

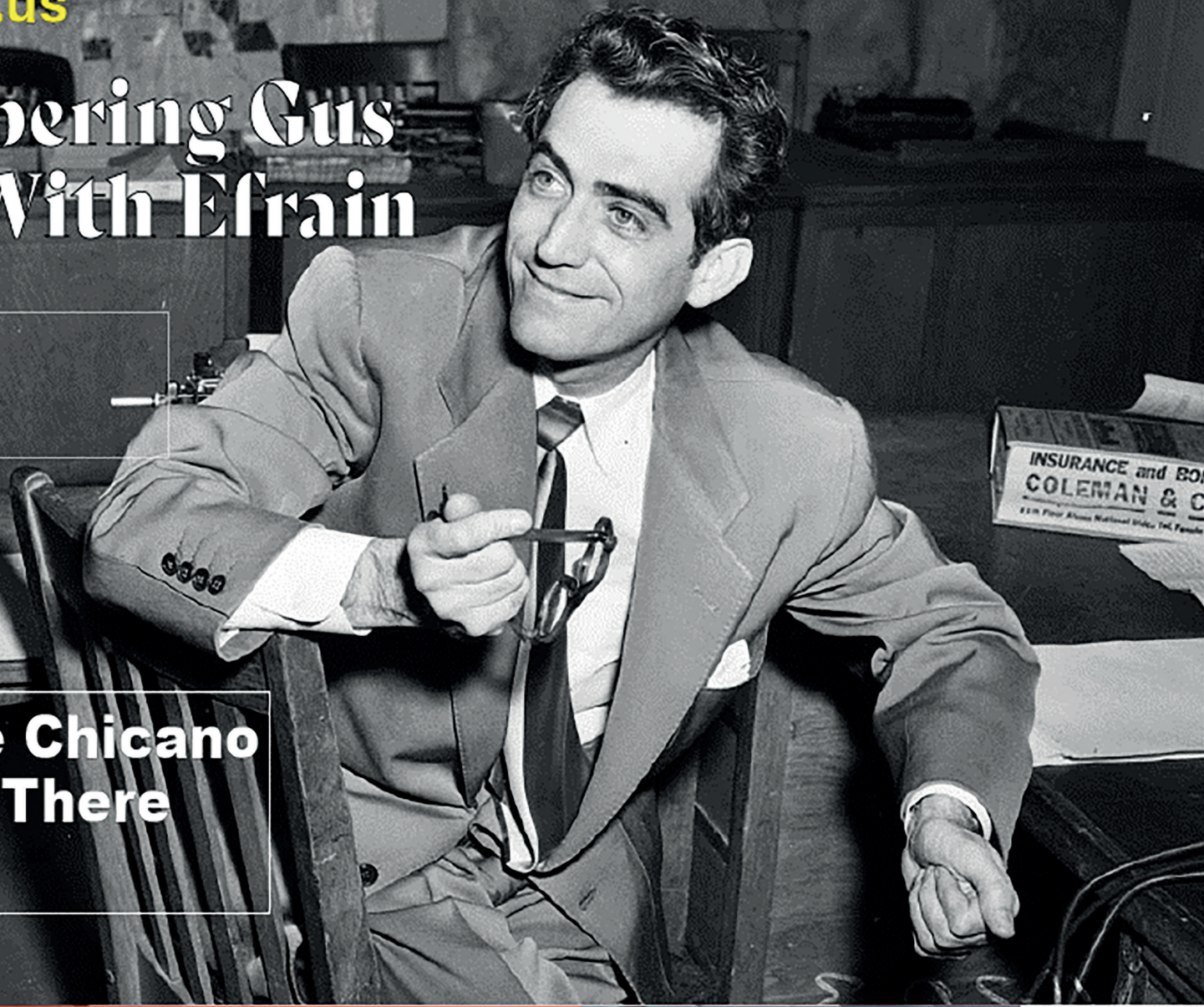
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Remembering Gus Garcia With Efrain

A Song for Cesar

Before The Chicano Movement There Was Jovita



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REMEMBERING GUS WITH FILMMAKER EFRAIN

By A. Govea

In 1977 the gas price was about .62 cents a gallon; you could buy a loaf of bread anywhere from 33 to 49 cents. Tortillas were, wait, could you purchase Tortillas at a grocery store in 1977, huh? I don't think so, Pero I could be wrong. The country was just coming out of the Vietnam War and Watergate, and Jimmy Carter was starting his one and only term as president. Moviegoers went to local theaters for the summer blockbuster Jaws, Star Wars, and All the Presidents Men. Pero, there was another movie, bringing La Raza out to the theatres, especially in Texas.

