

Chris Zapata Jr.
Civic Administrator – Community Activist
Inducted into the SC Hall of Fame October 12, 2012

Chris Zapata is a product of the Eloy Elementary School District and Santa Cruz Valley Union High School. He is the son of the late Carlos Duarte and Virginia Duarte, Eloy Constable and daughter of the Eloy pioneering Salazar family.

Chris was both a scholar and gifted athlete at Santa Cruz. He led his class as President his freshman, sophomore, and junior years and was a member of the National Honor Society for three years.

His popularity led him to be chosen as both the FHA “Mr. Preferred” and the GAA “Honey”.

Among his athletic accomplishments were being selected as Class A All-Conference in football, basketball, and baseball, Captain and Outstanding Player for 1976 – 77, Honorable Mention All-State Defensive Back, All Valley Football First Team Defensive Back, and left fielder on the State Baseball Championship Team of 1976.

After graduation from Santa Cruz, Chris continued his education at Northern Arizona University where he graduated in 1982.

Following family tradition of community activism, Chris was active in supporting the Eloy Little League while serving as Director of Eloy’s Leisure Services department.

He returned to Eloy to serve as its City Manager. He later went on to be City Manager at Superior, Arizona, National City, California, and San Leandro, California where he is currently employed.

Among Chris’ many awards and recognitions are being appointed by Governor Napolitano to be Chairman of Appellate Court Nominating Committee, Secretary of the Arizona Assistant City Manager’s Association, Exemplary Leadership Award by the Valle de Sol, Chairman of the Pinal County City Manager’s Association, Executive Board of the Arizona City Managers Association, President of the International Hispanic Network, Member of the San Diego County Treasurer’s Oversight Board, Member of the International City Manager Association Retirement Advisory and Planning Committees, and Advancement of Diverse Communities Award from the League of California Cities.

Chris is the proud father of Dr. Jade Zapata, who attended Eloy Elementary Schools, the University of Arizona Medical School, and was the recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Psychiatry Student and Lee Michael Zapata, Santa Cruz Valley Union High School Valedictorian and 2009 Stanford University graduate.