

Feliz Dia de Las Madres

LA VOZ de **BRAZORIA COUNTY**

El Periódico Más Interesante en el Condado

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Volume 19 Number 5

www.lavoznewspapers.com

May, 2008

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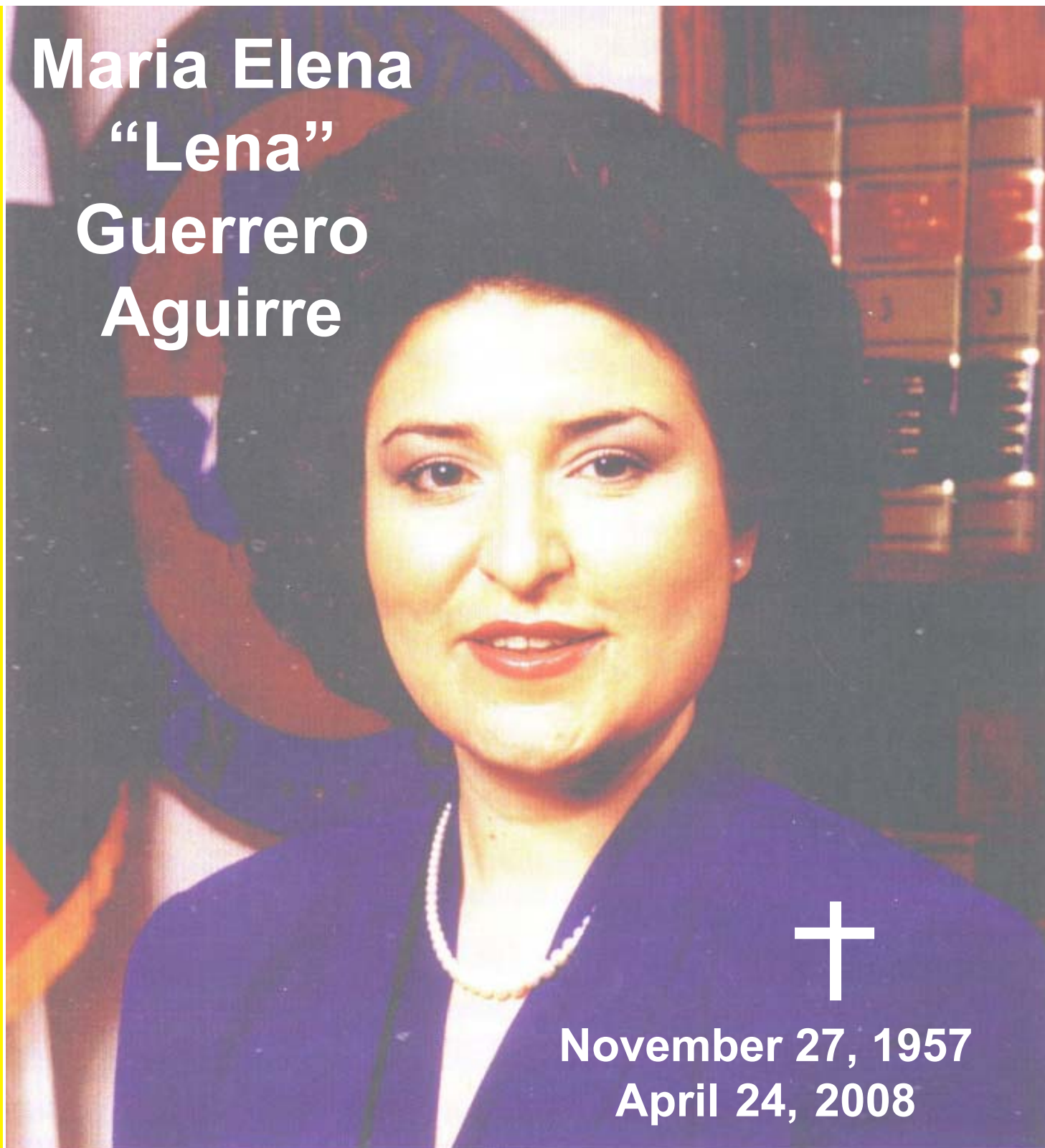
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Maria Elena "Lena" Guerrero Aguirre



