

# Nuestra Voz Our Voice

A Raza Magazine

# NV

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# Letter From The Editor

**A**nother election is upon us and the outcome is the same as last election. Few Latinos voted. Laws are being passed in Austin and Washington that are clearly discriminatory, and we are powerless to challenge them. Once passed by the legislature the only recourse is the courts and that is not the place to go looking for sympathy, all the conservative judges are going to side with the conservative legislatures.

For non-conservatives, it is a lose – lose, you cannot win against hardcore right-wing ideologues. If to defeat hard-core ideologues you have to vote Republican, so be it. I see campaign material out there where Democrats are accusing Democrats of being Republicans and Republicans accusing Republicans of being Democrat. This is stupid. If you don't have anything better to run on, don't run. If you live in a district where there are no Democrats on the ballot, you should vote Republican. You must participate in the elections. You do that by voting. Whether Democrat or Republican. Remember, you are not voting to get any personal gain out of it. You are voting for the future of your children.

As the newly elected Director for LU-LAC District 21, I look forward to working with LULAC councils and members of the community to improve the education of our children and quality of life for all. My goal is to make LULAC bigger, better and stronger. That can only come with the involvement of every member of the community. I firmly believe that it does not matter if you vote Republican or Democrat, the most important thing is that you vote. I look forward to attending the LULAC and National Conventions and supporting Domingo Garcia's candidacy for National Director. Domingo has a long history of community support.

I want to thank all the members that supported my candidacy for district director. Remember, if you want to protest, protest at the ballot box. Vote.

Felix Alvarado

Editor

“ Laws are being passed in Austin and Washington that are clearly discriminatory, and we are powerless to challenge them. ”

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# This Cannot Stand-Un-challenged

“My guess is they’re not documented, so my next call is to ICE to have each one of them kicked out of my country,” Schlossberg, referring to the U.S. [Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#), is heard yelling on the video.

“I pay for their welfare, I pay for their ability to be here,” he continues. “The least they can do is speak English.” (Those are the words of Aaron Schlossberg a Manhattan Lawyer to a group of restaurant employees and guests)

The video of the incident has now been seen by thousands and spurred a protest in front of his Manhattan apartment complete with a Mariachi group. All this has led to very bad press for this Trump supporter and now a public apology. “I am not a racist, seeing myself online has opened my eyes” said Aaron Schlossberg a week after incident.

But I wonder if he really is



sorry or just sorry he was captured on video, after this is not his first public incident. Maybe he was encouraged to apologize after being evicted from his Law Office or because two local lawmakers have filed a complaint with the state. Unfortunately, his type of behavior against Latinos is happening more and more, guess that’s what you get when the president calls some in our community animals.

We cannot let this kind of behavior become normalized in our community, if you experience this report it. This can be done through your local law enforcement office or if not sure what to do you can contact a LULAC member. If you need more information visit us at [www.nuestravozdetc.com](#) and click on contact us button.

By A. Govea

# Latinas win BIG

In a very historical night, for the first time ever a Latina is running for governor of Texas. Locally, Jana Lynn Sanchez won the District 6 contest and will take on the Republican candidate in November. It is more than making history, it is for the children.

I heard a lot of trash talk coming from many corners denigrating both candidates. To everybody that had negative things to say about our candidates, I can say only one thing, “Grow Up,” It is time to set aside petty differences and remember that when you vote, you want to put good people in and get bad people out. That is what elections are for. Or, using a popular saying, “Drain the swamp.”

I was disappointed in the Latino voter turnout. It is time to abandon all excuses and vote for the future of your children. Remember, the School to Prison Pipeline will be destroyed only when you participate in elections.

In November you will decide what kind of future you want for your children. It is up to you.



# Non-Voter Participation in Arlington – The Grim Reality

By Luis C. Castillo

The past few months I have written three articles on voter participation in local Arlington elections. One article focused on City of Arlington municipal elections while the other two articles focused on Arlington Independent School District elections. All three articles were partially entitled “Voter Participation in Arlington”. After this year’s May 5<sup>th</sup> local elections in the City of Arlington and the school board, it would have been more appropriate to had entitled those articles “Non-Voter Participation in Arlington”.

Previously I wrote, “*Arlington’s voter participation is a dismal low percentage when compared to the total number of eligible voters*”. This past May 5<sup>th</sup> local election was no exception. In the Arlington City Council only 10,570 or 5.1% of the 204,399 registered voters casted their votes. In the Arlington school board elections, only 10,404 or 5.6% of the 185,909 registered voters participated in the electoral process.

