

Solamente el que carga el saco sabe lo que lleva adentro

LA VOZ

Informando a la comunidad

Free/Gratis

**Volume 14 Number 2
February, 2019**

A Bi-Cultural Publication

People in the News

Editorial

The Day the Music Died

The Ramsey Muñiz Story

En palabras hay poder

Calendar of Events



***An Interview with Delia Garza,
Mayor Pro Tem of Austin, Texas***



Sylvana Avila Alonzo Running for Dallas City Council Spot

Sylvana Avila Alonzo is a community volunteer and advocate for the arts & education and is now running for a spot on the **Dallas City Council**.

She faces incumbent **Scott Griggs** in this race to represent the residents of District 1, which includes the **Oak Cliff** neighborhood.

Originally from **Crystal City, Texas**. **Mrs. Alonzo** is the wife of attorney and former **Texas State Representative Roberto Alonzo**. The election will be held on May 4, 2019 and **Ms. Avila Alonzo** says she is ready to serve. For more information about **Alonzo's** campaign contact her at: sylvanafordallas1@gmail.com.



Hector Uribe Stars in New Movie TEJANO

Austin resident and actor, **Hector Uribe** has once again made it onto the big screen with his appearance in the

motion picture **TEJANO** where Javi, a South Texas farmhand who lives and works alongside his grandfather, **Arturo (Roland Hector Uribe)**. When Arturo suddenly becomes ill, Javi resorts to the extreme: he turns to a Mexican cartel to make some quick cash. But when the cartel breaks his arm and forces him to smuggle a cast made of cocaine across the Mexican border, Javi learns how far he will go for family. Check it out!

Hector Uribe was a member of the **Texas Senate** from the 27th district from 1981–1991 down in **Brownsville, Texas**. He was born on January 17, 1946 and graduated from the **University of Miami School of Law** in 1970.



Charles R. Martinez, Jr., Ph.D Named Dean at U.T. Austin

Charles R. Martinez, Jr. is the 12th dean of the **College of Education at The University of Texas at Austin**. **Martinez** began his tenure as dean on January 1, 2019. He holds the **Lee Hage Jamail Regents Chair in Education** and the **Sid W. Richardson Regents Chair**. He is a professor in the **Department of Educational Psychology**.

Martinez's scholarly work focuses on identifying factors that hinder or pro

People in the News

mote the success of children and families from vulnerable and underserved populations. As a prevention scientist specializing in minority education and health disparities, he is committed to translational research—research that moves evidence-based practices developed

Prior to joining the **University of Texas**, **Martinez** was at the **University of Oregon** where is was the Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity from 2005 to 2011. In addition, he served as a publicly elected member of the **Eugene School Board** and was a governor-appointed member of **Oregon State Board of Education** from 2013 to 2018, including service for two years as chair.

A first-generation college graduate, **Martinez** received his bachelor's degree in psychology from **Pitzer College**, and his master's degree and Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the **California School of Professional Psychology**.



Yalitza Aparicio Nominated for Best Actress

Yalitza Aparicio has been nominated for Best Actress for her role in **Afonso Cuarón's** movie **Roma**. Originally from the Mexican state of **Oaxaca**, **Aparicio** is a teacher and this is her

first time on the big screen. It was actually her sister who took her to the casting call for the movie. And when she decided not to tryout, it was **Yalitza** who stepped up and tried.



Lydia Carrillo Named New SWVEP President

Lydia Camarillo was named President of the **Southwest Voter Registration Education Project** in December, 2018 after the untimely passing of **Antonio González** the organization's President since 1994. "I am honored to be named **SVREP** and **WCVI** president. I look forward to working with the board of directors and staff for both **SVREP** & **WCVI**, as well as allies and supporters to continue **Antonio González's** legacy."

Lydia Camarillo has served as Vice President of **SVREP** since 2003 and has a long history of community involvement in both **California** and **Texas**. Before joining **SVREP** she served as **MALDEF's** National Leadership Director from 1989 to 1994.

Lydia has a bachelor's degree in sociology from the **University of California at Santa Cruz**. Mother of two sons, **Miguel** and **Antonio**, **Lydia** is a published poet and speaks widely on the Latino Vote, leadership and politics.



J.R. Gonzales Presented Award by Buda Veterans of Foreign Wars

The **Buda Veterans of Foreign War Post 12161** recently announced that **J.R. Gonzales**, Executive Director of the **Buda Chamber of Commerce**, would be the recipient of the first **VFW Post's Citizen of the Year Award**.

Gonzales reacted to the award by stating, "Over the years I have been very blessed to have received a number of accolades and awards, but this simple 9 X 7-inch wood plaque means the world to me. The award was for meritorious and distinguished service in furthering the aims and ideals of **Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States** and **Buda Post 12161**. To be recognized by this group of veterans is something I will always revere."

Under **Gonzales's** leadership, the **Buda Chamber of Commerce** has put together an impressive range of events and programs including: **Business-After-Hours Chamber Luncheon**, the **Annual Gala and Awards Banquet** which recognizes businesses, individuals and volunteers who have excelled during the previous year., **The Annual Membership Meeting**, held in July, the **Buda Market in the Park** which is held on the first Saturday of April through September, the **Fajita Fiesta** which is held in September and the **Buda Area Chamber of Commerce** weekly podcast.

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Pensamientos

Editorial

Bienvenidos otra vez a La Voz Newspaper. In this month's we are pleased to bring you an interview with **Mayor Pro-tem, Delia Garza.** This former **Austin** firefighter, turned attorney is slowly climbing the ladder of public service. As the recently elected **Mayor Pro-tem** on the **Austin City Council** we expect to see and hear more from **Councilmember Garza.**

Our second big story in this issue of **La Voz** is the **Ramsery Muñiz** story. In the early 1970s, during the heyday of the **Chicano Movement,** **Ramsey** burst onto the political scene as the gubernatorial candidate of the **Raza Unida Party.** Many thought he didn't have a chance. But when the returns came in that night, he had garnered 214,118 votes. And while he did not

win the election he almost cost **Dolph Briscoe, Jr.,** the Democratic nominee, the race. **Briscoe** took office with less than 50% of the vote.

The **Raza Unida Party** sacred the **Democrats** so much that they shortly thereafter welcomed a new organization called the **Mexican American Democrats.** *Ahora sí,* now the Latinos were welcome!

Another story you should find interesting is titled, **The Day the Music Died.** It is about the plane crash that took the life of **Buddy Holly,** the **Big Bopper** and a 17 year Mexican American from **Pacioma, California** named **Richie Valens.** (His real name was Richard Steven Valenzuela.) During his short musical career, he had four hits songs that made it into the charts including **La Bamba.**

On page 16 you will find a plug for a book titled, **Chicana Tributes.** It profiles the lives and accomplishment of women activists who helped to carry and shape the **Chicano/a Movement.** On page 17 is a plug for the new **Roberto Rodriguez** movie, **ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL.** Check it out at a theater near you.

Lastly, we just want to remind our readers that when you see a readership contest announcement in **La Voz** with a cash prize, take it seriously. In our December, 2018 contest, the winner was a young lady from **Mendez Middle School.** She won \$100.00.