**November 27, 1957
April 24, 2008**

21st Century Leadership Center at St. Mary's University

Organizational Spotlight

The 21st Century Leadership Center of St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, is committed to providing exemplary educational opportunities for a new generation of leaders who will give from their lives and talents a high measure of civic engagement, community support and public service. St. Mary's strong standard of inclusion has made it a beacon in higher education for the access and transformation of people of all religious faiths and cultural traditions. Increasing new leadership opportunities among emerging communities in diverse contexts will build on St. Mary's rich heritage of 150 years. For the underserved and underrepresented, the Leadership Center will educate, train and resource future generations to lead ethically and effectively in the global community.



Don D. Arispe, Community Leadership Facilitator

Don D. Arispe was appointed the **Community Leadership Facilitator** of the **21st Century Leadership Center** at **St. Mary's University** in **San Antonio, Texas**, in May 2003. Prior to his appointment, Arispe was a **Community Development Specialist** with **Casey Family Programs**, San Antonio Division.

Arispe has been engaged in community leadership development in a variety of ways. Arispe has served as a community volunteer organizer for the **American Cancer Society** in the **Rio Grande Valley**; lead Youth and Family Ministry leadership activities at the parish and diocesan levels for the archdiocese of **San Antonio**; co-developed "Critical Thinking Skills from a Gospel Perspective," curricula for young adults with the local **Maryknoll Education** office; for over a decade has facilitated Social Justice/Catholic Social

Teaching mini courses and Theological Reflection Circles for **Oblate School of Theology's, (OST) Instituto de Formacion Pastoral**, and at one point directed **OST's Lay Ministry Institute**.

Prior to coming to **St. Mary's**, Arispe has had the privilege of serving, training and developing advocacy curricula for foster children, the birth parents of these children, foster parents, kinship families and adoptive parents for **Casey Family Programs** and Child Protective Services.



For the past 25 years he has served his community either as a full time volunteer or professional lay minister, and or social worker.

Arispe holds a BA in Sociology from **St. Mary's University**, a Master of Theological Studies with a concentration in Hispanic Ministry from **Oblate School of Theology**, and a Master of Social Work degree from **Our Lady of the Lake's Worden School**. He has also completed graduate hours toward a Master of Urban Studies at **Trinity University** and hours toward a Master of Divinity at **Oblate School of Theology**.

In his role as **Community Leadership Facilitator** of the **21st Century Leadership Center**, Arispe is principally responsible for developing and initiating popular education based **Community Leadership Reflection Circles**, a

Community Leadership Development Collaborative comprised of Community Leadership Development programs.

Arispe is married to **Kim Arispe** of the Center for Women in Church and Society at **Our Lady of the Lake University** and proud father of 3 children ages 23, 18 and 14. He is the 4th of 6 siblings and is a native of **San Antonio**. His father's family has resided in **San Antonio** since the late 1700's and are decedents of the **Canary Islands**. His mother's family is originally from **Mexico** and became migrant farm workers when entering this country. He was the first in his nuclear family to earn a bachelor's degree. He enjoys traveling and the outdoors; house boating, camping, beer making, fishing, hiking, animal watching and spending as much time as possible on his back porch watching sunsets and hummingbirds with his children, wife and friends.





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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

La Voz de Brazoria County is a monthly publication. The editorial and business address is P.O. Box 2708 Angleton, Texas 77515. The telephone number is (979) 549-5221. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged. But do call and let us know what you are using. Letters to the editor are most welcome.

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Saying Good Bye to a Legend in Her Own Time

I did not know **Lena Guerrero** personally. I had heard much about her during the 1980s as her political career was taking off, but I cannot say that I knew her. But I did say hello to her once as we passed each other at a conference at the **University of Houston**. She smiled back and said, "hi."

It was not my intention to put on the cover of this edition of **La Voz de Brazoria County**. Something else was already in the works. But after attending her funeral mass on April 26th, and listening to all the people who were indeed her friends, I thought it would be appropriate to switch out the covers.