This past election is a grim reminder to Latino/Hispanic community leaders who aspire to impact public policy that as a community there is still a long ways to go. I personally believe that Latino/Hispanic community leaders need to come to the realization that their goals of affecting change in the political arena is not going to happen until the number of voter participation dramatically increases.

And then there’s another political reality that many in the community may not know. For the most part it has been a presumption that Latino/Hispanic voters vote predominately for the Democratic Party. I say not necessarily so. An ad hoc sample review of the voter data obtained from the Tarrant County Election Department for the City of Arlington and the school district revealed that registered voters with a Spanish surname consistently voted on Democratic Primaries 60% of the time and on the Republican Primaries 40% of the time. Once again the mere identification of Spanish surnamed voters does not necessarily mean that all of these voters are Latino/Hispanic. The assumption is that the vast majority of these registered voters are Latinos/Hispanics.

Speaking of political parties, local elections have always been labeled as nonpartisan. I have always said that just because a leopard is covered with a blanket does not mean that its spots are not there. A Republican is a Republican and a Democrat is a Democrat regardless if the local election is labeled as nonpartisan. Look at the Arlington school board. Six of the seven Board of Trustees are Republicans according to the voter data. Included in this gang of six is the newly elected Latino/Hispanic Justin Chapa. Yup he’s a Republican. The Arlington Republican Party supported his candidacy just as it supported the other Republican candidates too.

Tarrant County is a “Red” county. And if one looks at the local political leaders party inclination that will most likely be an indicator on whether or not the public policy issue you’re trying to advance will succeed or not. No doubt that the Democratic Party has its work cut out.

# Early Voting Results for Tarrant County. What’s the use???

Early voting is over. **18,723** people voted early. Of these, **12,373** voted Republican and **6,351** voted Democrat.

This is how the heavily Latino areas voted. In the Northside and Southside

All Saints	75	(55 Dem, 20 Rep)
Diamond Hill	45	(33 Dem, 12 Rep)
Rosemont	91	(55 Dem, 36 Rep)
Worth Heights	51	(42 Dem, 9 Rep)
	262	(185 Dem, 77 Rep)

Contrast this to Mansfield Sub-Courthouse that had 1285.

These numbers make us the laughingstock of the political world. In Spanish we would say, “¡Se hacen burla de nosotros!” No one is going to pay attention to us no matter how much we protest. See the power is in the ballot box.

To what can we attribute these low numbers? Tradition and lack of political sophistication could be at the top. I think it is more than that. Improving the numbers is everyone’s responsibility.

It appears to me like politicians talk a good game, they just don’t play a good one. Everyone whines about the low voter turnout, I just don’t see too many people doing too much about it. What is the sense of sending politicians to Austin and Washington if they are going to be powerless. If our politicians are going to be powerless we don’t need them.

With Republicans outvoting Democrats 2 to 1, there is no Blue Wave. In fact, the only Democrats that can be elected are those in safe districts.

If there is no wakeup call in November there is no need to protest about SB4 or 287g or any other type of legislation that borders on despotism. No one is going to listen. Politicians don’t listen to you. They listen to the ballot box; the sound of ballots being cast.

Ultimately, it will be our children that pay the price for our failure to exercise our constitutional rights. Look around you. Is that what you want your children to inherit?

Felix Alvarado

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# Protecting our Children at School

by Alfredo Sanchez

Senator Ted Cruz tweeted: “Heidi and I are keeping all the students and faculty at Santa Fe High School in our prayers this morning, along with all first responders on the scene. Please be safe and heed warnings from local officials”.

He wants to make America Great Again: An unidentified Trump supporter sparked outrage when he showed up near Santa Fe High School following a deadly shooting carrying a pistol and an American flag. Immediately after the shooting, Governor Abbott called for a round table discussion on gun violence. Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick blamed Friday’s massacre at a high school near Houston in part on “too many entrances and too many exits”.

Around 10 a.m. Friday morning, President Donald Trump posted a tweet about the Santa Fe High School shooting that reads: “School shooting in Texas. Early reports are not looking good. God bless all!” Around 11:30 a.m. he tweeted a video of earlier comments. In it, he said his administration is “determined to do everything in our power to protect our students, secure our schools and to keep weapons out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves and to others.” Texas Senator John Cornyn offered condolences to the affected families and lauded law enforcement response to the Santa Fe High School shooting.