In our January, 2019 contest, no one submitted an entry. Easy \$100.00 left on the table. The readership contest will return in March. This time the winner gets \$200.00. **Animanse.**



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor and Publisher

La Raza Round Table



Where friends and enemies come together for breakfast tacos every other Saturday and discuss the important issues of the day. We meet at 4926 East Cesar Chavez Street in Austin, Texas every other Saturday at 10:00am



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MONTH...
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THE ONES CLIMBING
OVER THE WALL.**

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Senior Pastor



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Welcome Home!

Community Engagement Meetings offered Seek Input for Renovated Montopolis Recreation and Community Center

By Liz Lopez

The aging facilities of the City of Austin's **Montopolis Recreation and Community Center (MRCC)** are in the process of renovation and will be co-operated by the **Austin Parks and Recreation Department** and **Austin Public Health Department**. The building's design seeks to support the initiatives of each partnering department by fostering mental and physical well-being through community recreation and the pursuit of healthy lifestyles. Construction began in 2018 and continues through early spring of 2020.

The City of Austin's **Art in Public Places Program (AIPP)** will have various art works in the reconstructed **Montopolis Recreation and Community Center (MRCC)** buildings. **Fidencio Duran** is the Principal Artist for the AIPP work with his art installation in the gym, and that of four other artists that will to be selected at a later date. There is currently an **Open Call for Artists** through AIPP with a deadline this month, and artist meetings also scheduled to inform the artists about the application process. The community at large and specifically the **Montopolis** residents (current and past) will be engaged for the development of the installation. As **Principal Artist**, **Duran** has hosted meetings with the community of all ages during January and continue in February 2019.



Fidencio Duran

The next Community Engagement meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 7th from 6:30-8:30pm at the **Coronado Studio**, 901 Vargas Rd, also in Montopolis.

A brief questionnaire has been created for attendees to complete during the meetings to help capture key input for the artworks to be placed in the **MRCC**. The questionnaire is also available through Mr. Duran's website <https://www.fidencioduran.com/newsletter.html>

For more information about the City of Austin activities regarding the **MRCC Project** and AIPP:
<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/aipp-opportunities>
<http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/montopolis-recreation-and-community-center-project>

Also about Fidencio Duran:

Fidencio Duran has a print exhibit at **Austin Public Library –Ruiz branch** from through February 15th during **PrintAustin 2019**. He will be part of the group exhibit "No Me Olvides/ Do Not Forget Me" at Big Medium during March. Contact **Mr. Duran** for more information at www.fidencioduran.com

From Wikipedia,
the free encyclopedia

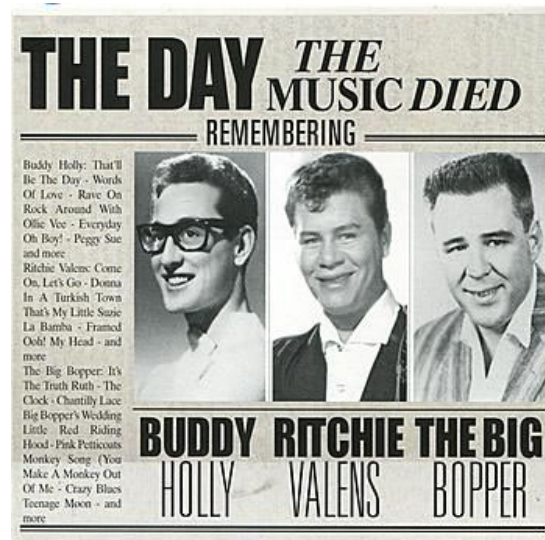
The Day the Music Died

On February 3, 1959, American rock and roll musicians **Buddy Holly**, **Ritchie Valens**, and **J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson** were killed in a plane crash near **Clear Lake, Iowa**, together with pilot **Roger Peterson**. The event later became known as "The Day the Music Died", after singer-songwriter **Don McLean** referred to it as such in his 1971 song "American Pie".

At the time, **Holly** and his band, consisting of **Waylon Jennings**, **Tommy Allsup**, and **Carl Bunch**, were playing on the "Winter Dance Party" tour across the Midwest. Rising artists **Valens**, **Richardson** and **Dion** and the **Belmonts** had joined the tour as well. The long journeys between venues on board the cold, uncomfortable tour buses adversely affected the performers, with cases of flu and even frostbite.

After stopping at **Clear Lake** to perform, and frustrated by such conditions, **Holly** chose to charter a plane to reach their next venue in **Moorhead, Minnesota**. **Richardson**, who had the flu, swapped places with **Jennings**, taking his seat on the plane, while **Allsup** lost his seat to **Valens** on a coin toss.

Soon after takeoff, late at night and in poor, wintry weather conditions, the pilot lost control of the light aircraft, a **Beechcraft Bonanza**, which subsequently crashed into a cornfield. Everyone on board was killed. The event has since been mentioned in various songs and films. A number of monuments have been erected at the crash site and in **Clear Lake**, where



an annual memorial concert is also held at the **Surf Ballroom**, the venue that hosted the artists' last performance.

Background



Buddy Holly terminated his association with the **Crickets** in November 1958. For the start of the "Winter Dance Party" tour, he assembled a band consisting of **Waylon Jennings** (bass), **Tommy Allsup** (guitar), and **Carl Bunch** (drums), with the opening vocals of **Frankie Sardo**.

The tour was set to cover twenty-four Midwestern cities in as many days. New hit artist **Ritchie Valens**, **J. P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson** and **Dion DiMucci** and his band **The Belmonts** joined the tour to promote

their recordings and make an extra profit.

The tour began in **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**, on January 23, 1959. The amount of travel soon became a logistical problem. **General Artists Corporation**, the organization that booked the tour,

later received considerable criticism for their seemingly total disregard for the conditions they forced the touring musicians to endure:

The entire company of musicians traveled together in one bus, although the buses used for the tour were wholly inadequate, breaking down and being replaced with astounding frequency. Adding to the disarray, the buses were not equipped for the weather which consisted of waist-deep snow in several areas and varying temperatures from the 20s to as low as "36 °F.

On Monday, February 2, the tour arrived in **Clear Lake**, having driven 350 miles from the previous day's concert in **Green Bay**. The town had not been a scheduled stop, but the tour promoters, hoping to fill an open date, called the manager of the local **Surf Ballroom**, **Carroll Anderson** (1920–2006), and offered him the show. By the time **Holly** arrived at the venue that evening, he was frustrated with the ongoing problems with the bus.

The next scheduled destination after **Clear Lake** was **Moorhead, Minnesota**, a 365-mile drive north and northwest **Holly** decided to charter a plane to take himself and his band to **Fargo, North Dakota**, which is adjacent to **Moorhead**. The rest of the party would have picked him up in **Moorhead**, saving him the journey in the bus and leaving him time to get some rest.

Flight arrangements

Hubert Jerry Dwyer (1930–2016), owner of the **Dwyer Flying Service**, was contacted to fly them to the closest airport. Flight arrangements were made with **Roger Peterson**, a 21-year-old local pilot described as a "young married man who built his life around flying".