As I listen to the various speakers share their memory of this remarkable young lady, I was impressed by how each one seemed to touch on the tenacity of **Ms. Guerrero**. I was also moved by how many others commented on her lack of fear. (ella no tenia miedo de nada)

It is not often that a **Lena Guerrero** answers the call for public service. She was indeed a pioneer and role model for the many who have since followed in her footsteps. De parte de **La Voz de Brazoria County**, and all those who help to produce this publication every month, we wish to extend our condolences to the **Lena Guerrero** family. On page 7 is a tribute that was taken from the funeral program in **Austin, Texas**.

A Mother's Day Message

Dear readers,

I've always thought of the month of May as a "precious and beautiful month". Flowers are blooming, the grass is growing and school will be ending soon.

May also is the month we honor our dear mothers. When we think of the word "Mother" we think of our female parent. Many people may speak of his country as their mother country. He may call their language the mother tongue. Eve is called the mother of mankind. We speak of the earth as Mother Earth and Mother Nature. But, the word "Mother" is the sweetest of all the words we hear. It means love, patience, understanding, forgiveness, respect, caring and many more.

The second Sunday of May, the 11th, is "Mother's Day". Call your mother, send her a bouquet of flowers, or go with her to church and see how proud she is to be with her family on this very special day. We celebrate mother's day in many churches throughout the world. In many countries it is traditional to wear a carnation-red if your mother was living, and a white carnation if she was deceased. That tradition is not seen very often anymore.

A day for honoring mothers was observed many years ago in England. It was called "Mothering Sunday" and came in mid-lent. Julia Ward Howe made the first known suggestion for a Mother's day in United States in 1872. For several years she held an annual Mother's day meeting. Mary Towles started conducting Mother's Day celebrations in 1887. Frank E. Hering launched a campaign for the observance of Mother's day in 1904. It was until three years later that Ann Jarvis began a campaign for a nationwide observance of Mother's day. It was in 1914 that Mother's Day received national recognition

The Bible tells us to honor our mother. Does this mean only on Mother's day? We should honor our mothers always. Everyday should be one of honor, love respect, understanding patience, caring, to our loving being "Our Mother."

Editorial

Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor & Publisher

Happy Mother's Day!



JACK R. HAYS

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Got summer plans?

Are you a teenager looking for ways to keep busy this summer? There are so many options for summer activities, no wonder it can be difficult to know where to begin.

by **Linda Medina**

Here are some tips to help you get going on your search.

Work —Check with your high school counselor and ask how they can assist with your job search. They may have postings for local businesses, for babysitting or for other part-time positions. Next, tell everyone you know that you're looking for work. Speak with teachers, family, coaches, friends, parents of friends - anyone and everyone you can think of - and ask for help. Most jobs are found through referrals and people you know are often happy to assist. Some examples are:

Yard maintenance. There is always something that needs to

be done...mowing lawns and weed control.

Pet sitting. Offer pet walking, bathing, cleaning, etc. services.

Run errand, messenger, or delivery service. Many law firms, small businesses need runners to send messages. Keep in mind that you'll be on the go!

Summer School—it may make you think of remedial classes for students. Yes, lots of high schools do have mandatory summer school for students who have under performed. But summer school can also mean attending classes at a college, in programs students actually compete to get into. These days, there are summer schools for just

about every type of student, whether you'd like to work on academic subjects or developing skills such as playing an instrument or sport. Check out the local performing arts centers, science museums, and parks; many have summer programs where you can get hands-on experience.

When looking for a summer school program, here are some important factors to consider:

- What do you want to get out of summer school? Do you want to charge up your academics? Act in a play? Teach young children? Learn how a political campaign is conducted? Polish up a second language? Work with engineers in the computer industry?

- Can you get high-school (or college) credit for summer school

courses? Receiving credit depends both on the school where you take the course and on your home school.

- How much can you spend on summer school? If the answer is nothing, are free programs available in your state or school district?

