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Who Cares About Hispanic Heritage Month?

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WHO CARES ABOUT HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

By A. Govea @albertogovea@amigosnbusiness.com

Well, my first answer will be two former presidents Lyndon B. Johnson was the first to issue a proclamation in 1968. However, it started as a week and then in 1988, Ronald Reagan made it an entire month. What is Hispanic Héritage month? The official definition is that it is an annual celebration of the history and culture of U.S. Latinos. Some people, though, prefer the word Hispanic, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Chicano. My friend Ronnie says they refer to him as a Chicansaures. I often say I am a leftover Chicano, gaining popularity now is the new label Latinx. Many in the Mexican community like to claim an ancestry from Spain. Guess they think it's cooler than being a plain old Mexican.

Which leads to another question, why do some people shy away from a Mexican heritage? Is it because most Raza here is of Mexican heritage? And you just want to be different or is it because you'd rather be of European descent? I know for me growing up in the 60s they portrayed Mexicans as lazy and in school they were the Alamo murders. I remember

shrinking in my seat when Texas history was taught, and they characterized the Mexican army as bad people. And the Whites on the other side as heroes. Because of those narratives, many of us walked around with the burden of being of Mexican descent. I remember people making fun of my lunch of tacos. Of course, kids are always looking to make fun of each other. Pero when your teacher joined in, that is a lot worse, maybe there was something wrong with us. And when I made the mistake of responding to a schoolmate in Spanish, I paid the price. They marched me into the principal's office and gave me 5 swats with a paddle.

So, what did I learn from all this at an early age; Mexican bad, White good. And of course, I was not the only one to learn this early lesson. For that reason, when our generation started having kids, teaching our kids Spanish was not a priority. After all, no one wants to get their children in trouble. This led to a bunch of Mexican Americans that can't speak Spanish. And some of Spanish speakers making fun of them or correcting every word. I have dealt with this type as well. I call them Spanish-speaking snobs, Pero that is a whole other story.

Then something happened in the late sixties (for me) I awoke to a growing Chicano movement. Also referred to as El Movimiento which was inspired by acts of the resistance in the forties and fifties by the Pachuco. Suddenly I heard and saw signs saying that our community had real value. Brown is



beautiful signs were at any Chicano resistance event. And guess what I and many others started to believe that. Maybe the negative indoctrination that we went through in Elementary wasn't factual. Maybe there was another side to the story, and we played a positive part in it.

Which leads to why I celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The story of the challenges our community endured and overcame is a story I am proud of. It is a story I shared with my family and with young people during the Rites of Passage program I facilitated. And one phrase stands out to me from them "I never knew that" Which is why I still tell those stories in our publication or in person when invited to. After all, how can you be proud of a history you know nothing of? That is a history I am proud as an American of Mexican descent. Our story continues, and with your help, it can only get better. Brown is Beautiful—Ca Vive La Raza!



Mi Opinion

by Jim Stodola

HELL YES, IT'S TREASON

How many times have you heard Donald Trump accuse someone of treason, probably and wrongly, thirty times? I love President Biden for saying that Trump's Big Lie is a Big Lie. But what did Biden say about voter suppression speaking of Republicans in dozens of states? He said, "Have you no shame?" That line might have worked against Wisconsin GOP Senator Joe McCarthy many years ago, but it doesn't work now. Voter suppression is TREASON, and that's what wimpy Joe Biden should have said.

You all should know Florida's voter suppression laws and Oklahoma's and Arizona's. And that our own Abominable Abbott, who has screwed up so many things lately, has called a special session of our legislature to again attempt to make Texas the most voter restrictive state in the Union. The Reprehensible Republicans nationwide have introduced some 216 bills to restrict voting. In my mind this is TREASON. The United States Supreme Court (SCOTUS) has voted six to three to uphold Arizona's voter suppression.

And that means it's time for President Biden to pack the Court, adding maybe four more SCOTUS justices. But will he have the balls to do it, or will he keep praying that the GOPs will someday come around, which they NEVER will. Remember that just as Netanyahu swore, he will bring down the opposing coalition in Israel, so too, Mitch McConnell promised to bring down Biden over here.

Enough of Biden's thinking that the GOP is going to come around for bi-partisan agreements on anything Mr. President, the fat lady has already sung! And it's time for you

to get TOUGH, not dirty, but tough. And it's time to quit catering to so-called Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, he was just down here in Texas attending a fund-raiser with GOP donors.

I don't know what you could accomplish without him but think about this. Remember when Tricky Trump refused to give financial aid to California during last year's horrible forest fires, saying that Californians weren't raking leaves from the forest floors. (Donald, it's brush and trees, I've seen how slowly leaves burn, you moron). Trump finally succumbed a bit.

Here's what you need to do Mr. President: Go ahead with a smaller infrastructure bill. After it passes, state that you are going to withhold such money from states where both GOP senators voted against it. Tell folks that their GOP senators want the bridges to collapse. If they want to get the money to fix bridges, etc., vote out those jackasses. Yes, it will hurt Texas until we get rid of those jackasses, maybe sooner than later with a recall vote as they are trying to do to our Democratic governor in California.

You all are aware that the Republican part of the Arizona Senate is conducting a recount of Maricopa County's 2020 presidential votes. Only their own biased reporters like OAN, the right-wing extremist group are allowed in. The rest of the reporters have to stay almost caged in a corner, being thrown out if they left the corner. Now Looney Lindell (Mike), swears that he will have 100% proof that the election will be overturned. The ballots were then shipped to a barn in

Montana which this tainted GOP group calls their "lab."

