



Who was Maclovio Barraza?

“Mr. Mac”

# Who was Maclovio Barraza

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## Native Arizonan:

Born in Superior, Arizona

March 8, 1927

Grandson of a copper miner

Son of a copper miner

8th grade formal education

Largely self educated

# Who was Maclovio Barraza

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- ▶ Family man:



# Who was Maclovio Barraza

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- ▶ Serviceman:



# Who was Maclovio Barraza

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- ▶ Ardent union supporter and organizer:
  - ▶ First went to work in copper mines at age of 15
  - ▶ Saw first hand the many injustices in the copper industry
    - ▶ Dual wage system – Hispanics received a “Mexican Wage”, 60% of white wage
    - ▶ Housing segregation
    - ▶ Forced use of company store
    - ▶ No hope of advancement
- ▶ First union involvement as a mine worker occurred in 1947 at age of 20 at the Eagle Pitcher Mine south of Tucson (now closed).

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- ▶ Joined Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union in 1950.
- ▶ Elected president of his local and subsequently rose to full time organizer and representative for Mine Mill.
- ▶ 1960 elected director of district 2 of Mine Mill with responsibility for union activities in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Southern California, and West Texas.

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- ▶ In 1967, at great risk to his career, he championed the merger between Mine Mill Union and the United Steelworkers of America. Accused of “selling out” Mine Mill. Saw merger as only way of continuing to improve the working conditions in copper industry.
- ▶ Continued to advocate for improved working conditions as director of the new United Steelworkers of America.

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- ▶ As important as his union activities were they were only a part of his resume.
- ▶ He used his position of power and influence to advance the civil liberties of oppressed minorities
  - ▶ Active champion of civil rights for all
  - ▶ Fought for free text books for public school students in Arizona
  - ▶ Fought for free kindergarten in Arizona
  - ▶ Fought to have original PCC campus located on Westside. In order to encourage minority student attendance.
  - ▶ Early on in the development of the farm worker movement he provided financial and organizational support to Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union



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- ▶ Negotiated a \$1.4 million grant with Ford Foundation to set up a voter registration drive in the Southwest to bring more Hispanics into the political mainstream. This was the precursor of the Hispanic voters becoming a decisive force in the 2012 elections

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- ▶ In 1968 he was the founding chairperson of the Southwest Council of La Raza which later became the National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
  - ▶ NCLR serves millions of Americans every year in 41 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico by working with its affiliate network of nearly 300 community-based organizations located throughout the country. The NCLR is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has five regional offices in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Phoenix, and San Antonio. [1] NCLR receives funding from philanthropic organizations, such as the Ford Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as corporations such as Citigroup and Wal-Mart.

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- ▶ Every year at its national convention NCLR awards the Maclovio R Barraza leadership award to rising leaders in the hispanic community
  - ▶ Some of past recipients:
    - ▶ Lorraine Lee, Chicanos Por La Causa, Tucson
    - ▶ Mayor Henry Cisneros, San Antonio
    - ▶ Congressman Robert Garcia
    - ▶ Judge Ricardo Manuel Urbina
    - ▶ Jorge Muñoz, New York
    - ▶ Reynaldo Martinez, Nevada

# Who was Maclovio Barraza

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- ▶ “Mac was like a field General as he often stood on the front lines of *El Movimiento* and commanded his forces against overwhelming odds, always audacious and brilliant, thus he was known.”
- ▶ Armando de Leon - Maricopa County Judge

# Who was Maclovio Barraza

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- “Lasting social change happens on the shoulders of others, those who have been pioneers and trailblazers. Maclovio Barraza was one such person. Mac’s vision of justice, political participation and social change was and continues to be of national proportions. As a young man running for the state senate for the first time, his help and his counsel was of great importance to me. He was a straight shooter and there never was any ambiguity as to where he stood. I want to add my support to the many community voices that are requesting the renaming of the parkway in his honor, and a work of art be commissioned along the parkway route that honors his work and sacrifice on behalf of those that were voiceless and disenfranchised.”
- Jaime P. Gutierrez – U of A VP for External Relations

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- ▶ “Tough-as-steel copper crusader had vein of solid gold in his heart”
- ▶ Steve Emerine – Arizona Daily Star

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- ▶ “Mac was among the visionaries ,who nudged awake the "sleeping giant" of the Hispanic community enabling it to move so effectively into significant political action culminating in the elections of 2012. It was Maclovio Barraza who first acted to register Hispanics to vote in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Texas. While he was primarily an organizer for the copper miners, he was a tireless advocate for dignity and justice for all workers regardless of ethnicity. He belongs not only to Tucson's great heritage but to its strong cultural heritage as well.”
- ▶ George Miller – Former Mayor of Tucson

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- ▶ In 1980 Maclovio Barraza passed away unexpectedly at the age of 53. He died in the heat of battle as the lead union negotiator with the copper industry companies.



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- ▶ In 1995, in recognition of his many achievements the Tucson City Council named the new state route 210 the Barraza Aviation Parkway
- ▶ As the Parkway nears its final phase linking Interstate 10 through downtown to the existing parkway, we are asking that the parkway be renamed in honor of one of our most distinguished citizens the: “Mac” Barraza Parkway.

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- ▶ As a further memorial we feel it is necessary to design and build a suitable work of art at a prominent location along the new Parkway as part of the “Downtown Links” project.

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## Remembering Maclovio Barraza:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRTek2VdQI0>

