

LA VOZ DE BRAZORIA

Free / Gratis
*The Most Interesting
Newspaper in the County*
COUNTRY

Volume # 18 Number 1

A Bilingual Publication

January, 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Remembering
Martin Luther
King, Jr.

LULAC Banquet

Federal Minimum
Wage Set to Go
Up?

Paula Mutina
Parade of Homes

LULAC
Milestones
in History

Overcoming
Obstacles

Hacienda
Records
Continues to
Produce the
Best Sounds

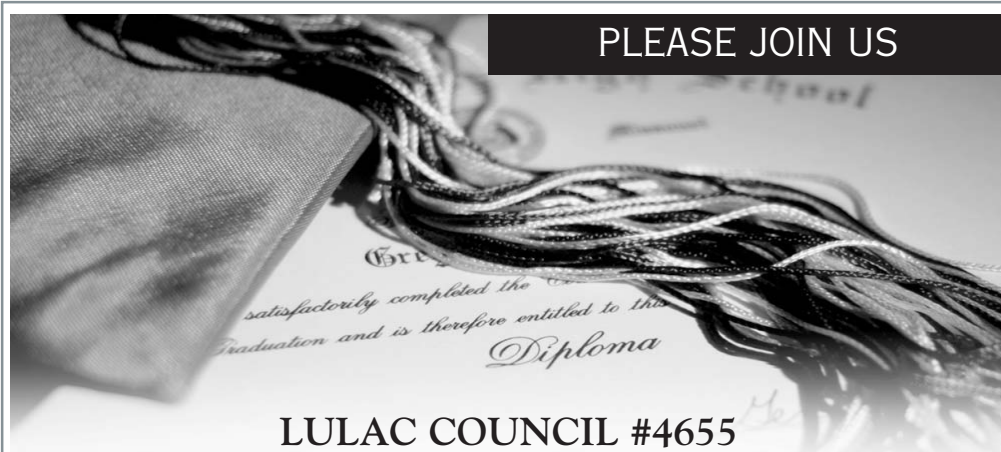
Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

Keeping the Dream Alive



1929

1968



PLEASE JOIN US

LULAC COUNCIL #4655
**SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET
 FUNDRAISER**

"Educating Our Youth For Success"

Thursday, February 8, 2007 • 6:30-9:30
Lake Jackson Civic Center

Keynote Speaker:

VICENTE ARENAS

Anchor & Reporter KHOU-TV

Guest Speaker:

DELORES CORONA MORA, D.D.S.

LULAC Scholarship Recipient



VICENTE ARENAS

Honorees: JOHN JASSO, RON DAMIAN, ALEX MONTEALEGRE

LULAC is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization with councils throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. This annual event has been hugely successful. Proceeds from this fundraiser go to help hard-working and exceptional students. In the past 5 years, Council 4655 has awarded scholarships totaling over \$24,000 to students from Brazoria County.

COMPANY SPONSORSHIPS

GOLD ~ \$1,000
10 person table at banquet

PARTNER ~ \$500
4 person table at banquet

TICKETS

\$30 Adult ~ \$10 Students

PLEASE RSVP BY JAN. 30, 2007
 STELLA CABRERA 979.417.5437

BRAZOSPORT LULAC COUNCIL #4566

P.O. BOX 599 • LAKE JACKSON, TX 77566



ABOVE: Martin Luther King, Jr. at a march in Alabama



**Q-35 Quonset
 Building. Mint
 conditon in crate
 w/roll up door
 35' x 60' x 17'
 Manufactured
 by Interstate Steel.
 Danbury Cty Rd. 209
 1-713-643-5136**



Ginger's

1104 E. Mulberry * CVS Shopping Center
 (979) 849-0488

HAIR * TANNING * NAILS * FACIALS

Stylists

Kathy Davis Charlotte Williams
 Elsa Caudle Shannon Jones
 Susan Newsome Kristen Gaubatz
 Ginger Cooksey

**Incluyanos en sus
 Quinceañeras, Bodas,
 Cumpleaños y Fiestas**

PRODUCTION

Editor

Alfredo R. Santos c/s

Managing Editor

Molly R. Santos

Marketing

Dolores Diaz Miller

Distribution

Louie Maldonado

La Voz email:

d.santos@sbcglobal.net

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 and fax numbers are: (979) 848-2883, or (979) 549-5221. The use, reproduction or distribution of any or part of this publication is strongly encouraged.