The flying service charged a fee of \$36 per passenger for the flight on the 1947 single-engined, V-tailed **Beechcraft 35 Bonanza**. A popular misconception, originating from **Don McLean's** eponymous song about the crash, was that the plane was called **American Pie**. In fact, no record exists of any name ever having been given to N3794N.

The most widely accepted version of events was that **Richardson** had contracted flu during the tour and asked **Jennings** for his seat on the plane. When **Holly** learned that **Jennings** was not going to fly, he said in jest: "Well, I hope your ol' bus freezes up." **Jennings** responded: "Well, I hope your ol' plane crashes", a humorous but ill-fated response that haunted him for the rest of his life. **Valens**, who once had a fear of flying, asked **Allsup** for his seat on the plane.

The two agreed to toss a coin to decide. **Valens** won the coin toss for the seat on the flight.

Take-off and crash

The plane took off normally from runway 17. **Dwyer** witnessed the take-off from a platform outside the **control tower**. Around 1:00 am, when **Peterson** failed to make the expected radio contact, repeated attempts to establish communication were made,

Later that morning, **Dwyer**, having heard no word from **Peterson** since his departure, took off in another airplane to retrace his planned route. Within minutes, at around 9:35 am, he spotted the wreckage less than 6 mi northwest of the airport.

Dwyer contacted the sheriff office and **Deputy Bill McGill** drove to the crash site, a cornfield belonging to **Albert Juhl**. The **Bonanza** had impacted the terrain at a high rate of speed. There were no survivors. County **coroner Ralph Smiley** certified that all four victims died instantly.

Luis and **Danny Valdez**, founders of **El Teatro Campesino** out in **California** finally obtained the permission from **Richie Valens** family to do what became the 1988 movie **La Bamba**. It was this movie, with music performed by **Los Lobos**, that brought the **Richie Valens** story into the mainstream and introduced his music to a whole new audience. **Valens** who was only 17 at the time of his death, had four number one hits on the charts in his short four month career. Today, no one has ever matched that feat!

An Interview with Mayor

La Voz: Thank you for agreeing to participate in an interview in *La Voz Newspaper*. Let's start by asking you if you could have imagined 10 years ago that you be the **Mayor Pro-tem** of Austin, Texas?

Garza: Not really—ten years ago I was a law student clerking here in **Austin** for the **Texas Civil Rights Project**.

La Voz: Share with our readers a little of your background. I know you are from **San Antonio**. Tell how and where you grew up.

Garza: Growing up in **San Antonio**, everyone around me was Hispanic, including the community leaders and the mayor, **Henry Cisneros**. I didn't think of myself as a minority because of that, so I didn't really think there were things I wouldn't be allowed to do. I'm not sure I would have achieved so much if I had grown up elsewhere where I would have faced more barriers or had never seen leaders who looked like me.

La Voz: Where did you go to high school?

Garza: I went to **Holmes High School** in **San Antonio**. I went back for the 20th reunion in 2014, and I hear they're planning our 25th reunion this year.

La Voz: What clubs or activities were you involved in?

Garza: I was involved in sports, I especially loved

volleyball. I was class president in my senior year, too. I actually wanted to run for class president when I was a freshman but the other person running was a cheerleader so I didn't think I'd win. But I got involved in student government and ran for class president my senior year and won (beat the cheerleader!). I got to address at my graduation class of 700 students.

La Voz: When it came time to go to college, what were your thoughts? Did you have a particular college or university in mind?

Garza: I come from a working class family, we were only a few generations away from poverty, so my mom and dad never went to college initially. My dad did eventually earn his bachelor's degree taking night classes.

They didn't really know the process or how to apply and so they couldn't really help me with that.

But my dad always told me that I had to go to college because education is the greatest equalizer. I wanted to go as well, but even through school I didn't get a lot of help because at that time only the top 10% got that kind of guidance and I wasn't in the top 10% of the class. So I didn't even know you had to take the SATs. I started out at community college in **San Antonio** and later transferred to **Texas A&M**.

La Voz: What years were you at Texas A&M?

Garza: I graduated in 1999.

La Voz: What was your major?

Garza: I was a journalism major. I graduated around when the dot-com boom was happening, and I found a job as a technical writer for a start-up.

La Voz: Were your parents involved in community activities? What kind of activities were they involved in?

Garza: My dad was involved in the firefighters' union and the local **Democratic Party**, and



that exposed me to a lot of issues and taught me about organizing. I really liked that experience. My mother was involved in our school activities.

La Voz: How was it that made it to **Austin, Texas**?

Garza: I had several friends at **UT** and would visit **Austin** often while in college. I fell in love with the city and decided I wanted to make it my home. I moved to **Austin** in May of 1999 the day after I graduated from **Texas A&M**.

La Voz: Share with us your experience with regard to

joining the **Austin Fire Department**.

I wanted to go into public service as well, and I got a lot of encouragement . . .

Garza: My father was a fire chief in **San Antonio**. I wanted to go into public service as well, and I got a lot of encouragement to follow in my father's footsteps. I joined as a **Cadet** in July of 2001, so it was right before September, 2001, and so that experience has always been part of my life as a firefighter as well—seeing how brave the first responders were was inspiring and made me even more committed to my role as a firefighter.

Pro Tem Delia Garza

La Voz: What was the hardest thing you had to do as a firefighter?

Garza: As a firefighter you're trained as an **EMT** (Emergency Medical Technician). I thought this would be the hardest part of the job. In the end, it turned out to be a tremendous experience and it taught me a lot.

I realized that if they had better access to healthcare . . .

I would see people who would have to use emergency services as their primary form of healthcare. I realized that if they had better access to healthcare, they likely wouldn't be experiencing a major cardiac event in their living room or be having a diabetic emergency. It was a level of poverty that so many are never exposed to.

The physical part of being a firefighter probably ended up being the hardest part, for different reasons—you're carrying 70 pounds of equipment and walking into a building where you can't see anything in front of you. That is challenging.

La Voz: I can only imagine. Let me ask you this, where did the idea of law school come from?



Garza: I feel like I was a born advocate. If I saw a kid getting bullied I would stick up for them. I love problem-solving and I'm v e r y opinionated, so I

always thought it was a perfect fit for me.

I had one cousin who went to law school, but no one else, so it was kind of a dream for me really if I was able to do it and had the means to do it. I was able to buy my first home in **Austin**, the house I still live in today while an **Austin** firefighter, it was great pay and I loved doing public service but I wanted to be a stronger advocate.

I had just bought my house, so I couldn't afford an **LSAT** prep course or anything like that, I just went to the library and studied. I took the **LSAT** (Law School Admissions Test) and applied to several schools and got in.

La Voz: How was it that you went to **Gonzaga University** for law school?

Garza: I applied to a lot of different law schools in **Texas** and outside the state. **Gonzaga** has a good focus on public service. I had never been to the **Pacific Northwest**

before, but I visited **Gonzaga**, which is in **Washington State**, and I thought it was beautiful.

I asked two different lawyer friends of mine for advice, people who I knew would give me different opinions. One of them told me to stay here if I wanted to practice law here so I could build my network. The other one told me to go out of state because I have the rest of my life to live in **Texas**, so I might as well take this opportunity to get a different perspective while I could.

