554 new) · Invite by Email

Add People to Group

Tags:

Manteca, California · Ripon, California · Lathrop, California

Suggested Groups

See All



AroundRipon
Jeff Frase and 10 other friends joined
Join Group



Modesto Buy and Sell - California
7,551 members
Join Group



Memories of Stockton
Regina Serrano and 2 other friends joined
Join Group



Modesto News
Tony Serrano joined
Join Group



Stockton History
Ralph McChesney and 9 other friends joined
Join Group



You know you grew up in Manteca wh...
Lauren Custer Dowling and

Home 20+ Vernon

History of Manteca California



Angela Marie Chris Spurgeon, I didn't remember until you said something...I had a few in my years there...

18 hours ago · Like · 1



Vernon Gebhardt A great friend. Does not look for recognition for the many things he does for athletics, academics, and his church.

18 hours ago · Like · 3



Elizabeth Ivey Mr Elliot

17 hours ago · Like · 1



Elizabeth Ivey I don't remember which school. But I didn't go to Lincoln.

17 hours ago · Like · 1



Steve Lewis Mr. Elliot was vice principle at MHS when I was there. A very nice guy that taught me a lot.

17 hours ago · Like · 1



Denise Martin Mr Elliott ---- great man!

16 hours ago · Like · 1



Robert Stewart 6th grade Golden West! Great man.

15 hours ago · Like · 1



Scott Morris Called a technical foul on me in Freshman basketball.

15 hours ago · Like · 1



Penni Innerarity Kern does anyone remember the principal before him? I forget his name, but he stole something form a really stupid store like value giant and got caught! he high tailed it out of town after that!! Everyone makes mistakes...BYW, Mr Elliot rocks!!!

8 hours ago · Like



Sara Brophy Alexander Penni Innerarity Kern, you're thinking of Bob Parker...I really liked him.

8 hours ago · Like · 1



Penni Innerarity Kern Thats right Sara!! I wish he would have just chilled and said "ya I made a mistake, but its all good!" He was a great man:)

8 hours ago · Like



Sara Brophy Alexander I'm sure people with any addiction have family and friends who wish the addiction would end...obsessions and addictions are tough as most of us know with one thing or another.

8 hours ago · Like



Penni Innerarity Kern I never thought about it that way Sara! I just thought it was a momentary lapse in judgement or even a mistake. You are more insightful than I am! LOL

7 hours ago · Like



Ben Cantu Amen!!

7 hours ago · Like



Andy Gipson I remember him from Lincoln Elementary

4 hours ago · Like



Aaron Goodwin A great man

3 hours ago · Like



Judy Peoples Haskins Mr Elliott has always been a great great man. In and out of school. Love him!

36 minutes ago · Like



Sandy Winchell Gatto Such a nice man!

3 minutes ago · Like



ATTACHMENT - 1



Super Soul Star
Entertainment

Mark Haynes and 3 other friends joined
Join Group



Motorcycles and Classics
Online Store

2,344 members
Join Group



San Joaquin County Local
Sales (St...

Mari Danette Jarred and 7
other friends joined
Join Group



Manteca Garage Sales
Gina Rogers-Gama and 14
other friends joined

Join Group

People You May Know

See All



Sean Soto
10 mutual friends
Add Friend



Carol Alavezos
3 mutual friends
Add Friend



Candy Guzman
10 mutual friends
Add Friend



Evelyn Agdoma
(Guillermo)
6 mutual friends
Add Friend



Karen Joaquin (Karen
Andreetta Joaquin)
32 mutual friends
Add Friend



Karen Windham
16 mutual friends
Add Friend