Cameron Recycling and Scrap Metal

281-489-1881

Mon - Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
Sat 8:30 - 12:30 pm

20939 Hwy 6

Nosotros Compramos: Cobre, Aluminio, Acero Inoxidable Latas, Carros Viejos, Estano, Fierro Grande y Pequeño.

Para información de precios llame (281) 489-1881.

O Visite Nuestra pagina
www.cameronrecycling.com

Editorial

Well, here we are again. Another year has arrived and many of us are starting or have already been making New Year's resolutions. Some of us have declared that we are going to loose weight, others of us have said we are going to stop smoking and thousands of other things that are not good for us. This is the way many of us start the new year. But of course many things happen along the way and we all have difficulty keeping our resolutions. We will see how it goes in 2007.

Changing the Subject

As it is the case each year, the first holiday is the birthday of the **Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.** Here at **La Voz de Brazoria County** we have placed **Dr. King** on our January cover because we honor him and all of the things he stood for in his life. He was killed at the age of 39 because he stood up for what he believed in and he was not afraid to fight. Perhaps that are those people here in **Brazoria County** who do not agree with the need for people to stand up and defend their rights. We are proud to say that as long we are publishing **La Voz de Brazoria County** we are going to support the ideas for which **Martin Luther King, Jr.** gave his life and we plan on doing it without lowering our head in the process.

Changing the Subject

The Congress of the United States is currently debating whether or not to raise the minimum wage. For many years it has been \$5.15 an hour. On page 7 we have printed an editorial by **James Harrington** from the **Texas Civil Rights Project** and made a chart that sheds more light on the minimum wage issue. **La Voz de Brazoria County** is interested in hearing from our readers what they think of this move to increase the minimum wage. We look forward to printing letters and comments in coming issue of the newspaper.

Adolfo Garza Tax Service



Complete Tax Preparation
and Bookkeeping Service

(979) 849-1247

901 East Mulberry Angleton, Texas 77515

Pues aquí estamos otra vez. Ha llegado otra año nuevo y muchos de nosotros estamos renovando promesas de que vamos a perder peso, vamos a dejar de fumar y miles de otras cosas. Así empezamos el año.

Como todo los años, el primer dia festivo es el cumpleaños del

Reverendo Martin Luther King, Jr. Le hemos puesto al distinguido el la portada de este periódico porque el si fue alguien que deveras riesgo la vida por su creencias. Tal vez hay unos que no estan de acuerdo con la necesidad de pelear por los derechos de uno, pero mientras que **La Voz del Condado de Brazoria** sigue publicando, nosotros siempre vamos a promover al **Dr. King** y a todos que apoyan esta lucha. Y lo vamos hacer sin agachar la cabeza!

Cambiando de Tema

En el Congreso de los Estados Unidos estan discutiendo si van a aumentar el sueldo minimo. Desde hace muchos años el sueldo minimo ha sido \$5.15 la hora. En la pagina 7 tenemos una breve historia de como se ha subido el sueldo minimo al travez de los años. Si usted cree que se debe subir el sueldo minimo, queremos que nos escribe aquí en **La Voz**. Diganos que piensa usted. Esperamos pubicar las reflexiones de la gente en el proximo edición de **La Voz**.

Cambiando de Tema

Por ultimo, queremos avisar a todos, que **La Voz** siempre esta buscando gente que quiere trabajar. Llamanos por si acaso conoces a alguien.



Alfredo R. Santos c/s
Editor

PO Boy's Seafood

Wholesale & Retail

2605 S. HWY 288 B in Angleton, TX

979-849-6872

Store Hours
Daily
9 am - 6 pm

Fresh Shrimp
Frozen Foods

Live Crawfish
Seasonings

Fresh & Frozen Fish

Jovita's Year Around Tamales



ABOVE: Jovita Gonzales is spreading the masa in the corn husks as part of the preparation for tamales. She learned the art of tamale making many years in the Rio Grande Valley and has brought this talent with her to Angleton. For tamales you can contact her at 997-2621 or 848-8461.