Young people have become active as they see more of their fellow students falling victims to school shootings. It was but a couple of months ago that students throughout the United States walked out in protest for the lack of security and gun violence they are seeing in the schools. These young people are saying enough, enough politics. They are no longer satisfied with politicians sending their thoughts and prayers, yet these students see no action from these politicians. These young people want action. These young people understand that they could be next.

These students are only asking that they feel confident that they are in a safe environment when they walk to school, arrive in school and while in school. Is this too much to ask from a country that claims they value their children? Should our students and parents continue to fear that their child maybe the next body bag carried from a school?

The truth is that this will continue to happen until parents get involved and become concerned in the school and replace those politicians that have been sending prayers and thoughts each time an incident like Santa Fe happens. Yet when the school budget comes up they cut funding to the school. Money that could have been used to bump up security. It is time parents, grandparents and the community put politics aside and come together to protect our children.

So where do parents start when it comes to the security of public schools? It starts with parents. Parents need to get involved and vote. Parents need to research incumbents and determine if they have voted to cut funding to schools and get rid of these politicians. Funding that these politicians cut could have been used for school security. Parents need to organize and meet with the School Board and school superintendent and demand to know what precautions the school is taking. Parents need to meet with teachers and discuss what security precautions need to be taken and listen to teachers. Teachers are the most aware of what broken linkage exists in security at their school. Listen to teachers and implement their suggestions. Provide teachers and students training on being aware of their environment and what looks suspicious. This type of training would also benefit students outside the school environment. Lobby politicians to increase funding for counselling which would include increase funding for mental health. Many students are coping with many issues like homeless, parents on drugs, no food at home, bullying etc. Students need an outlet and counseling would help. Counselors would also be looking for mental health issues in the school.

What we don’t need is roundtable discussions with government bureaucrats who know nothing about school security. Bureaucrats who believe one solutions fits all schools. What schools need is adequate funding and let parents, teachers and the Superintendent find unique solutions for each school. That would include to eval-

uate each school for security weakness, teacher input, teacher input on identifying dangerous situations, increase surveillance on the grounds and inside the school, educate students on being vigilant of their environment, locking doors, cameras, training for students and teachers, more School Resource Officers (SRO), SRO trained to deal with school shooting not just police training, metal detectors, monitoring of visitors parking areas. If teachers are armed it must be voluntary and they must pass a very rigorous certification that would require a physical and a month shooting certification. Schools should host annual school rallies and discuss all security issues to include securing fire arms at home, Parents need to be viewed by the schools as part of the solution rather than viewing parents as an inconvenience. Annual rallies at the schools need to stress the importance of education, importance of graduating, provide guidance and resources to families at risk etc. A family at risk puts the whole school at risk.

**Vote for politicians who favor common sense legislation like background checks, and limit high capacity magazines and bump stocks. Gov. Abbott has \$800 million to spend on border security. The security of our school children is more important, and these funds should be spent on securing our schools. We know how to secure our state capitol, military bases and airports. Let’s use that knowledge and technology to secure our schools. Security of our school should be no less important than the security of the State Capitol, military bases and airports.**

# Trump Labels

We all know that Trump is a master at labeling people from his campaign nicknames he gave his opponents. And of course, there is the Rocket Man label he gave North Korea's president Kim Jong-un, which I guess his base loved. Then there was calling some African nations and others Sh\*\*\* hole nations, so of course the latest thing coming out of his foul and disgusting mouth unfortunately does not really shock anyone.

We have people coming into the country, who are trying to come in, and we're stopping a lot of them, but we're taking people out of the country, you wouldn't believe how bad these people are," Trump said.

"These aren't people. These are animals." The White House is now defending those remarks by saying that he meant the infamous M.S. 13 gang members according to Sarah Huckabee. In fact, she went on to say that he did not go far enough.

Well Trump and Sarah, I vehemently disagree, not only have you both disgraced your positions but again embarrassed most of our citizens. And by the way the M.S. 13 gang is a home grown criminal group and has nothing to do with any immigration discussion! In the past I have compared Trump to Drunk Uncle on SNL because of his idiotic stands on real issues. But now I believe I owe Drunk Uncle and apology even he would not sink this low.

In a time when our country is more divided than ever, Trump has chosen to raise the bar even further. When you put a label on people you dehumanize them, which makes it easier to treat them cruelly. And of course, some his loyal subjects may not stop there, violence may follow. And what is worse we have already seen children being mistreated in this New America. Given all this I truly fear for our community, Pero (but) if this happens Trump should be held liable. This is the same as inciting a riot that results in violence and that is a criminal offense.