The tainted gang was first using blue-light which can damage ballots. Now keep in mind that the ballots were officially counted THREE times already. Forget the bamboo paper scam, with all I have told you regarding this matter, **I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT THIS TREACHEROUS GANG HAS ACTUALLY BEEN ALTERING THE BALLOTS!**

There are three very recent books on the sickness of Donald Trump and his cronies:

"Frankly We Did Win This Election." By Michael Bender

"I Alone Can Fix It" by Carol Leonnig and Philip Rucker

"Landslide" by Michael Wolff which I am reading now.

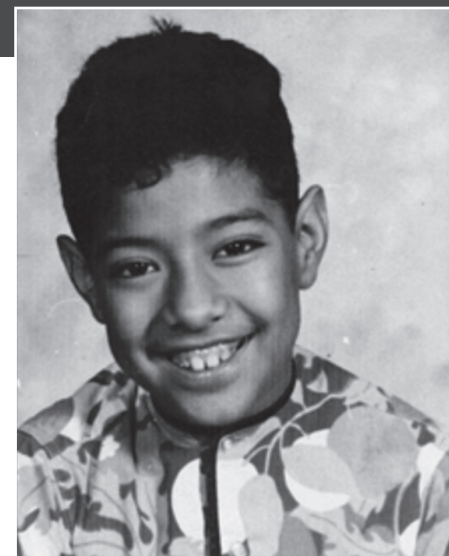
I started to list a lot of sick facts about Trump, but just keep this in mind. Unless he is in prison, Trump will run again, and he has a lot of moronic followers. I believe that Matt Gaetz, GOP Florida representative, will most likely be in prison for, among other things, statutory rape. Both being from Florida, Trump will first run in a special election for Gaetz's seat. Trump can still go to prison as a representative. Now when the GOPs take over the House and Senate with their crooked voter suppression laws, well, it goes from there.

Fight my friends, fight and educate. I know you cannot educate pig-headed morons but try.

SANTOS RODRIGUEZ 48 YEARS LATER

By A. Govea

In the early morning hours of July 24th, 1973, two boys 12 and 13 found themselves in pajamas and shoeless sitting in a Police car. Someone had reportable broken into a vending machine at a Fina station and gotten away with about \$8.00 in change. After picking up the boys from their grandfather's home, Officer Cain and Arnold were after a confession. According to the testimony of David his brother, Santos was sitting in the front seat with Cain and his 13-year-old brother was in the back seat with Arnold.



Office Cain decided to play a game of Russian Roulette with 12-year-old Santos, one tug nothing, second pull killed Santos instantly. This according to testimony was to scare Santos and force a confession. According to David, Santos' brother, his last words were 'I am telling the truth' What happened next has been well documented, civil protests broke out in Dallas by mostly Chicanos/Mexican Americans. Which led to Officer Cain being charged with murder and receiving a 5-year sentence of which he only served 2 and a half years of. Which seems like such a miscarriage of Justice, especially since officer Cain had already killed an 18-year-old burglary suspect. Eyewitness reported that Michael Morehead

was on the ground pleading for his life when he was shot. No charges were ever filed in that case. So even though a five-year sentence for murder is insane, he at least was found guilty. Officer Cain lived as a free man after only serving two and half years, he lived for 64 years more years than Santos. Officer Cain died March 17th, 2019; he was 76 at the time of his death.

Fast forward to July 24th, 2021, Santos Mother Bessie Rodriguez and the rest of the living family finally got an official public apology from the Dallas police department. Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia, the first Latino police chief in Dallas said, "I realize the city has not healed as a city from the loss of Santos. And so, it is after nearly 48 years an official apology from the Dallas police

department was delivered. A statue with Santos' image will go up soon at Pike Park his former playground and a recreation center now carries his name. I am sure while these gestures carry some value, they will never make up for a life of a child. Though perhaps if they had taken the murder of this child more seriously 48 years ago, maybe it would have saved at least some of those that been murdered since then.

Maybe there would not have been a George Floyd a Breana Taylor and on and on. We left only to wonder about that. That said, we are all responsible for not allowing this to happen again.

Care for the Homeless:

by Alfredo Sanchez

How often have you heard “give a man a fish and you feed him for a day”? Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”? On the surface this proverb sounds provocative but in application it makes little to no sense. This saying is usually applied to people who are receiving government assistance or repeated by people who are against government assistance. Most Americans are educated and can read and write. You would think they already know how to fish. You would think with these simple skills (knowing how to fish) a person would be ready to support himself, hold a job and feed himself. Yet many Americans who have these basic skills are not able to earn a livable wage and are dependent on government assistance. To feed yourself by fishing requires more than just knowing how to fish. The fisherman must own fishing equipment, have transportation to get to the fishing location from his home, money to purchase gas for transportation, maps to locate lakes to fish the best fishing holes, own a boat to get away from the shore to isolated locations where the fish are, to have a place to store his catch, etc. It is not sufficient to teach someone to fish. There must be numerous resources available to the fisherman, other than knowing how to fish, before a fisherman is able to become self-sufficient. The resources needed by each fisherman varies from location to location and from individual to individual. Just knowing how to fish does not make



everyone successful, just like knowing how to read and writes does not make everyone successful. The reason we have such a large homeless population is that many issues contribute to needing government assistance or homelessness, such as hourly wages, having reliable transportation to a job, drug abuse, family abuse, no family support, etc. Once a person is homeless, it is almost impossible for a person to get on his feet unless someone intervenes and provides some sort of support for an extended period, especially if the person has no employable skills.