**HISPANIC
SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**
www.hsf.net

Kwik Kar

PENNZOIL OIL & LUBE PENNZOIL
10 Minute Oil Change
CERTIFIED EMISSIONS INSPECTION STATION

Salvador Salinas
Sammy Salinas
Owners

1104 N. Velasco
Angleton, TX 77515
(979) 848-9700

HELPLINE is a **free**, confidential information & **referral** service of **United Way of Brazoria County**. The program links **people in need** with the

HELPLINE 800.971.6677 **United Way**
United Way of Brazoria County

Se Habla Español

La Vida de Martin Luther King, Jr.

Nació el 15 de enero de 1929 en **Atlanta** (Georgia). Hijo del **Reverendo Martin Luther King**, llegó al mundo en una habitación de la casa en la Avenida Auburn 501. Fue el primogénito y recibió el mismo nombre que su padre, los familiares lo llamaban "M.L.". Durante los próximos 12 años vivió en esta casa victoriana de dos pisos, junto con sus padres, abuelos, hermanos, tíos, tías y otros residentes. Dos cuadras al oeste de su casa está la Iglesia **Bautista Ebenezer**, la parroquia del abuelo y el padre de Martin.

Ingresó con 15 años en el **Morehouse College** y fue ordenado ministro baptista a los 17. En 1951 se graduó en el **Crozer Theological Seminary**, realizó su trabajo de posgrado en la Universidad de Boston. En **Crozer** y **Boston** comenzó a tratar las ideas del nacionalista indio **Mohandas Gandhi**, las cuales se convirtieron en el centro de su propia filosofía de protesta no violenta.

En 1954 fue nombrado como pastor en la Iglesia baptista de Dexter Avenue en **Montgomery** (Alabama). Ese año, fue prohibida la educación pública segregacionista que mantenían el **Tribunal Supremo de Estados Unidos** con numerosos estados del sur. En 1955 se barajó la idea de un boicot pidiéndole lo dirigiera contra una compañía de transportes públicos en **Montgomery**, en la que se había cometido la injusticia de provocar el arresto de una mujer negra tras negarse a dejar su asiento a un pasajero de blanco.

Martin Luther King llamó al boicot de los autobuses de Montgomery con las siguientes palabras: *"No tenemos otra opción que la protesta. Han sido muchos los años de notable paciencia, hasta el punto de que, en ocasiones, hemos dado a nuestros hermanos blancos la impresión de que nos gustaba el modo en que nos trataban. Pero esta noche estamos aquí para liberarnos de esa paciencia que nos ha hecho pacientes con algo tan importante como la libertad y la justicia"*.

La protesta se llevó a cabo durante 381 días; en ella **King** fue arrestado y encarcelado, su vivienda fue destruida y recibió muchas amenazas de muerte. En 1956 se puso fin al boicot con una orden del **Tribunal Supremo** que prohibía la segregación en el transporte público de la ciudad. Tras el éxito conseguido en el boicot de **Montgomery**, **King** tomó el papel de líder muy respetado.

Trás esto, se fundó la **Conferencia de Líderes Cristianos del Sur** (SCLC) por los clérigos negros de todo el Sur, los cuales nombraron a King su presidente. En 1959 abandonó su pastorado en Montgomery para ejercer en la Iglesia baptista de Ebenezer en **Atlanta**, un gran paso para permitirle participar en el liderazgo nacional del movimiento de derechos civiles. Al principio estaba centrado en la reconciliación, ahora debido a el liderazgo negro sufría una transformación radical exigía un cambio 'por cualquier medio posible'. Surgieron ciertas diferencias de ideología y jurisdicción entre la **SCLC** y otros grupos (Poder Negro

y Musulmanes Negros), pero **King** pidió que la no violencia, siguiera siendo la estrategia principal de resistencia.