In fact, this (Other) movie was outselling the blockbusters in certain Texas theaters. What movie could ever outsell Jaws anywhere? Amigos that honor, was a little independent film titled Don't Bury Me Alive. (Por Favor No Me Entierren Vivo) Even more amazing was the first film by now, legendary Chicano filmmaker Efrain Gutierrez. The film was self-funded on a shoestring budget with primarily friends and family as the actors.

I asked Efrain what possessed him to do something that had not done before? And did anyone believe you could do it? His response was that it was something that had to be done. In part because no one else was

capturing the strife our community was experiencing on film. Whether in education, the justice system, or even in Vietnam. That because La Raza was disproportionately represented on the front lines of the war. And when they returned, they faced the same racism as before. The film was to show some of those disparities.

Efrain detailed what it took to get into theaters once the film was finally completed. As neither the English nor Spanish theaters wanted to take a chance on some independent Chicano-produced film. Efrain said they would ask, "Who produced it and stars in it? His response had to be me, some family members, and friends. To summarize the rest, they wined up having to rent Theatre screens themselves to show it. Pero then something remarkable happened, it started out performing commercially made English and Spanish films. And you can probably guess what happened next, everyone wanted to screen it. The rest is history. Today Efrain Gutierrez is recognized by academia as the first independent filmmaker outside of Hollywood. His work is now at the UCLA Media institute, and in 2014 his career went into the library of Congress along with another Texas filmmaker Robert Rodríguez. I am reminded of the UFW

saying 'Si Se Puede,' first coined by Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez. He did.

Now let's talk about your latest film I asked Efrain, Remembering Gus Garcia. Why this film and why now? His response was that because of the limited information and some downright untruths about Gus Garcia. He felt that someone had to set the record straight, and eight years ago, he and others vowed to do just that. Their goal is to educate people about the real Gus Garcia and raise money to erect a statue of Gus Garcia at the Mercado in San Antonio.

Efrain has a wealth of information on this subject and other areas of interest to our community. You can visit holatexas.us to listen to my podcast interview with him. In addition, we are incredibly pleased to say that his film Remembering Gus Garcia will be presented in Fort Worth Saturday, October 22. And as a special treat, he and Placido Salazar and Irma Salinas De Gutierrez will be part of a live panel discussion that day. We invite all to come out for the film and to meet the people responsible for the film. You can visit holatexas.us for more information, or to buy tickets, you can go to Artes de la Rosa.org.



Remembering The Life of
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FILM AND LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION

Gus Garcia Fought against school segregation laws in Texas. In 1954 he Successfully Argued the Hernandez v Texas in the Supreme Court, becoming the first Mexican American to do so.

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individuals for choosing to access the health benefits and other supplemental government services available to them.”

The public charge test potentially impacts approximately 10 million immigrants and 12 million children, many of whom are US citizens, but born into mixed-status families. “We welcome this long-awaited change in policy. It will have a beneficial impact on millions of immigrants, primarily women and children,” said Essey Workie, director of the Migration Policy Institute Human Services Initiative.

“But while the rule is moving in the right direction, immigrant communities are still fearful of what might happen in the future. A change in administration might bring back the restrictive rules, impacting immigration status,” said Workie in an interview with Ethnic Media Services.

Lawsuits and injunctions are definitely expected, but those must be based on technical or procedural issues. “I don’t see that applying to this situation,” said Workie.

Zenobia Lai, executive director of the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative, said: “The Department of Homeland Security has realized the chilling effects of the public charge rule on immigrant families, especially those with US born children. We must move from that chill to a thaw.”

She noted that benefits received by children or other family members would not count when an immigration officer determines whether an applicant is deemed a public charge. She clarified that only government assistance would count and — under the new rule — would be limited to TANF and long-term medical institutionalization.

Lai expressed her hope that those two categories would be removed in the future. Lai also clarified that benefits received during the Covid-19 pandemic would not be considered for inadmissibility under the public charge rule.

She noted that immigration officers are mandated to weigh in on the totality of an applicant’s financial resources and future income prospects. Almost 60 percent of people applying for adjustment of status will be asked to provide an affidavit of support from a family member or other individual.