The next time you hear a person say, “give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”, challenge him and have him explain what exactly he means by it. Anyone having a skill needs the basics of life before he can implement his talents and skills. Graduates from high school,

college or trade school get support from parents and family before they can go off on their own and start their own careers. Some come home because they do not earn enough to live on their own. It is not enough for our government to provide housing for those in need. Our government must also provide funding for career skills if we hope to have fewer people needing government assistance. As the pandemic has reduced our workforce, we need more skilled workers to replace those we have lost. It is time our government, both federal and state, invest in our greatest resource, our labor force, which includes primarily the youth. Yes, I say invest in America which also includes our homeless residents and bring them back to living the American dream. It is cheaper to educate them and help them become contributing members of our society. Once these people join the work force again, they will pay taxes. They will pay more in taxes than what we invested in them. If the United States wants to compete on the world stage, it must have a highly educated population, both at the vocational and university levels. Once America was great because it had a highly educated high school graduate population. At one time it had a high school education and vocational training. Today, our youth, in most cases, need a skill or higher education to compete in their own communities and to compete on the world stage.

God wants us to come be close to him

Do you believe God is everywhere? Most people know and believe this. We say “You can see Him in everything which makes up our beautiful planet”. When you admire a rose or any flower and see how beautiful the petals form to become a complete flower, you get the good feeling that God is trying to talk to you. The word “enjoy” is heard and felt all over your body. God communicates with us by many forms of his Great works, which bring us pleasure and joy

This form of communication should not be just in a one-way direction. God wants to hear from us as well. We do this by praying. We show him our Love and appreciation through different forms of worship.

Before Jesus Christ came to earth, the Jews had the only form of worshiping God. It was according to their rules and religious laws. It kept God at a distance.

The Jewish temple of worship was made of different Chambers. One of them was in the middle and it was considered the Holy of Holies. It was where the presence of God was recognized to be. The arc of the covenant was kept there. It contained articles touched by God that helped Moses keep the Israelis safe as he led them from slavery to the promise land. These articles were considered Very Holy. No one could enter the Holy Chamber except the High Priest and then only once a year. God’s presence was inaccessible.

Jesus Christ, Man in God, changed all that. He walked the earth amongst men. He established a new covenant with God

the Father that was designed to bring the presence of God closer to all who wanted it. He established the Catholic Church and showed us how to worship him and also gave us a way to experience his presence through the Eucharist.

The Catholic Church building is like the Jewish temple except there is no Holy of



Holiest Chamber that only a High priest can enter. There is a Holy Tabernacle at the far end, at the front of the church. In it is also kept what God uses to lead his Church to the new promise land. The Eucharist is kept there. The Holy Mass and Eucharist transubstantiation are held there.

During the Catholic Mass, an Ordained Priest leads us through many canonical prayers and acts of worship. This series of presentations, were authorized and commanded by Jesus Christ when he said “Do this in memory of me”. The statement allows Jesus’s Apostles, the Catholic Priests, to do what Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Change the offering of bread and wine to into the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. It becomes the Eucharist

Those of us who have made ourselves worthy will be able to consume one of the Eucharist wafers during communion.

So God has created a way for us to be close to him. It is through the presence of his Son Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Jesus said: “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” (John 6:51–52).

Later he also said: Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him” (John 6:53–56). Jesus Christ’s presence is now amongst us in the simple form of Bread and Wine during Mass. We can pray before him during Holy Hour when the Eucharist is exposed. The rest of the time, the Eucharist remains in the approachable Tabernacle. We can pray before it there with the knowledge that Christ our King is nearby.

Peace and Love to you all,

**Joe M. Govea, a devout Catholic
whose duty is to evangelize**

G. P. Chamber

Starting a new business can be a very exciting time. Pero (but) it can also be scary and lonely. And some ask themselves “What did I do?”, once the initial rush from launching your business fades. Questions pop up that you never even thought of. Oh, your uncle that started his own business 30 years ago has some advice. Maybe your Compadre knows somebody that knows somebody that might know. This can cause stress and anxiety for most of us. And if you are a minority business owner, you might have even more questions.

Well, if you do business in the Grand Prairie area help has arrived. The new Grand Prairie Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is open and ready to serve you. Their mission statement reads as follows; To be the top leading advocate for support and success of minority and women-owned businesses. By providing resources, information, and education, promoting cultural awareness and perseverance of the Hispanic culture. Services include business incubator services, access to business capital opportunities, referrals, discounts and much more.

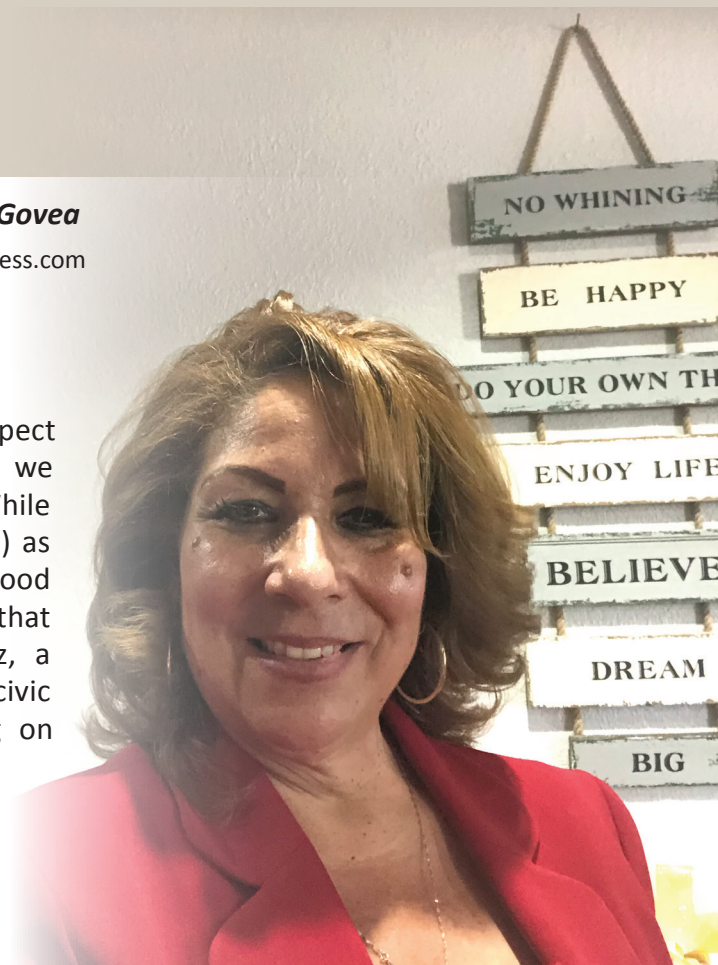
Their pledge reads, “We are committed to treating our members with the highest