En 1963 se puso al frente en **Birmingham** (Alabama) de una campaña a favor de los derechos civiles para lograr el censo de votantes negros, acabar con la segregación y conseguir una mejor educación y alojamiento en los estados del sur. Durante estas campañas fue arrestado varias veces. El 28 de agosto de 1963 las 200.000 personas que habían marchado sobre **Washington** en apoyo de los derechos civiles, le oyeron pronunciar su más famoso discurso: *"Sueño con el día en que esta nación se levante para vivir de acuerdo con su creencia en la verdad evidente de que todos los hombres son creados iguales (...). Sueño con el día en que mis cuatro hijos vivan en una nación donde no serán juzgados por el color de su piel sino por la integridad de su carácter"*.

En 1964 le otorgaron el **Premio Nobel de la Paz**. Después de razonar una y otra vez, **King** creyó que la solución de los problemas locales de las relaciones humanas eran inviables debido a la guerra Vietnam. Las estrategias de **King** fueron objetadas. En **Chicago**, los baptistas negros locales se le opusieron públicamente. También allí los manifestantes plantaron cara a bandas de blancos, dirigidos por neonazis miembros del **Ku Klux Klan**, dando lugar a enfrentamientos. Por lo que se refiere a la guerra del **Vietnam**, muchos creyeron que el liderazgo negro debería concentrarse en la lucha de la injusticia racial dentro de Estados Unidos.

En 1967, **King** se asoció a los dirigentes del movimiento contra la guerra, independientemente de su color. La posterior preocupación de **King** por **Vietnam** y su determinación en dirigir una 'marcha del pueblo pobre' sobre **Washington** pusieron en peligro su vida. El 4 de abril de 1968 **King** fue asesinado en Memphis (Tennessee). **James Earl Ray**, un preso blanco que había escapado de la prisión, fue arrestado por el asesinato; declarado culpable, en marzo de 1969 se le sentenciaron 99 años de cárcel. El lugar de nacimiento y su tumba en **Atlanta** fueron designados lugares históricos nacionales. Para conmemorar la muerte violenta el 4 de abril de 1968 del líder de los derechos civiles, **Martin Luther King, Jr.**, muchas ciudades y estados decretaron días para recordarlo. Algunos días coincidían con el de su nacimiento y otros con el de su muerte. Desde 1986 se escogió un día cercano al de su nacimiento (el 15 de enero) como fiesta nacional, y el Congreso decretó que fuera el tercer lunes de enero.

NEAL Insurance

Providing Quality Insurance Protection for a long, long time.

Neal Insurance Agency

101 West Mulberry

P.O. Box 907

Angleton, Texas 77516

979-849-5779

800-566-6383

Fax 979-849-2797

www.neal-insurance.com

Birth and Family

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born at noon Tuesday, January 15, 1929, at the family home, 501 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Charles Johnson was the attending physician. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the first son and second child born to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., and Alberta Williams King.

Other children born to the Kings were Christine King Farris and the late Reverend Alfred Daniel Williams King. Martin Luther King's maternal grandparents were the Reverend Adam Daniel Williams, second pastor of Ebenezer Baptist, and Jenny Parks Williams. His paternal grandparents, James Albert and Delia King, were sharecroppers on a farm in Stockbridge, Georgia.

He married the former Coretta Scott, younger daughter of Obadiah and Bernice McMurray Scott of Marion, Alabama on June 18, 1953. The marriage ceremony took place on the lawn of the Scott's home in Marion. The Reverend King, Sr., performed the service, with Mrs. Edythe Bagley, the sister of Mrs. King, maid of honor, and the Reverend A.D. King, the brother of Martin Luther King, Jr., best man.

Four children were born to Dr. and Mrs. King: Yolanda Denise (November 17, 1955 Montgomery, Alabama) Martin Luther III (October 23, 1957 Montgomery, Alabama) Dexter Scott (January 30, 1961 Atlanta, Georgia) Bernice Albertine (March 28, 1963 Atlanta, Georgia)

Education

Martin Luther King, Jr. began his education at the Yonge Street Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia. Following Yonge School, he was enrolled in David T. Howard Elementary School. He also attended the Atlanta University Laboratory School and Booker T. Washington High School. Because of his high score on the college entrance examinations in his junior year of high school, he advanced to Morehouse College without formal graduation from Booker T. Washington. Having skipped both the ninth and twelfth grades, Dr. King entered Morehouse at the age of fifteen.