La Voz: What was your first job as an attorney?

Garza: I graduated law school in 2010, and came back to **Austin**. I took the bar exam, but I didn't pass it the first time, and it was devastating—but it's okay to fail and try again, people don't talk about that enough. So I took the bar again the very next time and I passed and started applying for public service jobs.

This was right after the recession started, so it was tough to find a job. I was actually about to interview for a job in **Corpus Christi** when I got a job as an attorney with the **Attorney General's** office. I was with the **Child Support Division** in **South Austin**.

La Voz: Share with us your thoughts on politics and how you decided to run for the Austin City Council.

Garza: My father was really involved in the **Democrat Party** and that had a big influence on my politics. I'm a progressive, so I champion causes that help working families. In many ways we have a system that's still very inequitable. Back when **Austin** had an **At-large City Council**, we were one of the last few cities to not have district representation, and there was a small group of people making decisions for everyone.

There wasn't a lot of minority representation or for all the different parts of **Austin**. I got a little angry about that system because it gave more control over who sat on City Council to Central and West Austin.

I was appointed to the **City's Charter Revision Committee** and got really involved in the fight for the 10-1 council system. After the new city council districts were drawn, I decided to run for the **Austin City Council** to represent my district.

La Voz: Since you have been on council, what has surprised you the most?

Garza: It surprised me how much time City Council spends on zoning items and how upset people get about things like an apartment complex or roads being built next to them. Growth is progress and if we don't plan for it and improve our infrastructure we are not being responsible.

La Voz: Tell us something about you that nobody would have ever guessed.

Garza: Not everyone knows I was a firefighter. I've run 4 marathons, and I've done triathlons. I'm not sure what else... I can't cook!

La Voz: What is your favorite color?

Garza: Green.

La Voz: Last book read?

Garza: I'm reading *Becoming* by **Michelle Obama** right now.

La Voz: What is your favorite kind of food?

Garza: It's a tie between Tex-Mex and Italian.

La Voz: Well, thank you in advance for your participation in this interview with **La Voz Newspaper**.

Garza: It was my pleasure.

Ramiro “Ramsey” Muñiz, age 77, was released from federal prison on December 10th, 2018. He had been locked up for 24 years, serving a life sentence for having been a convicted three-time drug offender.

Upon his release he returned to his home town of **Corpus Christi, Texas** and is reported to be in poor health. Some people have hailed **Ramsey** as a political prisoner who was framed by the government.

Others shake their head and remember what a disappointment he turned out to be for the **Chicano Movement** and the **Raza Unida Party** where he had been the gubernatorial candidate in 1972 and 1974. The following is a recap of what happened. You decide.

In the 1970s, the Chicano Movement was spreading like wildfire across the Southwest.

In the 1970s, the **Chicano Movement** was spreading like wildfire across the Southwest. **Cesar Chavez** and the farm worker's union out in **California** had finally gotten the table grape growers to the negotiating table with the boycott and were successful in getting them to sign union contracts.

In **New Mexico**, **Reies Lopez Tijerina**, the Presbyterian minister turned land grants activist, was getting the people to wake up and take action on the question of who really owned the land.

In **Texas**, school walkouts in **Crystal City**, **Uvalde**, **Kingsville**, **Waco**, **Houston**,

Victoria and other communities were stirring the people. A political party called the **Raza Unida Party** emerged out of **South Texas** and was offering voters an alternative to the **Democrat** and **Republican** Parties of the day.

In fact, the position of the **Raza Unida Party**, was that there was no real difference between the two major parties when it came to Chicanos and public policy. As the **Raza Unida Party** began fielding candidates and winning local elections in communities such as **Crystal City**, **Carrizo Springs** and **Cotulla**, people began to take notice.

But it was the **Texas Governor's** race in November of 1972, that was making daily headline news. The **Democrats** had lined up behind rancher and banker **Dolph Briscoe, Jr.** from **Uvalde, Texas**. The **Republicans** were pushing **Henry “Hank” Grover** from **Houston** as their candidate in the General Election.

The Raza Unida Party and found a charismatic young 29 year old Chicano . . .

The **Raza Unida Party** and found a charismatic young 29 year old Chicano attorney from **Corpus Christi, Texas** named **Ramiro “Ramsey” Muñiz** to be its candidate. He was a fiery speaker and presented himself well.

Throughout the state the crowds grew at rallies and fundraisers. Everybody wanted to see this young man who had dared to take

The Rise and Fall



on the political establishment in **Texas**. **Ernesto Calderon** states in his book, *Mañana is Today* that

“Ramsey was an outstanding campaigner and a great motivator through his speaking. As the campaign progressed, more and more people began attending rallies.”

My sister **Molly Ann Santos** was a student at **Southwest Texas State University** in **San Marcos, Texas** in the early 1970s, and would write to me in **California** where I was attending college, to tell me all the latest news of the Chicano movement. I remember one letter where

she related how she and a group of students had actually joined up with **Ramsey Muñiz** and gone with him to a big rally in **Seguin, Texas**. While **Ramsey Muñiz** didn't win that election in November of 1972, according to all the reports, he sure scared the hell out of the **Democratic Party** by getting 214,118 votes statewide.

This turned out to be 6% of the vote and led to **Dolph Briscoe Jr.** winning the governorship with less than a majority of the vote. The final results were **Briscoe** 1,633,493, (48.79%) **Hank Grover** the Republican candidate 1,533,986 or (44.9%) and **Muñiz** with 6.28%. **Muñiz's** tireless efforts to make

himself known to the voters in **Texas** helped to raise the profile of the **Raza Unida Party** all over the country.

In fact, **Raza Unida Party** chapters sprang up in **California**, **Colorado**, **New Mexico**, **Illinois** and **Washington**. People were taking a hard look at the **Raza Unida Party** and its claim that there was really no difference between the Democratic and Republican parties.

1974

The position of Governor of **Texas** was only a two year term back in the 1970s. In 1974, **Ramsey Muñiz**, again under the banner of the **Raza Unida Party**, ran for Governor. **Calderon** states that the energy level wasn't the same this time around but people still turned out and worked the campaign. In a speech at a **Raza Unida Party** convention in June of 1974, **Ramsey** said, “We will never be used again. We will not go back to your crooked poker game called the Democratic Party. If liberals are so concerned



of Ramsey Muñiz

about us, let them follow our leadership!” **Ramsey** only received 190,000 votes this time around. And while **Raza Unida Party** vote total was less than in 1972, it was still enough to qualify the party for ballot status in the next round of elections. **Ramsey’s** two runs for the Governorship made him a folk hero in the Chicano community. He was well liked and people remembered his words and dreams for a better tomorrow.

1976

Then came the bad news. In July of 1976, Federal prosecutors indicted **Ramsey**, 35, and a several others on marijuana smuggling charges. Specifically, they were charged with trying to move 6,500 pounds of dope from **Mexico** to **Alabama**. His supporters couldn’t believe it. A number felt he was being framed by the government for his involvement in politics.

Jose Angel Gutierrez stated shortly after his arrest, “We were

all convinced this was a conspiracy by the government. We began doing a defense fund and organized a defense group. We hired the best drug lawyer we knew of out of **New York**.” **Ramsey** eventually worked out a plea deal for three years probation.