By Alberto T. Govea

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level of professionalism, respect and equality deserved, what we do for one we do for all.” While all this sounds great Pero (but) as with any promise it is only good as the person behind it. And that leads us to Mary Dominguez, a business owner with extensive civic involvement including serving on many boards. Ms. Dominguez is currently president of the GPISD education foundation board of directors. Recognitions have included a day named in her honor by Grand Prairie Mayor Ron Jensen. Commissioner Elba Garcia also gave her the honor of being named Citizen of the Year.

So going back to the pledge I referenced earlier, I think we all would be comfortable in having confidence in the chamber given the person behind it. I asked Ms. Dominguez what led her to start a chamber in Grand Prairie her response was, (Paraphrasing) “...The large and growing Hispanic community needed a strong voice for our entrepreneurs and small business.” We expect our Chamber will provide that voice and be a resource platform which they can use before starting a business or to help grow a business. We at Hola Texas congratulate Ms. Dominguez and her mission to become an advocate for minority and women owned business. And we expect to partner with her and her membership to help create best chamber possible.



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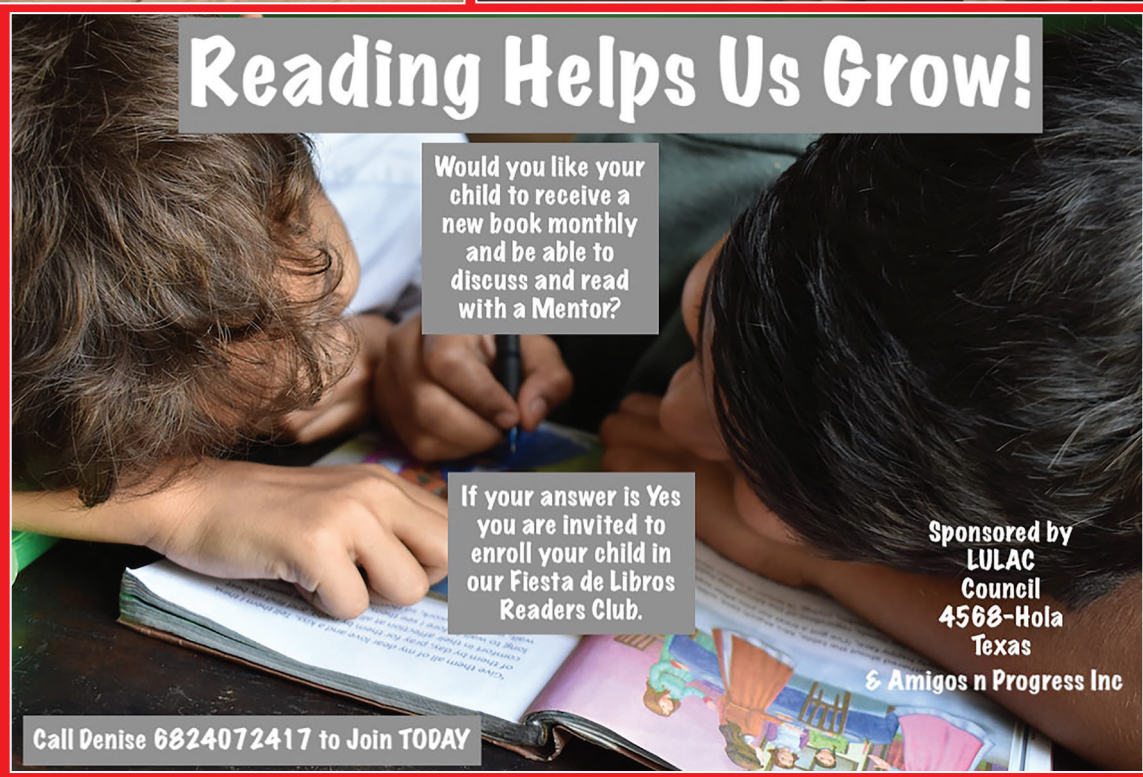
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Reading Helps Us Grow!

A Day in the Life of a Vaccinator Outreach Worker–20 somethings lead the charge

A young community worker reveals what a day in her life is like, while campaigning to raise awareness about immunization

Jocelyn Zambrano, 20, drives up to an hour and a half a day through Los Angeles County, from the Wilmington neighborhood to the San Fernando Valley, thinking about how to get more Latinx people vaccinated against COVID-19.

“I get up at 5:40 a.m. and at 7 in the morning, I leave for San Fernando,” Zambrano said. “I start at 8:30 am at the office of Pueblo y Salud, a nonprofit organization in San Fernando. I spend the morning planning and starting at 3 p.m., my team and I are going to knock on doors.”

Zambrano is studying at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) to become an elementary teacher. Since the end of June when her classes ended, she has been working 40 hours a week on Pueblo y Salud’s outreach campaign for the COVID-19 vaccine.

“I’m in charge of a team of five community outreach workers, including myself,” Zambrano said. “We go out almost every day to educate the Latino community about vaccination and go house to house, knocking on doors.”