In 1948, he graduated from Morehouse College with a B.A. degree in Sociology. That fall, he enrolled in Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania. While attending Crozer, he also studied at the University of Pennsylvania. He was

Martin Luther King, Jr.

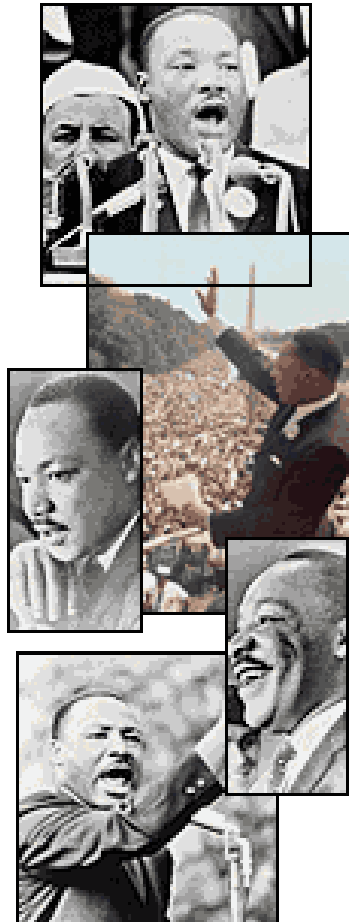
A Biographical Sketch

elected president of the senior class and delivered the valedictory address; he won the Pearl Plafker Award for the most outstanding student; and he received the J. Lewis Crozer fellowship for graduate study at a university of his choice. He was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer in 1951.

In September of 1951, Martin Luther King began doctoral studies in Systematic Theology at Boston University. He also studied at Harvard University. His dissertation, "A Comparison of God in the Thinking of Paul Tillich and Henry Wieman," was completed in 1955, and the Ph.D. degree from Boston, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Systematic Theology, was awarded on June 5, 1955.

Martin Luther King entered the Christian ministry and was ordained in February 1948 at the age of nineteen at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Following his ordination, he became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer. Upon completion of his studies at Boston University, he accepted the call of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama.

He was the pastor of Dexter Avenue from September 1954 to November 1959, when he resigned to move to Atlanta to direct the activities of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. From 1960 until his death in 1968, he was co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church and President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



Dr. King was a pivotal figure in the Civil Rights Movement. He was elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, the organization which was responsible for the successful Montgomery Bus Boycott from 1955 to 1956 (381 days). He was arrested thirty times for his participation in civil rights activities. He was a founder and president of Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1957 to 1968. He was also vice president of the national Sunday School and Baptist Teaching Union Congress of the National Baptist Convention. He was a member of several national and local boards of directors and served on the boards of

trustees of several institutions and agencies. Dr. King was elected to membership in several learned societies including the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Awards

Dr. King received several hundred awards for his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement. Among them were: Selected one of the most outstanding personalities of the year by **Time**, 1957. Named *Man of the Year* by **Time**, 1963. The John Dewey Award, from the United Federation of Teachers, 1964. The John F. Kennedy Award, from the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago, 1964. The Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. At age 35, Dr. King was the youngest man, the second American, and the third black man awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Speeches

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a vital personality of the modern era. His lectures and remarks stirred the concern and sparked the conscience of a generation; the movements and marches he led brought significant changes in the fabric of American life; his courageous and selfless devotion gave direction to thirteen years of civil rights activities; his charismatic leadership inspired men and women, young and old, in the nation and abroad.

Dr. King's concept of *somebodiness* gave black and poor people a new sense of worth and dignity. His philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and his strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, galvanized the conscience of this nation and reordered its priorities. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, for example, went to Congress as a result of the Selma to Montgomery march. His wisdom, his words, his actions, his commitment, and his dreams for a new cast of life, are intertwined with the American experience.