“This will be highly considered for the approval of the application to adjust status,” said Lai.

The Trump administration’s rhetoric had a chilling effect on immigrant families. For example, during the Trump administration, more than 240,000 children in Texas were dis-enrolled by their parents from Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, noted Anne Dunkelberg, Program Director for the Health and Wellness Team at the non-profit organization Every Texan.

In Texas, one out of every four children has a parent who is not a US citizen. Many of them are undocumented, Dunkelberg noted at a press briefing Sept. 13. “Parents no longer need to fear enrolling their eligible family members in public benefits. It will not affect their own immigration status,” she said.

There has been so much misinformation about the public charge rule, which has deterred people from enrolling themselves for benefits to which they are entitled, said Jennifer Duarte of Texas-based Project Vida. “Families are still fearful, based on misinformation.

The new public charge is a small win in an ongoing battle,” she said.

“Politicians have stoked fear in the immigrant community, and will continue to do so,” said Esther Reyes Martinez, director of immigration policy and advocacy at the Children’s Defense Fund in Texas. She noted that the new rule has been written in a way to make it much more difficult for future administrations to attempt to change it. Several organizations hailed the new rule. Asian Americans Advancing Justice released a statement, noting that the previous public charge rule was “cruel by design.”

“It was not only meant to favor white and wealthy immigrants applying for admission or a green card, but also aimed to create fear and confusion about the use of critical, life-saving programs within low-income communities of color.”

“Tragically, the issuance of the last rule caused many immigrants of color, including Asian Americans, to withdraw from health care, nutrition programs, housing services, and other benefits,” said the organization, noting that the new rule greatly simplifies the public charge test. Marielena Hincapié, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, said in a press statement: “The Biden administration’s public charge rule aligns with longstanding principles in immigration law and provides helpful clarifications to pre-existing guidance.”

“This policy is an important step in advancing the Biden administration’s priority of addressing socioeconomic and racial inequities that have been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic,” she said.



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EL GOBIERNO DE BIDEN ELIMINA LA MAYOR PARTE DE LA NORMA DE LA CARGA PÚBLICA, PERO LOS INMIGRANTES SIGUEN TEMIENDO

Por Sunita Sohrabji

15 de septiembre de 2022

La Administración Biden eliminó la semana pasada la política de la era Trump conocida como carga pública, que imponía un impuesto sobre el patrimonio a las personas que buscan obtener la residencia permanente en los Estados Unidos.

La nueva norma entrará en vigor el 23 de diciembre. Ya se ha sometido a un periodo de comentario público de 60 días, por lo que no necesita más adjudicaciones antes de entrar en vigor.

La norma reduce en gran medida la definición de carga pública a únicamente dos criterios: La asistencia temporal para familias necesitadas (TANF) y la institucionalización para cuidados a largo plazo.

La administración Trump amplió la definición de la norma de 1999, que era poco utilizada, para incluir a los inmigrantes que reciben Medicaid, vivienda pública o beneficios del Programa de asistencia nutricional

suplementaria (SNAP) como parte de la determinación de inadmisibilidad de carga pública, incluso si estaban solicitando esos beneficios en nombre de sus hijos nacidos en los Estados Unidos.

La norma -que dejaba a criterio de los funcionarios de inmigración el determinar si una persona que solicitaba una Green Card podía pasar a depender del gobierno- también se impuso para las personas que intentaban entrar permanentemente en Estados Unidos.

Las demandas y las medidas cautelares impidieron que la política de Trump se implementara, excepto durante una breve ventana en 2020. La Corte Suprema de los Estados Unidos anuló la norma de Trump en 2021, poco después de que el presidente Joe Biden asumiera el cargo.

Pero a pesar de la no aplicación, la norma tuvo un efecto paralizante en las comunidades

de inmigrantes. Millones de personas se dieron de baja y a sus familiares de los beneficios federales a los que tenían derecho, por temor a invocar la inadmisibilidad de la carga pública cuando solicitaran la residencia permanente.

“Esta acción (de hoy) garantiza un trato justo y humano a los inmigrantes legales y a los miembros de sus familias que son ciudadanos estadounidenses”, dijo el Secretario de Seguridad Nacional, Alejandro Mayorkas, en un comunicado de prensa publicado el 8 de septiembre. “En consonancia con los valores fundamentales de Estados Unidos, no penalizaremos a las personas por elegir acceder a la atención médica y a otros servicios gubernamentales complementarios para los cuales califican”.