This job has become a mission for Zambrano’s team, most of whom are in their early twenties. “Only one of us is in her 30s,” Zambrano said. “We want to see more people vaccinated. I (am) vaccinated and my family are already.”

This is more than a summer job for the outreach workers, Zambrano said. It is for the entire year. They will continue working



part time on vaccine canvassing when they return to classes.

“A lot of people speculate on whether or not they should get vaccinated,” Zambrano said of the people she speaks with in the community. “Some of them think there is a chip in the vaccine. Others say they are going to be injected with the same virus; or they ask why they have to feel bad after getting vaccinated when the vaccine is supposed to prevent us from getting sick. There are others who think that it is not free and they have to pay.”

When neighbors open their door to Zambrano and ask her these questions, she offers them information to raise awareness about the options of where to get vaccinated. She gives them masks and tries to make them commit to receiving the vaccine, helping them with the appointment to receive the vaccination.

She says that she has found that many people do not want to get vaccinated because they are scared. “One person told us that one of her co-workers had a heart attack after getting vaccinated,” she said. “And because of that, she thinks the vaccine caused it. We explained to her that she probably suffered that incident because she already had some health problems.”

There are other individuals who think they must have health insurance to get

vaccinated. “The vaccine is free, and they just have to say no when asked if they have insurance,” she explained.

Zambrano has knocked on doors in communities such as Canoga Park, Pacoima, San Fernando and Sun Valley. She said she is starting to see some success, little by little

“On July 22, we managed to get 10 people vaccinated,” Zambrano said. “It was



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very good, because normally the average that we convince to get vaccinated per day is zero to four.”

Sometimes Zambrano and her team arrange to vaccinate people in their own family homes. “We just make one call and they come to vaccinate them at their homes,” she said. “Other times, we manage to encourage them to go to the nearest vaccination clinic that will be set up in the following days”.

Pueblo y Salud works with various hospitals to give vaccines at home. For pop-up clinics, they work with the Fernandño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Pacoima Beautiful, a nonprofit organization focused on environmental justice in Pacoima.

In keeping with the State of California’s equity strategies to vaccinate hard-to-reach communities and address vaccine questions, the Pueblo y Salud team decides which neighborhoods to visit in a weekly meeting they have with the San Fernando Valley COVID Rapid Response Table. “We have an internal website where we can see the areas where people have been vaccinated the least, and we go to those places to raise awareness of the covid vaccine,” Zambrano says.

Outreach workers do run into people who are completely reluctant to get vaccinated. “We try not to put too much pressure on them because we want our team to be safe,” she said. “We never know how they can react.”

In those cases, Zambrano said she and her team thank them and leave. “We really can’t keep trying to persuade them when they’ve already made a decision,” she said. “It’s something we have to get over and move on.”

Zambrano reveals that Pueblo y Salud hopes to grow the virus vaccination outreach team to a total of eight people.

“We are still looking for people because we entered the vaccination program quite late,” she said.

Even with her current staffing level, she says knocking on doors and talking to people about the vaccine is worth it. “Especially at this time with the Delta variant, reaching people who are not vaccinated is even more important, because this can get worse,” she said. “So far it has worked because we have managed to get people out of their home to get vaccinated.”

Rafael Rincón, 21, another community outreach worker and CSUN student, said he became passionate about the issue because his mother was diagnosed with COVID. Since then, he set out to raise awareness about the pandemic and work to get more people vaccinated.

“Even though my mother had mild symptoms, I don’t want any one to catch it,” Rincón said. “So as soon as I could, I (got) vaccinated.”

When someone opens the door and does not want to be vaccinated, Rafael said he asks them to think about their family. “You may not necessarily be the one at high risk of getting sick, but you have other members of your house hold who can get infected,” he said. “So, think of the other people in your community, not yourself.”

And through talking to Angelenos door after door he said he has learned that the public is not well-informed.

“This program is very necessary to raise awareness; and there may be some people who do not go out much to find this information,” he said.

Rafael believes that a lot of misinformation about the vaccine has spread, creating fear; and that is why they need to have the appropriate information available.

Jocelyn Salazar, 21, a Los Angeles Mission College student, is also a COVID vaccine outreach worker for Pueblo y Salud.

“It is important to me because I want everyone to be healthy and protected from the virus,” Salazar said. “Many people from my family and friends have died. We want everyone to protect themselves by

wearing masks, with social distance and the vaccine.”

When visiting families in their homes, Salazar said she is surprised how many people are afraid of the vaccine because of what they hear from friends and relatives instead of paying attention to what medical professionals and scientists say.

When asked what she would tell someone who doesn’t want to get vaccinated, Salazar said: “I would tell you that I want you to know the resources that exist to obtain the vaccine. I do not want to pressure you. I just want you to know.”

Ruben Rodríguez, director of Pueblo y Salud, says that the message has been constant for the community to be vaccinated, especially Latinx people and African Americans. “Education is there, and many people want to go, but not to struggle to get it,” Rodríguez said. “They don’t want to line up, wait, or use the phone to check in or miss work.”

He said there are other barriers as well: “For example, the Latino community uses common sense a lot and says, ‘Why am I going to get vaccinated, if I have to wear the mask anyway?’

Rodríguez said that direct contact works. “Sometimes, there are people who say that they have not been vaccinated because they have not had time,” he said. “We tell them, ‘I will make the appointment right now,’ and the pop-up vaccination clinics help a lot in this.”

He concludes by saying that it is challenging to get people vaccinated when they have preconceptions and don’t give it importance. “Going from door to door does work, because I believe people are no longer paying attention to the radio or TV ads,” Rodríguez said. “They are tired of always listening the same. And although out of 100 people we talked to, it is possible to convince one, it is worth it.”