Death

Dr. King was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee on April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray. James Earl Ray was arrested in London, England on June 8, 1968 and returned to Memphis, Tennessee to stand trial for the assassination of Dr. King. On March 9, 1969, before coming to trial, he entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to ninety-nine years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

Dr. King had been in Memphis to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable conditions. His funeral services were held April 9, 1968, in Atlanta at Ebenezer Church and on the campus of Morehouse College, with the President of the United States proclaiming a day of mourning and flags being flown at half-staff.

The area where Dr. King was entombed is located on Freedom Plaza and surrounded by the Freedom Hall Complex of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site, a 23 acre area was listed as a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1977, and was made a National Historic Site on October 10, 1980 by the U.S. Department of the Interior.



Obteniendo ayuda

Si tiene dudas con respecto a la cantidad de un préstamo para que califica, el obtener una pre-calificación por un prestamista es necesario. La mayoría de los agentes de bienes de raíces lo podemos ayudar para lo que usted califica.

(979) 849-3189



Molly Santos



Necesitamos 50 personas para servicio al cliente, en el area de Brazosport/Angleton. Experiencia trabajando con impuestos será bueno. (Clases disponibles) Personas bilingües también se necesita para trabajar con la comunidad Hispana. Llama a Jackson Hewitt Tax Service al (979) 285-3838 o ven nuestra oficina al 108 Dixie Drive en Clute, Texas de lunes a viernes.



Bonnie I. Granado
Vice President, Loan Officer

Royalty Residential Mortgage, Inc.

“Su casa es su castillo” dice el viejo refran.

Quiere realmente obtener una casa propia?

Llame me. Estoy a sus ordenes.

Cell 713/562-0837

979/742-3850

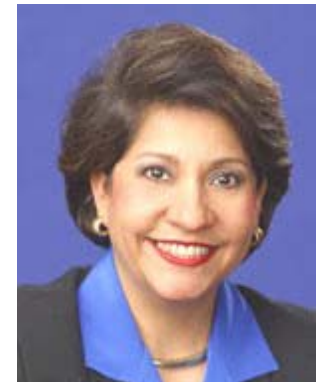


News Release

El Consejo Nacional de La Raza Celebra La Aprobación de Legislación Sobre el Salario Mínimo

Washington, DC – El Consejo Nacional de La Raza (NCLR, por sus siglas en inglés)- la organización nacional más grande de apoyo y defensa de derechos civiles de hispanos en EE UU- elogió en el día de hoy la aprobación de la legislación a favor del aumento del salario mínimo federal por parte de la Cámara de Representantes.

“Los hispanos se encuentran entre los estadounidenses más trabajadores. Desafortunadamente, tienen una probabilidad tres veces mayor de estar trabajando a tiempo completo mientras continúan viviendo en la pobreza”, declaró **Janet Murguía**, presidenta de NCLR. *“Un aumento en el salario mínimo a \$7.25 la hora mejoraría la condición económica de más de 1.3 millones de trabajadores latinos al tiempo que les daría la oportunidad de proveer mejor para sus familias”.*



Janet Murguía

Hoy día, hay casi 21 millones de latinos en la fuerza laboral. Además, los hispanos mantienen la tasa de participación más alta en la fuerza laboral en comparación con sus semejantes. De hecho, casi siete de cada diez latinos aptos para trabajar participan en la fuerza laboral. Sin embargo, muchos trabajadores latinos no pueden subir su nivel económico debido a niveles bajos de educación y destrezas.

“Aumentar el salario mínimo es un buen primer paso”, continuó Murguía. “No obstante, tenemos que invertir más en los trabajadores y en la fuerza laboral latina. El Congreso tiene además la oportunidad de hacer esa inversión y puede reaprobar la Workforce Investment Act”.

El Workforce Investment Act (en español, la Ley de Inversión en la Fuerza Laboral o WIA, por sus siglas en inglés) es una ley federal que dispone fondos para enriquecer las destrezas de la fuerza laboral estadounidense. NCLR apoya las propuestas de la WIA que aumentan los accesos a servicios de entrenamiento vocacional y profesional; que se concentran en mejorar las destrezas lingüísticas y habilidades de adultos con dominio limitado del idioma; y que apoyan el trabajo de organizaciones comunitarias.