I pray that this does not happen, but if it does happen mark these words our people will not go quietly. This is our country and we will defend it from all enemies foreign or domestic.

By A. Govea

# Leadership Latino

By Alfredo Sanchez

These are interesting times for Latinos, from all backgrounds. It is time for Latinos to stand and defend themselves against insults from those who consider all Latinos immigrants. It is time for Latinos to come together and show that we are not intimidated by a few who don't even know the history of this country. Latinos have been part of the fabric of this Nation from its inception. Latinos fought for this country prior to many of these late arrival immigrants to the United States. It is time that Latinos become leaders in their communities. So how do we become leaders.

1)Lead, follow or get out of the way.

Qualities of a Leader:

- 1)Be passionate about the subject matter
- 2)Consider the source of any advice you get
- 3)Listen to your inner compass
- 4)Take initiative
- 5)Take responsibility
- 6)Encourage others to become leaders

How to encourage leadership in yourself:

- 1)Become active in some way in the Community
- 2)Find something you are very interested in
- 3)Volunteer
- 4)If something is going on in the community that bothers you get involved.

Mindset of a leader:

- 1)If not me then who?
- 2)Has a positive idea that things can be changed.
- 3)You are not always confident that you have the answer but are willing to find the answer and are willing to listen to others
- 4)Don't be afraid of failure. Failure is not failure it is only a learning experience.
- 5)Don't be afraid criticism. Those that know less will always criticize.
- 6)Don't let other define who you are.

Once you find an interest:

- 1)Volunteer
- 2)Set up your own group if you can not find an existing group
- 3)You don't have to know everything you will learn on the way.
- 4)Just be willing to fix the problem.

Leadership is not defined by having followers but defined by accomplishments.

- 1)Being active in your community other communities assume that you can influence the Latino Community as a whole or speak for the whole Community. This idea is furthest from the truth.
- 2)The Latino community is very diverse, so it is hard to speak for the whole community.
- 3)You maybe labeled as an activist. Wear that badge with pride because you know you are only concerned with your community or issue.

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## A View of Mexican-Americans By Franco; Unity and Division

Mexican-Americans cannot be understood without considering Mexican history as a whole in regard to diversity, division and exclusion. Mexican history in its origins is marked by diversity. In Anahuac (America) different Native-American peoples co-existed. In the valley of Mexico, the Nahua cities ruled. To the west were the Tarascans, to the southeast the Mayans, to the southwest the Zapotecs-Mixtecs. To the north were the tribal peoples living in the great deserts and mountains. This diversity remains alive in Mexico today with around three hundred Native-American languages still spoken. The second part of Mexican history is marked by savage division and exclusion, the encounter with European colonialism. Spaniards arrived with modern weapons and a voracious appetite for plunder, they brought along their version of Christianity, the Spanish language, and African slaves. After destroying the native order of Mexican nobles and civilization, Europeans established a brutal system of division and exclusion to maintain totalitarian control of the colony. A caste system based on racial mixtures and degrees of darkness in the skin, the darker the skin, the lower the caste. Eventually there were so many categories of racial mixtures and hues of skin darkness that it was nearly impossible and ridiculous to try to identify them all. In colonial times, Mexicans were divided into these groups: Native-Americans, Spanish born Europeans, Criollos (Mexican born Europeans), Meztizos (Spanish Native American), Africans, Mulatos (Spanish-African), Zambos (Native American African), and dozens other hybrid categories created by intermarriages between these groups. The third part of Mexican history takes place in post revolutionary Mexico (1929- 1970), when a strong central government promotes inclusive efforts to unite the nation by creating a popular culture that would embrace all Mexicans. Efforts were made to “Mexicanize” all of the peoples of Mexico. Native Americans were encouraged to abandon their cultures and languages and become modern Mexicans. The myth of Meztizaje is used as the motor to Mexicanize the nation into one group of people. Film, radio, and a national education system promoted and popularized the idea of the brotherhood of all Mexicans. The Meztizo, the Mariachi, the Charro, the Mexican Pyramid, the Mexican flag, all become national symbols of brotherhood and unity. This Mexicanization effort proved successful and for the first time in history all Mexicans were united people, one nation. The fourth part of Mexican history entails the rupture of that Mexican unity by a new situation of division. After World War II, the United States of America becomes an economic giant, a magnet of wealth and prosperity. Mexico meanwhile experiences a population explosion, an inept government cannot keep pace with the demands of its people, poverty becomes widespread and extreme. Millions of young Mexicans cross into the USA seeking a livelihood. Fast forward to 2013, Mexicans are now divided into two huge groups, those that live in Mexico, and those that live in the USA. Those living in the USA of Mexican descent are a diverse group, millions only speak English, others are bilingual, new arrivals only speak Spanish, and those who speak primarily a Native-American language. Legal status also distinguishes them, Native born citizens, naturalized citizens, permanent residents, dreamers, undocumented, and refugees (because of the drug wars). The sad specter of dividing Mexicans into castes has returned, we are now put into different legal statuses, the modern caste system that determines who gets included and who gets excluded to what degree.