Along with raising awareness about COVID-19 vaccines, Pueblo y Salud also provides alcohol, drug and tobacco prevention programs, Zambrano said.

Promotoras van puerta por puerta para convencer a latinos de vacunarse contra covid-19

Jocelyn Zambrano maneja diario hasta una hora y media entre el barrio de Wilmington hasta el Valle de San Fernando en el condado de Los Ángeles con el pensamiento puesto en cómo lograr que más latinos se vacunen contra covid-19.

“Me levanto a las 5:40 a.m. y a las 7 de la mañana, salgo rumbo a San Fernando. Comienzo a las 8:30 a.m. en la oficina de la organización Pueblo y Salud en San Fernando. Dedico la mañana a planear y a partir de las 3 de la tarde, mi equipo y yo vamos a tocar puertas”.

Zambrano está estudiando en California State University, Northridge (CSUN) para ser maestra de escuela elemental. Desde principios de junio, cuando terminó sus clases, ella ha trabajado 40 horas a la semana en la campaña de alcance de la vacunación de covid-19 de Pueblo y Salud.

“Estoy a cargo de un equipo de 5 trabajadores de alcance comunitario, incluyéndome a mí misma”, dice Zambrano. “Salimos casi todos los días a educar a la comunidad latina sobre la vacunación y vamos casa por casa, tocando puertas”.

Este trabajo se ha convertido en una misión para el equipo de Zambrano, la

mayoría de ellos tienen poco más de 20 años. “Solo uno de nosotros anda en los 30”, dice Zambrano. “Queremos ver más gente vacunada. Yo estoy vacunada y mi familia también”.

Esto es más que un trabajo de verano para los trabajadores de alcance, dice Zambrano. Es por todo el año. Ellos van a continuar trabajando medio tiempo en la campaña de vacunación cuando regresen a clases.

“Mucha gente de la comunidad con la que hablamos especula sobre si deben o no vacunarse”, dice Zambrano. “Algunos piensan que hay un chip en la vacuna. Otros dicen que les van a inyectar el mismo virus; o preguntan por qué se tienen que sentir mal después de vacunarse cuando se supone que la vacuna es para prevenir que no nos enfermemos. Hay quienes piensan que no es gratis y tienen que pagar”.

Cuando los vecinos le abren la puerta de su casa a Zambrano y le hacen estas preguntas, ella les ofrece información para crear conciencia sobre las opciones de dónde vacunarse. Les regala mascarillas y trata de hacer que se comprometan a recibir la vacuna, ayudándolos con la cita para recibir la inoculación.

Dice que ha encontrado que mucha gente no quiere vacunarse porque está asustada. “Una persona nos contó que una de sus compañeras de trabajo tuvo un ataque al corazón después de vacunarse. Y a causa de eso, piensa que la vacuna se



lo provocó. Nosotros le explicamos que probablemente sufrió ese incidente porque ya tenía algunos problemas de salud”.

Hay otros individuos que piensan que deben tener un seguro médico para vacunarse. “La vacuna es gratis y solo tienen que decir no, cuando les preguntan si tienen seguros”.

Zambrano ha tocado puertas en comunidades como Canoga Park, Pacoima, San Fernando y Sun Valley, y aunque la tarea de alcance, da resultados de poco a poco, ha conseguido tener éxito a cuentagotas.

“El 22 de julio, logramos que 10 personas se vacunaran”, dice Zambrano. “Fue muy bueno, porque normalmente el promedio que convencemos para que se vacunen por día es de cero a cuatro”.

Algunas veces han logrado vacunar a las personas en los propios hogares de las familias. “Solo hacemos una llamada y vienen a vacunarlos a sus casas; otra veces, logramos animarlos para que vayan a la clínica de vacunación más cercana que se va a instalar en los siguientes días”.

Pueblo y Salud trabaja con varios hospitales para aplicar las vacunas en casa. Para las clínicas pop-up (emergentes en español), trabajan con Fernandéño Tataviám Band of Mission Indians y Pacoima Beautiful, una organización no lucrativa que se enfoca en la justicia ambiental en Pacoima.

De acuerdo con las estrategias de equidad del Estado de California para vacunar a las comunidades de difícil acceso y abordar las preguntas sobre vacunas, el equipo de Pueblo y Salud decide qué vecindarios visitar en una reunión semanal que tienen con la Mesa de Respuesta Rápida Covid del Valle de San Fernando. “Tenemos un sitio web interno donde podemos ver las áreas donde menos personas han sido vacunadas, y vamos a esos lugares para crear conciencia sobre la vacuna contra covid”, dice Zambrano.

Los trabajadores de alcance comunitario no pueden evitar toparse con personas completamente reacias a vacunarse. “Tratamos de no presionar mucho porque queremos que nuestro equipo esté seguro. Nunca sabemos cómo pueden reaccionar”. En esos casos, Zambrano dice que ella y su equipo dan las gracias y se van. “Realmente no podemos seguir tratando de persuadirlos cuando ya han tomado una decisión. Es algo que tenemos que superar y seguir adelante”.

Zambrano revela que quieren hacer crecer el equipo de alcance de la vacunación contra el virus para hacer un total de 8 personas. “Todavía estamos buscando personas porque entramos al programa de vacunación bastante tarde”, dice.

Incluso con su nivel actual de personal, ella considera que vale la pena tocar puertas y hablar con la gente sobre la vacuna. “Especialmente en este momento con la variante Delta, llegar a las personas que no están vacunadas es aún más importante, porque esto puede empeorar”, dice.

“Hasta ahora ha funcionado porque

hemos logrado que la gente salga de su casa para vacunarse”.