Then, four months later, on November 25th, 1976, a second marijuana case was filed against **Ramsey**. **Calderon** recounts that **Ramsey** fled to **Mexico** for about a month before being captured in **Reynosa**. The Mexican police beat him, wrapped him in a blanket and dumped him in the middle of the **International Bridge** in **Laredo, Texas** on Christmas Eve.

In an article in the **San Antonio Express-News**, **John MacCormack** writes that in early 1977, “**Muñiz** shocked his supporters by pleading guilty to drug charges from both indictments and was sentenced to 5 years in prison.”

He was also given 10 years of probation upon his release from **McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary** in the state of **Washington**. **Jose Angel Gutierrez** stated, “It just floored us. All this time, even when he jumped bail and left, he always said he

had been framed. I felt he had betrayed us and lied to us. I’ve never gotten an explanation and never asked for one.”

In his book, **Calderon** states that **Ramsey’s** first wife, **Abbie** “did everything within her power to get him transferred to a location closer to home so that she could visit him. She talked to federal officials, state officials, and anyone who would listen to plead her case, but to no avail.” She even got **LULAC** to pass a resolution supporting a parole for him.

Ramsey was release from prison in December, 1980 according to **Dr. Armando Gutierrez**, then at the **University of Houston**. He had lost his license to practice law and was now working as a paralegal for several attorneys. As he was reconnecting with friends and speaking at colleges in **Texas**, people felt that he had paid his dues to society and was on a path to making a comeback.

But in 1982, he was arrested again, this time for possession of cocaine. He was now 41 years old. One charge was dropped, and he pleaded no contest to another. He was given two years behind bars.

The first time I saw **Ramsey Muñiz** in person was in 1989 at a Chicano activist function in **San Antonio** at the **Mercado** that **Jose Angel Gutierrez** had organized. There were probably 200 to 300 people present, many who were from around the state. When I spotted **Ramsey**, he was coming down some steps and was with his brother. Both of them really stood out because they both

had very muscular builds. You could he had been lifting weights. What I could also tell from afar was that very few people came up to him or acknowledged his presence at the event. I also noticed that he himself rarely came up to anyone to exchange greetings or say hello.

In 1994, **Ramsey**, now 52 years of age, was arrested by the **Drug Enforcement Administration** in the **Dallas** area in a rental car with 90 pounds of cocaine. According to the authorities, **Ramsey** had the key to the trunk in his sock. **John MacCormack** in his **San Antonio Express-News** story of June 26th, 1994 writes that, It wasn’t until about a month later when **Carol Johnson**, an assistant U.S. Attorney found out who she really had in custody. She was

walking down the hall and someone told her, “I understand you’ve just indicted a former gubernatorial candidate.”

Ramsey hired the famous **Houston** criminal defense attorney **Dick DeGuerin** to represent him and who volunteered that “they would go to trial but that the consequences are very great.” The federal governments “three strikes and your out” policy was going to be invoked and this is what led to **Ramsey’s** life sentence. Altogether he did his time in the **Leavenworth Federal**

Penitentiary in **Kansas** without the possibility of parole.

His second wife, **Irma**, led the campaign to get **Ramsey** released. In 2012 at the **Raza Unida Party Reunion** in **Austin, Texas**, she shared with the crowd that **Ramsey** didn’t want a pardon because in accepting a pardon, he would in fact be admitting guilt. She said that what he wanted was for his sentence to be commuted. He was released on December 10th, 2018 on compassionate grounds because of his poor health.



The internet is filled with article and websites that discuss **Ramsey Muñiz**. There is one titled **Friends of Justice**. Another is called **My Harlingen News** and contains excerpts from one of his trails. **Ernesto Calderon’s** book, **Mañana is Today** is especially insightful for **Calderon** was a personal friend of **Ramsey** and shares a lot of details of his time with him in **Waco, Texas**.

So was **Ramsey Muñiz** a political prisoner? Or is he someone who made too many bad decisions? History will decide the correct response.



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De Lunes a Sábado

Centro de asistencia para dueño del hogar (Texas City)

600 Gulf Fwy. Ste. 130
Texas City, TX 77568

De Lunes a Sábado

Biblioteca de Alvin

105 South Gordon
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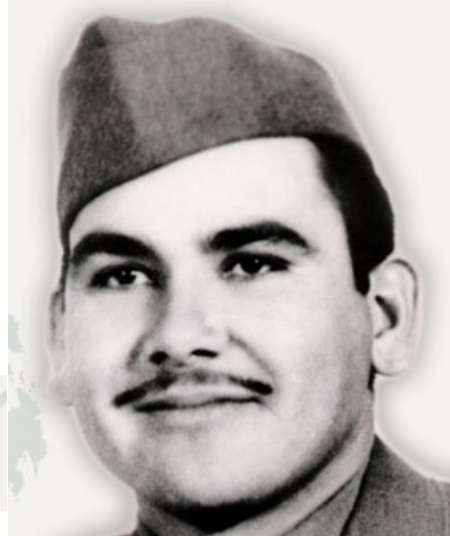


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Community Development and Revitalization



THE FELIX LONGORIA AFFAIR: A TURNING POINT IN THE LATINO MOVEMENT

February 20th, 2019 - The Felix Longoria Affair at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum 2313 Red River St. Austin, Texas 78705 Event starts at 6:30pm. Event is free. For more information:



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

REGARDING THE CREATION OF VELOCITY CROSSING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Pursuant to Local Government Code Section 372.009(c) and (d), the Travis County Commissioners Court provides this notice that it will hold a public hearing to accept public comments and discuss the petition (the “Petition”) filed by SH 71-130 Holdings, LP (the “Petitioner”) requesting that Travis County create a public improvement district called the Velocity Crossing Public Improvement District (the “District” or “PID”) to include property owned by the Petitioner.

Time and Place of the Hearing

The public hearing will start at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at the Travis County Administration Building, Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca, First Floor, Austin, Texas 78701.

General Nature of the Proposed Improvements

The general nature of the proposed public improvements (the “Authorized Improvements”) is:

- (1) Acquisition, construction, and improvement of streets, roadways, rights-of-way, and related facilities;
- (2) The establishment of parks and open space, together with the design, construction, and maintenance of any ancillary structures, features, or amenities

such as trails, pavilions, community facilities, irrigation, multiuse paths, lighting, benches, other recreational facilities, trash receptacles, and any similar items located therein;

- (3) Landscaping;
- (4) Acquisition, construction, and improvement of water, wastewater, and drainage facilities ;
- (5) Construction of entry monumentation and features;
- (6) Projects similar to those listed in (1) - (5) above; and
- (7) Payment of costs associated with constructing and financing the public improvements listed in (1) - (6) above, including costs of establishing, administering, and operating the District.

Estimated Cost of the Proposed Improvements to be Funded by the District

- \$70,000,000, plus:
- (1) Costs of PID bond issuance; and
- (2) Costs incurred in the establishment, administration , and operation of the PID.

Proposed District Boundaries

The District is proposed to include approximately 324.695 acres of land located approximately in the southwest corner of the intersection of State Highway 71 and State Highway 130, and entirely within the corporate limits of the City of Austin as depicted on the attached map .