La prueba de carga pública afecta potencialmente a unos 10 millones de inmigrantes y 12 millones de niños, muchos de los cuales son ciudadanos estadounidenses,

que han nacido dentro del núcleo de una familia de estatus mixto.

“Recibimos con beneplácito este cambio de política tan esperado. Este cambio tendrá un impacto benéfico para millones de inmigrantes, principalmente mujeres y niños”, dijo Essey Workie, director de la Iniciativa de servicios humanos del instituto de política migratoria.

“Pero aunque la norma es un paso en la dirección correcta, las comunidades de inmigrantes siguen temiendo lo que pueda ocurrir en el futuro. Un cambio de administración podría traer de vuelta las normas restrictivas, afectando al estatus migratorio”, dijo Workie en una entrevista con Ethnic Media Services.

Sin duda, se esperan demandas y requerimientos judiciales, pero éstos deben basarse en cuestiones técnicas o de procedimiento. “No veo que eso se aplique a esta situación”, dijo Workie.

Zenobia Lai, directora ejecutiva de la Colaborativa de servicios legales de inmigración de Houston (HILSC), dijo: “El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional se ha percatado de los efectos paralizantes de la regla de la carga pública en las familias inmigrantes, especialmente las que tienen hijos nacidos en Estados Unidos. debemos hacer una transición de esta parálisis a un estado más relajado.

Señaló que las prestaciones recibidas por los hijos u otros miembros de la familia no contarán cuando un funcionario de inmigración determine si un solicitante de residencia permanente o Green Card es considerado carga pública. Aclaró que sólo se consideraría la asistencia gubernamental bajo la nueva norma, y se limitaría al TANF y el acceso a servicios médicos a largo plazo. Lai expresó su esperanza de que ambas categorías se eliminen en el futuro.

Lai también aclaró que las prestaciones recibidas durante la pandemia de Covid-19 no se considerarían dentro del criterio de inadmisibilidad en virtud de la norma de carga pública.

Señaló que los funcionarios de inmigración tienen el mandato de sopesar la totalidad de los recursos financieros del solicitante y sus perspectivas de ingresos futuros. A casi el 60 por ciento de las personas que solicitan el ajuste de estatus se les pedirá que presenten una declaración jurada de apoyo de un familiar u otra persona.

“Esto será altamente considerado para la aprobación de la solicitud de ajuste de estatus”, dijo Lai.

La retórica de la administración Trump tuvo un efecto paralizante en las familias inmigrantes. Por ejemplo, durante el gobierno de Trump, más de 240,000 niños en Texas fueron dados de baja por sus padres de Medicaid y del Programa de Seguro Médico para Niños, señaló Anne Dunkelberg, Directora del Programa del equipo de salud y bienestar de la organización sin fines de lucro Every Texan.

En Texas, uno de cada cuatro niños tiene un padre que no es ciudadano estadounidense. Muchos de ellos son indocumentados, señaló Dunkelberg en una rueda de prensa el 13 de septiembre.

“Los padres ya no tienen que temer inscribir a los miembros de su familia que califican con los requisitos para tener acceso a las prestaciones públicas. No afectará a su propio estatus migratorio”, dijo.

Ha habido mucha información errónea sobre la norma de la carga pública, lo que ha disuadido a la gente de inscribirse en los beneficios a los que tienen derecho, dijo Jennifer Duarte, del Proyecto Vida, con sede en Texas. “Las familias siguen teniendo temor, porque siguen basándose en información errónea. La nueva carga

pública es una pequeña victoria en una batalla en curso”, dijo.

“Los políticos han avivado el miedo en la comunidad inmigrante, y seguirán haciéndolo”, dijo Esther Reyes Martínez, directora de política y defensa de la inmigración en el Fondo de defensa de los niños en Texas. Señaló que la nueva norma se ha redactado de manera que sea mucho más difícil para las futuras administraciones intentar cambiarla.

Varias organizaciones celebraron la nueva norma. Asian Americans Advancing Justice emitió un comunicado, señalando que la anterior norma de carga pública era “cruel por diseño”.