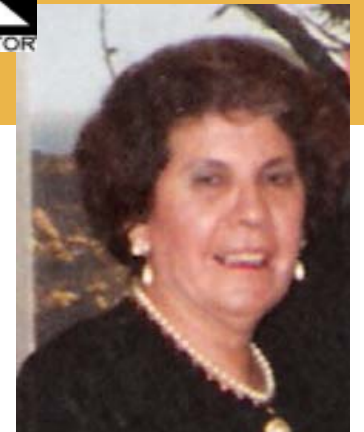
Volunteer: Make a Difference

Community service is always a valuable endeavor, and the summer is a wonderful time to make a difference in your community. Find a non-profit that you are passionate about children, the arts, homeless, elderly citizens, etc.

Last note

In addition to the programs, the internships, the jobs, the volunteer work, the college visits, or whatever else might be part of your summer, there should also be time for family, friends, and just for you. No matter how you spend your summer, do not forget to do the things that make you feel happy and energized—whether that means spending extra time with your younger sibling before you leave for college, swimming at Town Lake, making time to see friends you haven't seen in awhile between tests and athletic games, reflecting on the past year, going out for ice cream, or anything else, you shouldn't forget to relax and have fun!

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EL VOTO LATINO GALVANIZADO POR EL ODIOS DEL DEBATE MIGRATORIO

Washington, DC – Hoy, durante su discurso en el National Press Club, **Janet Murguía**, presidenta del **Consejo Nacional de la Raza** (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés) retó la creencia generalmente aceptada de que la inmigración debe ser un asunto divisivo en las elecciones del 2008, y advirtió que la retórica que rodea al debate lo está convirtiendo rápidamente en "uno de los más grandes asuntos de derechos civiles no sólo para el creciente voto latino, sino para toda nuestra generación".

Murguía, la cabeza de la organización nacional más grande de apoyo y defensa de los derechos civiles de los hispanos en Estados Unidos, reconoció que el debate migratorio fue uno de los asuntos más importantes del debate presidencial, pero cuestionó la sabiduría de aquellos que usan la inmigración como un asunto divisivo, particularmente en la carrera electoral a nivel de congreso, estado y local.

Murguía dijo que los candidatos están fallando al no tomar en cuenta el efecto galvanizador del vitriólico debate sobre el voto latino. Según un estimado reciente, se espera que los latinos representen el 9% del voto electoral de este año. Éstos constituyen también la proporción más grande de votantes en los cuatro estados donde el Presidente Bush se llevó menos del 5% en el 2004. *"Las primarias han demostrado que los latinos serán un factor decisivo en elegir al candidato que llegue a ser presidente de los Estados Unidos este otoño"* dijo **Murguía**.

Murguía también expresó su preocupación sobre la retórica extrema del debate migratorio que se está convirtiendo en una rápida fuerza

polarizante en el país, *"Aquellas voces que sería mejor dejarlas al margen del debate político, se han movido al frente y al centro,"* dijo y *"están separando a las comunidades"*. **Murguía** citó un informe del **FBI** que muestra como los crímenes por perfil racial contra los latinos se elevaron un 35% durante los últimos cuatro años y el informe del Southern Poverty Law Center que indica que la formación de grupos racistas que discriminan contra los latinos subió un 40% desde el año 2000. *"Las palabras tienen consecuencias"* dijo **Murguía**, *"y las palabras de odio generan más odio"*.

NCLR llevo acabo un esfuerzo educativo a través de una página de Internet, *"WeCanStopTheHate.org"* para desalentar el uso de amenazas raciales, aclarar mitos sobre los latinos y pedir a las cadenas de cable que sean cautelosos a la hora de proveer participación y cobertura a grupos racistas y extremistas. **Murguía** citó estadísticas que demuestran que los portavoces de tales grupos aparecieron al menos 120 veces en las noticias por cable, durante los últimos tres años. **Murguía** declaró, *"Es como invitar a un extremista como David Duke, a que aparezca como experto en derechos civiles en un programa noticioso"*.

Murguía espera que la inmigración continúe siendo un asunto central y de suma importancia a todos los niveles durante este año electoral. Más de 1,400 iniciativas locales y estatales relacionadas con la inmigración han sido introducidas en el último año en comparación con las 1,300 de los últimos diez años. *"Pero"* advirtió, *"los votantes hispanos han dicho en voz alta y muy claramente que no serán demonizados. No seremos el chivo expiatorio ni seremos ignorados"*, concluyó.



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