## When Change is Good- Why elections matter

There are two topics that get discussed often, one is getting rid of the electoral college and term limits.

For presidential elections, the electoral college was created to prevent someone like Trump to get elected. Constitutionally, the electors are not required to vote for the candidate that took the most votes in a state. As you can see it did not work. Al Gore and Hillary Clinton fell victims to the electoral college, they won the popular vote but lost the election. The loser became the winner. Trump took his message of hate to key states and was able to garner the electoral votes. Game won. It also helped that the campaign had Russian support. To get rid of the electoral college requires a constitutional amendment.

Hopefully, the Congress will start the process. We can hope or elect people that will vote to amend the constitution. Simple

Elections are not just about electing politicians. We just had a bond election in the city of Fort Worth and elsewhere. A very small percentage of voters decided to spend millions of dollars for city purposes. One of the selling points for the bond was that it was not a tax. It certainly is not. What it is, is borrowing money on future tax revenue. If you want to know the consequences, of borrowing money based on a come, look at Puerto Rico, the latest victim. It cannot pay back the money it has borrowed. Puerto Rico is not the only one. There are more.

Term limits for politicians

depends on the office they hold. Some offices have term limits, like the president, he is limited to two terms. Others like the governor of Texas you can hold the office as long as people elect you. The best term limits are called ballot boxes. All politicians can be voted out of office. Often they are not. There is such a monster called incumbency. Incumbency means that the politician holding the office is most likely to be reelected. Incumbents usually have a large advantage raising money. Once their voting record is established in Washington political action committees (PACs) want to keep a sure vote in Congress and they give money to the incumbent so he or she can get reelected.

There is a group of

federal officials that do not have term limits. Their appointments are lifetime. These officials are called judges. All federal judges from local judges all the way to the Supreme Court. Ever since the ideological war started the rush has been on to nominate as many ultra-right judges as possible. These judges need term limits because as lifetime appointments there is no control over their ideological whims. Ultra-right-wing judges are called strict constructionists. The two best examples that I can think of are Thomas and Scalia. Their interpretation of the constitution was simple. The constitution stands as written. There are no allowances for societal or other changes. Decisions of the Supreme Court are binding. The decisions become law. The best example that I can think of is Roe

v. Wade. Roe v. Wade is the law of the land on abortions.

Like any other Supreme Court decision only the Supreme Court can override a Supreme Court decision. Conservatives have tried for years to nominate conservative Supreme Court justices to overrule the decision. Thus far, Republicans have been very successful in appointing young judges. With lifetime appointments they can sit for 40 more or more years in the bench. Democrats have challenged redistricting, voter id and voting rights to no avail, they lose at the appeals level or the Supreme Court. Matters not, Democrats lose. It is time for judges to have term limits. Lifetime appointments need to end. All the above happens at the ballot box. Voting does matter.

Felix Alvarado | Editor.

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# Our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Being a Christian requires work every day. It includes working to avoid sin. It involves working on maintaining knowledge of the word of God. It requires us to replenish our brain with the things Jesus said and did as told in the New Testament. We read in the Bible about all the places Jesus was when he performed his miracles and picture in our minds what those places looked like. They cannot be accurate thus you can only imagine.

As you read about Jesus's time here on earth 2000 years ago you feel like those places do not exist anymore. They are places of the ancient past long gone and buried. Well lucky for us and the whole Christian world those places have been saved and preserved by the early Christians. Modern Christians have built a large church over most of those sites. Millions visit them every year. The place Jesus walked and performed all of his miracles is known as "The Holy Land" it is located in Israel.

So if you have a chance to go to the places where Jesus walked as mentioned in the New Testament wouldn't you go? Of course you would. It is a dream of a life time to be able to go there. Better yet if you could join an organized group set on making the trip a religious pilgrimage that would become a part of your quest to get closer to God and thus

strengthening your religious life. Hey even better.