“Este es el momento de realizar buenas inversiones en la fuerza laboral del país”, Murguía concluyó. *“Estamos seguros de que invertir en los trabajadores latinos resultará en grandes dividendos para la economía nacional en general”.*

La Voz de Brazoria County
www.lavozdebrazoriacounty.com

Federal Minimum Wage is a National Disgrace

by James C. Harrington
Director, Texas Civil Rights Project

As of December 2, 2006, this country broke the record for the longest period of time without a raise in the minimum wage since that federal law was established in 1938. The prior record was nine years and three months (January 1, 1981 until April 1, 1990).

The buying power of today's \$5.15/hour minimum wage is less than the 1950 minimum, according to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics** inflation calculator. It would take \$9.28 in today's dollars to match the buying power of the 1950 minimum wage. And it requires almost two workers these days to match the buying power of one minimum wage worker in 1968. A family today needs two bread winners, not one.

A full-time, minimum-wage worker earns \$10,712/year — less than \$900/month to cover housing, food, health care, transportation, and other expenses. Or, to put this in another perspective, today, family health insurance costs more than a minimum-wage worker's entire annual income, which is why so few minimum-wage families have health coverage. The annual federal minimum leaves a family of three subsisting at about \$6,000 under the poverty level.

The minimum wage sets the wage floor. As the floor has sunk below poverty levels, millions of workers earn above the minimum, but not above poverty wages.

The share of national income going to wages and salaries is at the lowest since 1929, while the share going to after-tax corporate profits is at the highest. Since 1997, domestic corporate profits have risen 72%, while the minimum wage has fallen 20%, adjusted for inflation. Compared to 1968, domestic corporate profits have climbed 214%, but the minimum wage has dropped 44% in value.

CEOs have enriched themselves and their families while workers struggle just to support themselves and their children. The highest paid CEO in 1968 made as much as 127 average-income workers together (or 239 minimum-wage workers). The highest paid CEO's salary in 2005 equaled the combined wages of 7,443 average-income workers (or 23,282 minimum-wage workers).

With the federal minimum wage stuck in the cost-of-living quicksand, a number of states have raised their minimums, but not Texas, of course. At least 29 states and the **District of Columbia** will have minimum wages above \$5.15/hour as of January 1, 2007.

Contrary to the naysayers and according to the Fiscal Policy Institute,

since 1998, states with higher minimum wages than required by federal law had better job growth than states paying only the federal minimum. And small businesses in higher minimum-wage states had twice the job growth as the rest of the country.

Democrats promise a minimum-wage hike within the first 100 hours of the new Congress. The long-delayed Fair Minimum Wage Act would occur in three steps: \$5.85/hour, 60 days after enactment; \$6.55, one year later in 2008; and \$7.25 in 2009.

This is a step in the right direction, but workers should not have to wait until 2009 for a \$7.25 minimum wage that does not even restore buying power lost since 1968.

Congress has given itself eight pay raises since 1997 and is scheduled for a \$3,300 "cost of living adjustment," raising congressional pay on Jan. 1 to \$168,500 — not counting health coverage, pensions, and other benefits. Congress should refuse pay increases until it raises the minimum wage enough to keep workers out of poverty, instead of in poverty.

History of Federal Minimum Wage Rates in USA

Month/Year	Money
October, 1938	\$0.25
October, 1939	\$0.30
October, 1945	\$0.40
January, 1950	\$0.75
May, 1956	\$1.00
September, 1961	\$1.15
September, 1963	\$1.25
February, 1967	\$1.40
February, 1968	\$1.60
May, 1974	\$2.00
January, 1975	\$2.15
January, 1976	\$2.30
January, 1978	\$2.65
January, 1979	\$2.90
January, 1980	\$3.10
January, 1981	\$3.35
April, 1990	\$3.80
April, 1991	\$4.25
October, 1996	\$4.75
September, 1997	\$5.15