Rafael Rincón, 21 años, trabajador de alcance comunitario y estudiante de CSUN, dijo que se apasionó con el tema porque su madre fue diagnosticada con covid. Desde entonces, se propuso crear conciencia sobre la pandemia y trabajar para que más gente se vacune.

“Aunque mi madre presentó síntomas leves, no quiero que nadie se contagie”, dice Rincón. “Así que tan pronto como pude, me vacuné”.

Cuando quien le abre la puerta, es una persona que no quiere vacunarse, Rincón les pide que piensen en su familia. “Puede que no necesariamente seas tú quien corra un alto riesgo de enfermarse, pero tienes otros miembros en tu hogar que sí pueden infectarse”, dice.

“Así que piensa en las otras personas de tu comunidad, no en ti mismo”. Y a través de hablar con los angelinos puerta tras puerta, ha aprendido que el público no está bien informado.

“Este programa es muy necesario para crear conciencia; y puede haber algunas personas que no salen mucho para encontrar esta información”, dijo.

Rincón considera que se ha esparcido mucha desinformación sobre la vacuna, lo que ha creado miedo; y por eso es que necesitan proveer información adecuada.

Jocelyn Salazar de 21 años, estudiante de Los Angeles Mission College, es también una trabajadora de alcance de la vacuna de covid para Pueblo y Salud.

“Es importante para mí porque quiero que todos estemos saludables y protegidos del virus. Mucha gente de mi familia y amigos han muerto. Nosotros deseamos que todos se protejan usando mascarillas, con la distancia social y la vacuna”.

Lo que más le ha impresionado, dice, al visitar a las familias en sus casas, es que mucha gente tiene temor a la vacuna

por lo que escucha de amigos y parientes en lugar de prestar atención a lo que los profesionales médicos y científicos dicen.

Cuando se le pregunta qué le diría a alguien que no quiere vacunarse, Salazar dice:

“Te diría que quiero que conozcas los recursos que existen para obtener la vacuna. No quiero presionarte. Solo quiero que sepas”.

Rubén Rodríguez, director de Pueblo y Salud, dice que el bombardeo ha sido constante para que la comunidad se vacune, especialmente para los latinos y afroamericanos. “La educación está ahí, y mucha gente quiere ir, pero no batallar”, dice Rodríguez. “No quieren hacer línea, esperar o usar el teléfono para registrarse o faltar al trabajo”.

Dice que también hay otras barreras. “Por ejemplo, la comunidad latina usa mucho el sentido común y dicen, ‘para qué me voy a vacunar, si de todos modos me tengo que poner la mascarilla’.

Rodríguez afirma que el contacto directo da resultados. “Algunas veces, hay personas que dicen que no se han vacunado porque no han tenido tiempo. Nosotros les decimos, ‘ahorita mismo le hago la cita’; y en esto ayudan mucho las clínicas de vacunación emergentes”.

Concluye diciendo que es un reto hacer que la gente se vacune cuando tiene ideas preconcebidas y no le dan la importancia. “El ir de puerta en puerta sí funciona, porque creo que la gente ya no le pone atención a los anuncios en la radio y la televisión”, dice Rodríguez.

“Ellos están cansados de escuchar lo mismo. Y aunque de 100 personas con las que hablamos, es posible convencer a una, vale la pena”.

Además de crear conciencia sobre las vacunas covid-19, Pueblo y Salud también ofrece programas de prevención de alcohol, drogas y tabaco, dice Zambrano.

MY WORLD

Well, after almost 30 years I have decided that I am returning to my world. What world is it? The world that I belong to. I am a military retiree. As a retiree I am not completely out of control of the military. Military retirees can be called back to active duty at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense or respective service. We are touchable. As those that were recalled or will be recalled for courts-martial.

So, I am still part of the military although I do not wear a uniform. I can still wear the uniform for special occasions. Many retirees choose to stay close to a military base. They go there frequently. Some to shop, some for medications. There is something about the camaraderie that attracts you back to your roots. Military retirees share common experiences. They become friends with other retirees.

Me, I am part of the military elite. I have a rank few others have attained. I got promoted to the top enlisted rank Chief Master Sergeant. I am also Mexican American. Few Latinos attain the highest rank. I know that I am a role model to many Latinos. In addition to rank, I was in electronics, a career field that had few Latinos.

Such a simple thing like getting promoted for Seaman Recruit to Seaman Apprentice in the

Naval Reserve. I was one of about three out of 100 that passed the test for promotion. Most reservists were Mexican American. In the Army I attained the rank of Staff Sergeant, a difficult rank to attain when you are 24 years old and a Mexican American. In those days Mexican Americans were not expected to excel.

In October 2021, I will be attending a meeting of the super, secret society. It was my unit's airplanes that went to Hanoi attempting to rescue the POWs (prisoners of war) at the Son Tay prison. I have not attended any of the previous reunions, so my nickname is "no show Felix." Military retirees and veterans have all sorts of reunions. Some even go back to Zaragoza, Spain. I believe the Spanish have been gracious and allowed retirees inside the base to reminisce. That's kind. Military retirees have emotional attachments around the world that cannot be broken.

I separated myself from all military affiliations when I went into teaching. I taught World Geography to 9th grade students. I focused on helping children graduate. Each year I attended graduation and counted the number of graduates that took geography from me the freshman year and the number that graduated. I will be affiliating myself with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and hopefully I can learn how their scholarship program works.

I looked at 9th graders with different lenses that most. I wanted them to be successful and it was my responsibility to learn what it took for my freshmen to be successful. Advise that I got from a Chilean reporter was, be the role model. Have children believe in you, point the way to **their** success.