A metes and bounds description of the District is available for public inspection at the Travis County Planning and Budget Office, 700 Lavaca, Suite 1560, Austin, Texas 78701.

Proposed Method of Assessment

An assessment methodology will be prepared that will address: (1) how the costs of the public improvements financed with the assessments are assessed against the property in the District, (2) the assessments to be collected each year, and (3) reduction of the assessments for costs savings (pursuant to the annual review of the service plan for the District). Additionally, a report will be prepared showing the special benefits accruing to property in the District and how the costs of the public improvements are assessed to property on the basis of the special benefits. The result will be that equal shares of the costs will be imposed on property similarly benefited.

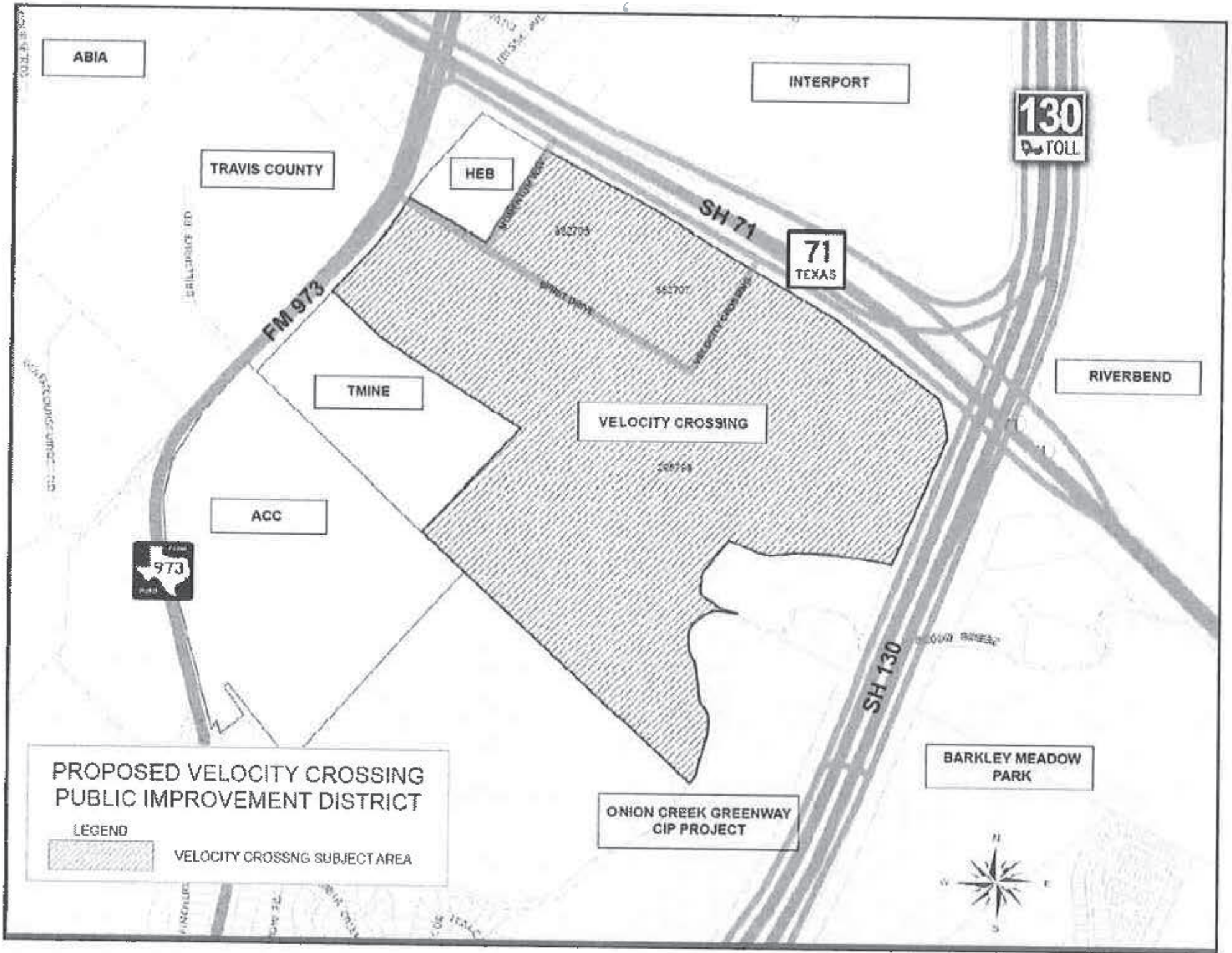
The assessment methodology will result in each parcel within the District that is

subject to assessment paying its fair share of the costs of the public improvements provided with the assessments based on the special benefits received by the property from the public improvements and property equally situated paying equal shares of the costs of the public improvements.

Proposed Apportionment of Costs between the District and Travis County

Travis County will not be obligated to provide any funds to finance the Authorized Improvements. All of the costs of the proposed public improvements will be paid by assessments of the property within the District and from other sources of funds, if any, available to the owner of the property within the District; however, no property owned by Travis County in the District shall be assessed. Any costs incurred by Travis County in administering the PID application and oversight process will be reimbursed through the assessment levied against property included within the District. Petitioner or any developer of the property in the District may also pay certain costs of the improvements from other funds available to the Petitioner or the developer of the property in the District.

Proposed Velocity Crossing Public Improvement District



Alvin Community College Receives Grant for Job Training Program

The goal of any community college is to ensure that its students are prepared to enter the workforce once they complete their education.

Alvin Community College was one of three colleges in the United States to be awarded a grant from the **American Association of Community Colleges** and the **Accenture LLP** consulting firm to participate in a pilot program designed to improve a student's employability.

The \$13,200 grant will help at least 1,000 ACC students

participate in the online program called the **Skills to Succeed Academy** (S2S Academy). The program features an online platform that uses short, interactive videos to prepare job seekers for career choices, job finding, and workplace success.

The Skills to Succeed Academy will be free to students, said

Marilyn Dement, ACC Vice President of Student Services.

"Students' access to the S2S Academy interactive videos will result in a more prepared ACC graduate giving students an advantageous edge over other potential candidates," Dement said. "The S2S Academy will provide innovative workforce development approaches to a diverse student

population Alvin Community College serves."

The grant funds will pay for staff training for the program as well as hiring a part-time staff member to track students who complete the online modules. S2S includes a component to analyze the student participation in order to further improve its offerings.

"The Career Services Center will schedule workshops throughout the pilot period to ensure a maximum number of students are exposed to the S2S Academy resources and modules," Dement

said. "Additionally, each student who individually seeks out Career Services will receive personalized one-on-one mentoring to strengthen their skills and marketing approaches toward securing their desired employee objective."

The pilot will run until August and ACC will collect feedback on how students use the platform. The S2S modules will be available for student use over the next three years.

For more information about the S2S Academy, visit www.s2sacademy.org.



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Alberto C. Gonzalez' Take on the Matter

Food for thought: The so-called drug crisis does not originate at or south of the border. The crisis is rooted here in our own country. While politicians constantly criticize and demonize the drug cartels in Mexico and beyond, who smuggle their products through legal ports of entry, no time or attention is ever given to the ultimate destination of these insidious commodities: the U.S. market.

