

**Date**

May 9, 2023

**Information Item Submitted to the COS District Governance Senate for Review:**

Per COS AP/BP 6620, I am submitting the request that the COS Turf Field, be named after longtime faculty member, and coach, Al Branco. Al Branco is a 1960 graduate of COS before graduating from Washington State University, and then Cal Poly with a Masters in Physical Education.

Al Branco was hired at COS in 1969, and retired from COS in 2001. During his tenure at COS he served as the Head Football Coach for 16 years, Assistant Football Coach for 12, Head Wrestling Coach for 5, Head Softball Coach for 6, Head Baseball Coach for 5, Women's Tennis and Women's Golf for one year each, and was the Athletic Director for 11. He was a highly successful coach in all sports he was involved with, and his time as the COS Athletic Director is considered to be a stellar time in our institutions history.

Coach Branco has remained active with COS since his retirement in 2001. He has remained as a part of the COS Golf Tournament Fundraising Committee to this day; he started the COS Student-Athlete Alumni Drive in 2018, and is a part of the committee that launched the first COS Athletics Endowment Fund through the COS Foundation. He is still seen in the stands at most COS Home Athletic Events and has dedicated large amounts of time mentoring and coaching young coaches who join our athletic staffs. In all, he has been affiliated with COS as a student, faculty, volunteer, fundraiser, and mentor for 54 years and counting.

Coach Branco was inducted into the COS Hall of Fame in 2014, the California Community College Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2002, has served as a lead football game observer for the state since 2010, and became the Executive Director for the State Football Coaches Association in 2014.

It is customary in sports to name buildings after sponsors and corporate partners. But the fields, courts, pools, and playing surfaces get named after people who have spent nearly a lifetime dedicating themselves to better those around them. I cannot think of a more deserving person to name the field, in our new "Sequoias Stadium", after Coach Al Branco for the 54 years (and still counting) that he has dedicated to COS and the community we serve.

**Recommendation:**

Please move this proposal to the COS Board of Trustees for approval.