

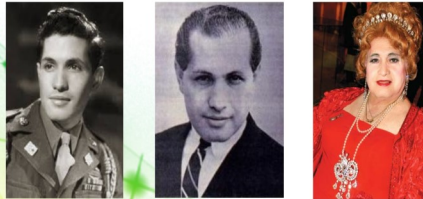
Join the National Campaign To Put
JOSE JULIO SARRIA

In The California Hall of Fame

Please write your letter of support to:

Governor Gavin Newsom

California State Capitol, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 95814



Honorary Campaign Chairs

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President California
State Senate



Honorable Todd Gloria
Majority Whip
CA State Assembly

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City Commissioner Nicole Murray-Ramirez

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State Campaign Director

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Please email a copy of your letter to: Mistybluesf@gmail.com

This Campaign is a project of the International Imperial Court System

Canada-United States-Mexico

www.internationalcourtsystem.org



José Julio Sarria
1922 – 2013

Best known for a lifetime of activism, José Julio Sarria was a native of San Francisco, a World War II veteran and founder of the International Court System.

During the 1950s, he was an entertainer at the Black Cat in San Francisco where he was a vocal critic of the frequent police raids and discriminatory treatment towards the gay community. He would end of every performance with “God Save Us Nellie Queens”, his audience joining him in solidarity.

He started the League of Civil Education and later reformed it into the Society for Individual Rights. In 1961, he campaigned for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, becoming the first openly gay candidate for public office and opening the door for gay politicians that came after him, including Harvey Milk.

In 1964 the Tavern Guild of San Francisco crowned Sarria as the Queen of the Beau Arts Ball. He proclaimed himself “Jose I, Empress of San Francisco,” the beginning of what would become the Imperial Court of San Francisco and growing into the International Court System. Today, with 68 chapter courts across the United States, Canada and Mexico, the International Court System is the second largest LGBT organization in the world. Sarria led the organization until 2007, inspiring its member to serve their communities and strive for equality. His mantra of “United we stand, divided they will get us one by one.” continues to resonate throughout the International Court System. Sarria continued his role as the “Grand Mere” of the International Imperial Court System until his death, traveling throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico sharing his wisdom and life experience with the younger generation of courtiers.

Sarria’s community service and activism continues to be recognized internationally. He served as Grand Marshall for Pride celebrations and gay rodeo events throughout the country. In 1997, Sarria was invited to participate in the Global Cultural Diversity Conference in Berlin. He received 1999 Human Rights Award by the City of Hayward, and recognized by the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society, the Gay & Lesbian Archives and One Institute in Los Angeles, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, The San Francisco Senior Center, and by the Mayor and City of San Diego. In 2006, San Diego City Commissioner Nicole Murray Ramirez and San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty led a successful campaign to rename a section of 16th Street in the Castro to “José Sarria Court”. A plaque outlining Sarria’s accomplishments, sponsored by the International Court Council, is embedded in the sidewalk in front of the Harvey Milk Memorial Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. In June 2009, the California State Assembly honored Sarria for his lifetime of community service and activism.

Sarria is the subject of the acclaimed book, “The Empress is a Man,” by Michael Gorman which won a Lambda Literary Award in 1999, as well as two documentary films currently in production, “Nellie Queen – The Life and Times of Jose Sarria” and “50 Years of Fabulous”. Sarria is featured in the 2017 pilot episode of the new ABC mini series “When We Rise”, written by Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black.