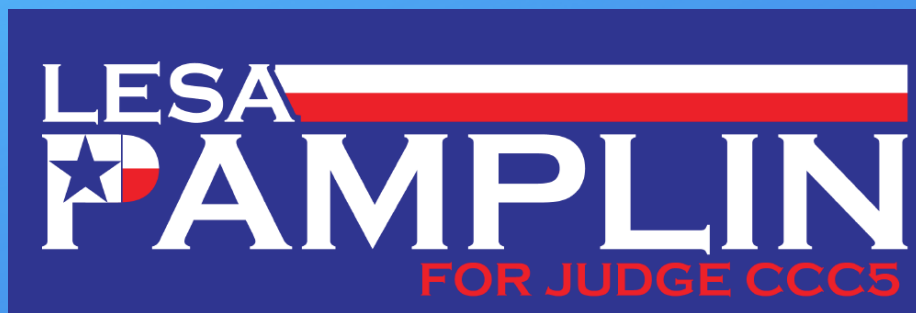
“No sólo pretendía favorecer a los inmigrantes blancos y ricos que solicitaban la admisión a los Estados Unidos o la Green Card, sino que también pretendía crear miedo y confusión sobre el uso de programas críticos que salvan vidas dentro de las comunidades de color de bajos ingresos”.

“Trágicamente, la emisión de la última norma causó que muchos inmigrantes de color, incluidos los asiático-americanos, se retiraran de la atención médica, los programas de nutrición, los servicios de vivienda y otros beneficios”, dijo la organización, señalando que la nueva norma simplifica en gran medida la prueba de carga pública.

Marielena Hincapié, directora ejecutiva del Centro nacional de derecho de inmigración, dijo en un comunicado de prensa: “La norma de carga pública de la administración Biden se alinea con los principios de larga data en la ley de inmigración y proporciona aclaraciones útiles a la orientación preexistente”.

“Esta política es un paso importante en el avance de la prioridad de la administración Biden de abordar las desigualdades socioeconómicas y raciales que han sido exacerbadas por la actual pandemia de COVID-19”, dijo.

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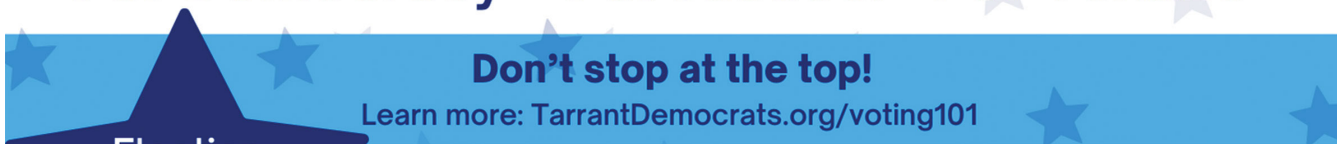
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A Song for Cesar

Beware of a Movement That Sings

By A. Govea

On Saturday September 10th I and my wife attended the Fort Worth screening of the new Documentary "A song for Cesar" at the Rose Marine Theatre. We both had seen the commercially released movie based on the life of Cesar that came out in 2014. That movie had Michael Pena starring as Cesar and Rosario Dawson as Dolores Huerta. And while we enjoyed that I was a little apprehensive about what this new film might give us that we had not already learned in the previously referenced film.

Well, it did not take long for my fears to fade. This documentary is rooted in the music of perhaps, one of the greatest labor movements in our country. Abel Sanchez and Jorge Santana wrote 'A Song for Cesar' as a tribute to Cesar and the UFW and their families. They then created a short video with the images and interviews of artists that were responsible for providing the soundtrack for the movement.

Among the artists in the film was Santana, Joan Baez, Cheech and Chong, Little Joe, Kris Kristofferson and was surprised to see Crosby Stills and Nash among many others. They all volunteered to play at festivals to raise money to keep the union afloat in the early years. The film also provides information about the support that Cesar and the Union provided to many that

worked here under the Bracero program. As many growers attempted to take advantage of their limited work status and would often treat like personal property. This fact totally disputes the rumor often spread by some that Cesar was somehow Anti-Mexican

Personality as much as liked the named performers, the teenagers that sang De Colores touched me most that evening. I want to thank Rose Herrera, her committee, and sponsors for enriching our lives with this inspiring film. I also would be remiss not to mention the late great poet laureate Maya Angelou for convincing Abel Sanchez to create this documentary and share with all of us. Abel along with Andres Alegria headed her call and embarked on what would be a 15-year process that they called a labor of love. Finally special thanks to the panel that stayed after the film for Q&A which included Paul Chavez (Cesar's son) Arturo Rodriguez, Abel Sanchez, and Jose Maria Hernandez 'Little Joe' (Pictured Below) they were all great. I highly encourage you to view this documentary if you have an opportunity.