If we did not have such an obscene, insatiable, appetite and demand for illicit drugs, then they would have no market or destination for their dangerous and deadly products. The same theory can be applied to the market and demand for sex-trafficking. If we didn't demand it, they wouldn't ship it!

Why is no one raising and addressing the real crisis: the drug problem in this country, at all levels of society. This is where the resources should be spent, on rehab and prevention; not on some pointless structure that will fail to address and solve the real crisis.

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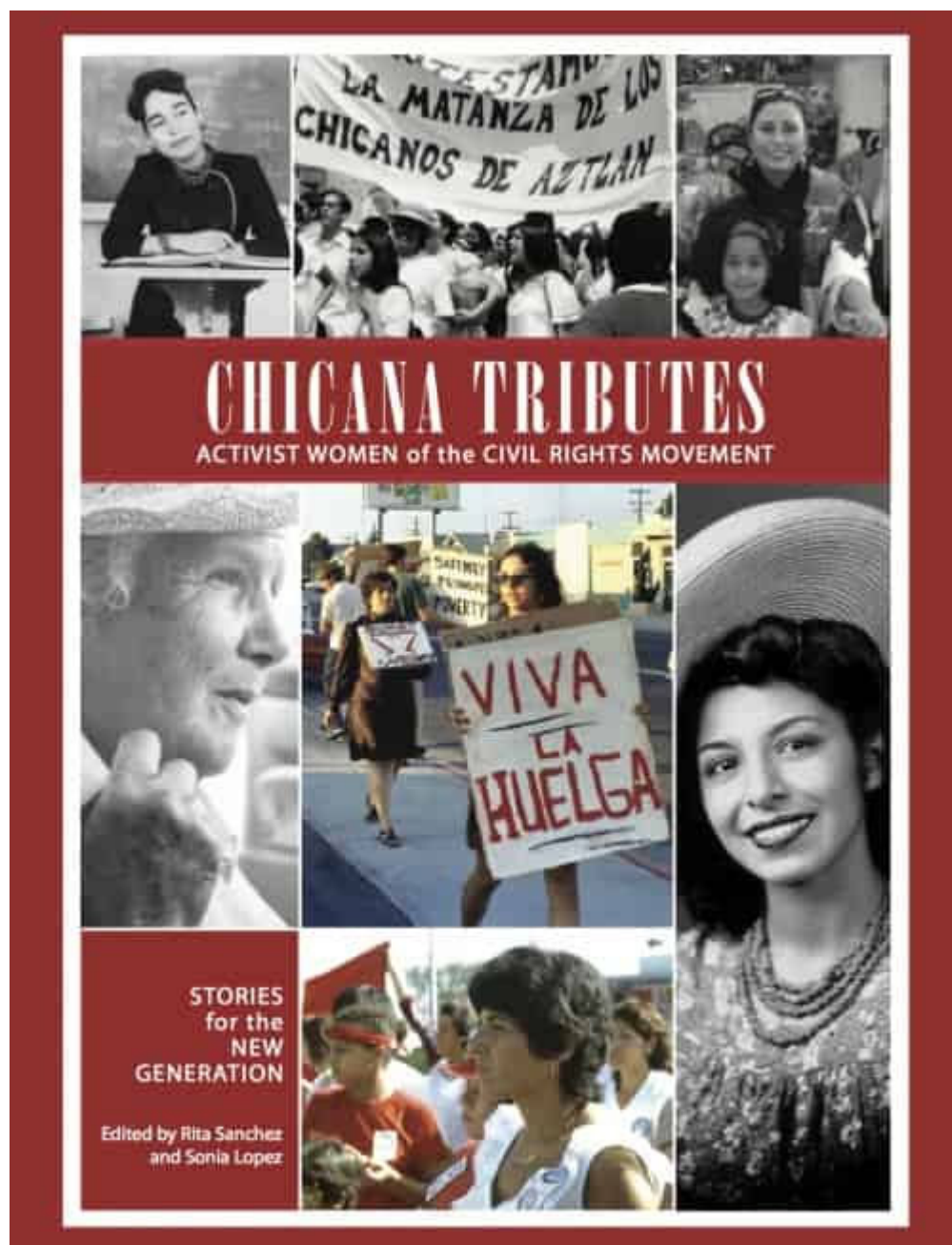
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Book on Chicana Activists Honors The Women History Has Ignored



Chicana Tributes: Activist Women of the Civil Rights Movement - Stories for the New Generation Paperback – June 7, 2017
by Rita Sanchez (Editor), Sonia Lopez (Editor)

Available at [AMAZON.com](https://www.amazon.com)

In Chicano history, the women who formed a vital part of social justice movements have often been swept aside; forgotten or ignored as their male counterparts receive the bulk of the praise for their collective work. Their visibility is imperative as Chicanas continue to work in social justice, fighting the good fights within various movements. “Chicana Tributes: Activist Women of the Civil Rights Movement” aims to share those untold stories of the women who formed an important part of the movement.

This book documents the experiences of sixty-one women who flourished in the ferment of the civil/ethnic/women’s rights movements of the late twentieth century and beyond. While each life is unique, collectively they demonstrate the benefits gained when a community and a society unleashes and fosters the potential of women who create, organize, and lead. Conversely, an undetermined degree of loss may accrue to societies that suppress or discourage the freedom of women to shape their destinies. When women come together with a collective intention, powerful things happen.

Simultaneously, but separately, in 1972-73, at **San Diego State University** and at **Stanford University**, and having never met, two of us had the same idea, to propose and design a course about Mexican American women. The idea for this book also has a history. In those days, both of us wanted to contribute to the development of Chicano studies. The Mexican American voice, so much a fabric of U.S. history was missing from the dominant English narrative and the women’s presence was nearly absent from Chicano literature and history. Chicanas acted to change these injustices, thereby adding new energy to the **Chicano Movement** and to other liberation discourse. At that time, as graduate students, we had the opportunity to teach a Chicana women’s course.

Such a course had never been taught at either university. While women instigated change at different colleges, in those years Chicanas/Latinas appeared to be anonymous. And although Anglo women around the country had already started addressing women’s needs, they did not include the new diverse student population that was entering the universities. the woman where she has most noticeably served.

Chapters One and Two begin with *Mujeres Presentes*, that is, the women who have passed away but whose presence lives on as their actions continue to affect the lives of others. Chapters Eleven and Twelve highlight educators whose work builds on that of earlier mentors and their actions. The chapters between include: Three and Four, “Early Activists;” Five and Six, “Chicanas in the Arts;” Seven and Eight, “Chicanas in Education;” Nine and Ten, “Chicanas in Public Office.” Each chapter includes a brief introduction, but the women’s narratives are the core of the book; their stories easily stand on their own.

This collection may be considered a starting point and by no means represents the entire Chicana/Latina community in **San Diego**. As it turned out there were many more women than the sixty-one women presented here. The hope is that others may read the book and decide to author a future edition. All women ought to be honored for their efforts and receive the recognition they deserve.