My principal appointed me LULAC Youth Sponsor. I saw 9th graders practice parliamentary procedure with finesse. I had found an organization that could do more than I could to teach freshmen how to be successful.

Unfortunately, I found that some people in LULAC do not look at education through the same lenses as mine.

I am that little brown boy that picked cotton when he was six years old picking cotton in West Texas. At night I listened to novellas and Mexican music on XEW. On the weekend it was

Mexican movies. Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete, I saw them all. I was surrounded by braceros that were brought in to pick cotton. I may have been born in Texas, but my culture was Mexican. Yes, and when I entered first grade, I spoke only Spanish. It would not be a surprise that I had a thick, heavy Mexican accent. Many thought it was funny. When I left San Antonio everything, I ate was a taco.

Along the way I became bi-lingual and bi-cultural. I spent my time in the military hanging around Spaniards. I learned Castilian Spanish and I ate mostly Spanish food. I obtained my bachelor's and master's degrees in the Air Force, while working irregular shifts and days. Sometimes I carried a radio with me in case I was needed on the flight line. Sometimes the fix was something simple like, "if you do not like my answer you are not going to like the answer from the boss."

Yes, I became a WASP. Like eventually all will become. When you see someone with a Spanish last name that does not speak Spanish, do not be surprised. That is the way culture works

Through the Naval Reserve, Army and Air Force I represented Mexican Americans well. I was surrounded by White's, so I had to make a good impression, I played the role well. In education it was about teaching 9th graders to succeed. Sometimes I run into my ex-students. I am proud to see that they are doing well, being successful.

Many people helped me along the way to succeed. I got my first promotion because a general wanted me promoted. The second from a colonel that got into a match with a general because the general wanted to grab a person the Colonel had recruited. The last promotion in the Army was from a Master Sergeant that took a liking to me and decided he was going to promote me. In the Air Force, there was no help, I did it my way.

Alberto Govea has been my mentor in LULAC. I will continue helping him as much as I can. I believe LULAC can help Latino kids. I don't have the same feeling about the leadership.

Being WASP is not all that bad.

Felix Alvarado

CMSGT USAF (Retired).

Lest we Forget Ruben Salazar, an exert from Remembering A Martyr article on Nuestra Voz

By A. Govea

According to historical reports of the infamous day, Ruben and a fellow journalist had escaped the violence to have a beer at the Silver Dollar Bar on Whittier Boulevard. Around the corner from the bar was the Green Mill Liquor Store, and according to police reports they called in for help. According to the police report they reported people coming in to steal, (the owners later denied ever calling the police.) The police responded, and a fight broke out. According to the police some in the crowd went into the bar and one of them reportedly had a gun. They did not find a person with a gun or a gun. Deputy Thomas Wilson fired a 10-inch tear gas projectile (the type normally used in barricade situations, not to be shot at people) into the bar which tore off half the head of Ruben Salazar and killed him instantly. 51 years later this image still haunts me.

The coroner's inquest ruled the death a homicide but, as they did not prosecute Tom Wilson. A coroner's jury split in its findings: no charges were ever filed with

the District Attorney's Office. However, Salazar's family settled with Los Angeles County for \$700,000. They were found to have not used proper and lawful guidelines for the use of deadly force. There have been many articles and books written about this time in Chicano history and Rubens' place in it. Perhaps one of the most famous was an article written by Hunter S. Thompson in 1971 for Rolling Stone Magazine titled "Strange rumblings in Aztlan" In doing the research for his article he had a series of interviews with Oscar Acosta a lawyer and civil rights activist. They did part of the interviews and writing of this story in Las Vegas which then led to the book and later movie "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas. This 1998 movie starred Johnny Depp and Benicio Del Toro and was for its time one of the wildest movies out there. (I liked the movie but many at the time were like "What the hell is this")

The Park where the march took place is now Ruben Salazar Park, in 2008 the US Post Office issued a stamp with his image. There have been many more awards and



honors issued posthumously and even a Corrido by Lalo Guerrero entitled "El 29 de Augusto"

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And others unknown

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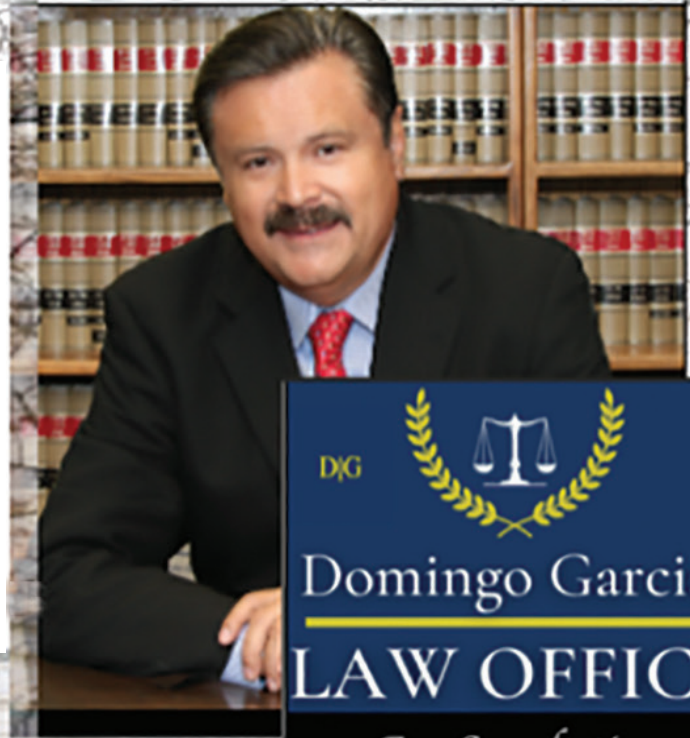
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