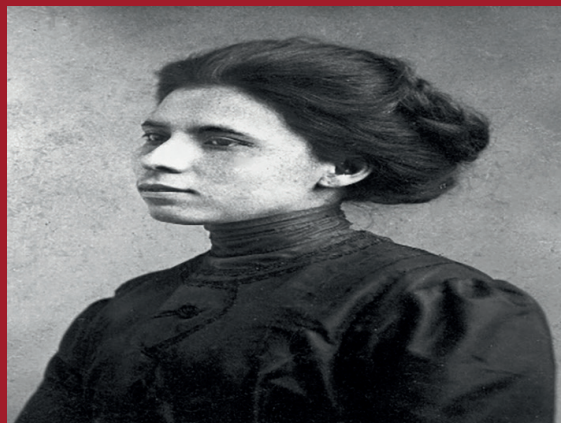
(On another note, I am excited to announce that on October 22nd we will be premiering the Gus Garcia Documentary at the Rose Marine Theater.

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BEFORE THE CHICANO MOVEMENT



Laredo icon Jovita Idar to be commemorated with new quarter design that will start to be issued in 2023. The Jovita Idar Quarter is the ninth coin in the American Women Quarters™ Program.

BY NISIE G JIMENEZ

Jovita Idár was described as a bright, artistic young girl who greatly admired her father, Nicasio Idár. Nicasio was a dedicated activist and often brought to light the gruesome realities of being Mexican American in the early 1900s. He was the publisher and editor of *La Crónica*. This publication often exposed the horrors of lynching like in the case of Antonio Rodríguez, who was accused of murdering an anglo woman then hunted and lynched. *La Crónica* also acknowledged the need for equal rights and education for Mexican Americans, as their mission statement read, “We work for the progress and the industrial, moral and intellectual development of the Mexican inhabitants of Texas.” Nicasio was truly ahead of his time and paved the way for the Chicano movement. His young daughter watched on as her valiant father broke boundaries, and she would grow up to do the same.

Jovita was incredibly studious but had an artistic side to her and often won prizes for her poetry. In 1903 she earned her teaching certificate. She got her first teaching job at a school just 40 miles out from Laredo. She soon realized the difficulties of being a Mexican American student in a segregated school and became frustrated with the lack of proper supplies and reading material. Taxes paid by those living in these neighborhoods were meant to provide quality education, but they were not even supplied with chairs for all students. She knew action had to be taken.

Jovita Idár around 1905, General Photograph Collection/UTSA Libraries Special Collections via [NYT](#)

With the same spirit as her father, Jovita turned to one of her earliest passions- writing. She returned home to work with her two brothers at *La Crónica* and became a Journalist. Alongside her family, she empowered Latinos to speak up for the rights to an equal education. In 1911, *La Crónica* held the First Mexican Congress (the Primer Congreso Mexicano). The new organization united Mexicans on issues that impacted them, including lack of access to adequate education and economic resources. At the same time, Jovita served as the first president of the League of Mexican Women. These two organizations worked together to enhance the Latino community, and members benefited from additional teachings to further their studies. While The first Mexican Congress focused on civil liberties, the League of Mexican Women urged for more social programs and gathered donations for families in need. Jovita and her activist friend’s ability to multi-task was astounding as just on the other side of the border, the Mexican Revolution was seething and could not be ignored.

On March 1913, Nuevo Laredo—on the Mexican side of the border—was attacked; Jovita joined the *La Cruz Blanca* (the White Cross) to help those injured. Her experience of the involvement of US troops at the Mexican border would not be forgotten.

She returned home the following year and began to write for *El Progreso*, another progressive publication. She was quick to unmask the real character of President Woodrow Wilson and his decision to unleash the Texas Rangers and US army at the Mexican border. Texas Rangers were enraged by her writings and attempted to shut down the newspaper. Jovita refused to go down without a fight and blocked the entrance to *El Progreso*. Unfortunately, they gained access and destroyed the building. That same year her father passed away, and she became Publisher and Editor of *La Crónica*. Jovita Idár would eventually founded her own weekly publication *Evolución* in 1916. But her passion for education never wavered and in 1921 founded a free kindergarten in San, Antonio Texas.

Before LULAC, National Farm Workers Association, Southwest Voter- there was the Idár family. The real OGs of the Chicano movement.

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