New Movie Coming Out

ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL

Release: February 14, 2019

Directed by: Robert Rodriguez

Produced by: James Cameron, Jon Landau

Screenplay by: James Cameron and Laeta Kalogridis and Robert Rodriguez - Based upon the graphic novel ("Manga") series "GUNNM" by Yukito Kishiro

Cast: Rosa Salazar, Christoph Waltz, Jennifer Connelly, Mahershala Ali, Ed Skrein, Jackie Earle Haley, Kean Johnson

SYNOPSIS

From visionary filmmakers James Cameron (AVATAR) and Robert Rodriguez (SIN CITY), comes ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL, an epic adventure of hope and empowerment. When Alita (Rosa Salazar) awakens with no memory of who she is in a future world she does not recognize, she is taken in by Ido (Christoph Waltz), a compassionate doctor who realizes that somewhere in this abandoned cyborg shell is the heart and soul of a young woman with an extraordinary past. As Alita learns to navigate her new life and the treacherous streets of Iron City, Ido tries to shield her from her mysterious history while her street-smart new friend Hugo (Kean Johnson) offers instead to help trigger her memories. But it is only when the deadly and corrupt forces that run the city come after Alita that she discovers a clue to her past – she has unique fighting abilities that those in power will stop at nothing to control. If she can stay out of their grasp, she could be the key to saving her friends, her family and the world she's grown to love.

ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL Official Channels

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: www.AlitaBattleAngel.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/AlitaMovie

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/AlitaMovie

INSTAGRAM: www.instagram.com/AlitaMovie

PRIMARY HASHTAG: #Alita



Calendar of Events

January 31st, 2019 - Tribute to Emilio Navaira at the Tobin Center in San Antonio, Texas

February 1st, 2019 - Pastoral de Conjunto: Ecclesial Movements Event starts at: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Meeting for the leadership of Ecclesial Movements with the objective to bring to attention important issues surrounding the service we offer to the Hispanic/Latino community. For more information concerning this communication, please call (512) 949-2426

February 7th, 2019 - Community Engagement meeting is scheduled to be held from 6:30-8:30pm at the **Coronado Studio**, 901 Vargas Rd, also in Montopolis.

February 14th, 2019 - Robert Rodriguez movie release of ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL
Check local listings in you area. Also see the plug on page 17 of this issue of *La Voz*.

February 14th, 2019 - Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, is celebrated annually on February 14. Originating as a Western Christian feast day honoring one or two early saints named Valentinus, Valentine's Day is recognized as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world, although it is not a public holiday in any country. The day first became associated with romantic love within the circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In 18th-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines").

February 14-16 - Tejas Foco Conference at Houston Community College Eastside Campus 6815 Rustic Street, **Houston, TX 77087**. The 2019 **National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies--Tejas Foco** conference is an interdisciplinary conference.

February 18th, 2019 - Holiday for AISD Students - Elementary Parent Conference, Secondary Staff Development

February 20th, 2019 - The Felix Longoria Affair at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum 2313 Red River St. Austin, Texas 78705 Event starts at 6:30pm. Event is free. For more information see page 10.

February 21st, 2019 - Power Networking Breakfast Time: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM CST **Event Description:** Before most have a cup of coffee, you will have generated a number of new contacts! Jumpstart your morning with our Power Networking Breakfast (PNB)! Foster new business partnerships and learn about the GAHCC mission, vision and initiatives. Remember, it's not what you know, but who you know, and who you know could help you land your next BIG DEAL! **Location:** Holiday Inn Midtown 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd. Austin, Texas 78752.

February 27th, 2019 - Texas Public School Equity Symposium at the Renaissance Austin Hotel 9721 Arboretum Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78759. Event begins at 8 AM – 4 PM CST **Hosted by** Mexican American School Boards Association

La Voz email: la-voz@sbcglobal.net

January 2019 Readership Contest
No one submitted a response.
We will try again next month.

Word Power

En las palabras hay poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of *La Voz*.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de *La Voz* una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Government | Gobierno |
| Workers | Trabajadores |
| Paycheck | Cheque de pago |
| Money | Dinero |
| Poor | Pobre |
| Family | Familia |
| Food | Alimentos/ Comida |
| Uncertain | Inseguro |
| Next | Siguiente |
| Who | Quien |
| I never | Yo nunca |
| Believed | Creía |
| that he | Que el |
| Would go | Iría |
| Far | Lejos |
| I now know | Ahora si se |
| Just wait | Sólo espera |
| When | Cuando |
| Historia | Historia |

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PORVENIR MASSACRE

PORVENIR WAS A COMMUNITY IN REMOTE NORTHWEST PRESIDIO COUNTY ON THE RIO GRANDE. IN THE MIDST OF MILITARY CONFLICTS AND RAIDS ACROSS AND ALONG THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER AND IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA DURING THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION, THE SMALL FARMING AND RANCHING SETTLEMENT WAS THE SITE OF A NOTORIOUS TRAGEDY IN 1918.

A GROUP OF TEXAS RANGERS FROM COMPANY B IN MARFA, U.S. ARMY SOLDIERS FROM TROOP G OF THE 8TH CAVALRY, AND LOCAL RANCHERS ARRIVED AT PORVENIR IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JANUARY 28, 1918. THEY CAME TO THE RANCH OF MANUEL MORALES AND SEPARATED FIFTEEN ABLE-BODIED MEN AND BOYS FROM THE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OTHER MEN. THOUGH INITIAL ACCOUNTS DENIED ANY WRONGDOING, LATER TESTIMONY CONFIRMED THAT THESE 15 VICTIMS WERE SHOT AND KILLED. FAMILY MEMBERS CROSSED THE RIO GRANDE INTO MEXICO TO BURY ANTONIO CASTAÑEDA, LONGINO FLORES, PEDRO HERRERA, VIVIAN HERRERA, SEVERIANO HERRERA, MANUEL MORALES, EUTEMIO GONZÁLEZ, AMBROSIO HERNÁNDEZ, ALBERTO GARCÍA, TIBURCIO JÁQUEZ, RÓMAN NIEVES, SERAPIO JIMÉNEZ, PEDRO JIMÉNEZ, JUAN JIMÉNEZ, AND MACEDONIO HUERTAS.

IN JUNE 1918, GOVERNOR WILLIAM P. HOBBS AND ADJUTANT GENERAL JAMES A. HARLEY DISBANDED COMPANY B, DISMISSED FIVE RANGERS FOR THEIR ACTIONS AT PORVENIR, AND FORCED CAPTAIN J.M. FOX'S RESIGNATION. STATE REPRESENTATIVE J.T. CANALES FILED CHARGES WITH THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AGAINST THE TEXAS RANGERS, FOR THE OPPRESSION AND MURDER OF HUNDREDS OF ETHNIC MEXICANS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE. AT AN INVESTIGATION BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 1919, LEGISLATORS HEARD AND RECEIVED TESTIMONY REGARDING SEVERAL INCIDENTS INCLUDING PORVENIR. AS A RESULT, THE TEXAS RANGERS WERE REORGANIZED AND REDUCED IN SIZE. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE ATTACK, APPROXIMATELY 140 REMAINING RESIDENTS OF PORVENIR ABANDONED THE COMMUNITY.