My wife and I did that. Our pastor at Saint Patrick Cathedral organized a trip to Israel and the Holy Land. We were joyful to have been able to go. But before the trip we were then saddened when my sister in law who had been sick for a long time reached the last days of her life the week before we were scheduled to leave. I knew this pilgrimage was needed for my soul's sake and that my wife felt the same way. I spoke to our Pastor about it and he said, "Don't worry we will offer a Mass in her name while in Jerusalem just like they will be doing at her funeral. I thought to myself that would be outstanding. Yet I was troubled about how it would appear to the people if we were not at the funeral because we had taken a trip.

Most every morning I try to read a few verses from the Bible. I always say to my wife let me see what God has to say this morning. I always read something that reminds me how to live as Jesus tells us. The day we knew it was only a matter of hours before Silveria was to pass we began to think about canceling the trip. I said to my wife before we make the decision to cancel "let's see what God has to say". I keep our Bible on our dining room table where I sit to read it. The Bible was still open from where I had stopped the day before. So I started reading from where I left off. As I finished the first paragraph I was astonished to read what was in the next paragraph. I read about a man who told Jesus he wanted to be his apostle, but first he had to go and bury his dad, Jesus told him no, come with me now, let the poor in spirit bury the dead. There was God's message to us.



He knew we had done much for Silveria while she was well. It included what she needed to save her soul. She was prepared to meet God. We did not cancel. We went on our Pilgrimage.

It was amazing to have the Bible come alive as you walked on the same ground Jesus walked on and to see some of the same things that he saw. Places that we visited as mentioned in the Old Testament and the New Testament

are now visual imprints in our minds. I could feel my soul vibrate with joy when approaching the same stone Jesus prayed from at Gethsemane. Our Pilgrimage was very fulfilling.

Mass for Silveria at the Church by Jesus's tomb was beautiful, just as she was to all while she was alive.

Your Friend in Christ,

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



# My Mexican Friend

Is it okay to call someone a Mexican or allow yourself to be called a Mexican? Well it depends, obviously if someone asks about your heritage and if you are of Mexican heritage okay. And if course if you are a Mexican National that is what you are. Pero (but) pay attention here non-Mexican types, it is not okay to be introduced as my Mexican friend. I am not

sure what is involved in this thinking, do you; Want people to know that you are not a racist cause you have a Mexican friend? Or do you list all your friends that way? Either way on this it is a hard No, if you are guilty of this quit doing it now.

One more along this line, we (Mexican types, Latinos etc) do not know every Mexican in the country, state, city and to be clear even in our neighborhood. So, when you (non-Mexican types) want us

to give you the name of the little Mexican that you know, we don't know! And while I am at it, the old my besfriend in High School was a Mexican no Bueno (no good) either.

So, this month's lesson is; use people's names not ethnicities and Mexicans really don't know all Mexicans.

By A. Govea

## LULAC District 21 Elects New District Director: Felix Alvarado

By Franco  
April 28, 2018

LULAC District 21 voting members met on April 28, 2018 and held elections for District 21 Executive Board members. Felix Alvarado was elected for the position of District Director. Many who attended the meeting asked, "who is Felix Alvarado?" Following is an interview with Mr. Alvarado.

Mr. Alvarado has deep roots in Texas, a Tejano born in Orange Grove, Texas; his ancestors lived in Texas before it was called Texas. He spent his childhood in the cotton fields of south and west Texas. He recalls, "my childhood alternated between working in the fields and going to school. That was the life many Mexican-Americans lived in Post-World War II America. Children were more familiar with the cotton fields than with the school yard. The whole family was expected to work in the fields to bring in more money. You didn't question it, you just did it. If you were a Mexican-American that was your place."

He continues, "picking cotton in the fields, didn't give you much hope for a future. The military offered another option. It was the time of the cold war, and Uncle Sam didn't have enough white kids to manage the empire, so they started recruiting Mexican-American kids. I joined the Army and went to Vietnam. Eventually I made it to the Air Force. I spent 28 years in the military before retiring." Mr. Alvarado explains that he was a young Mexican-American who had to create his own way in a hostile environment for Chicanos in the military of those days, "back then threatening racial incidents were common if you were a Chicano in the military, career related discrimination was normal. Racial harassment was a daily experience for me. I never backed down and never had the intention to leave the military. I was determined to succeed, and racial harassment wasn't going to stop me." He did succeed and attained the highest rank that an enlisted man can attain in the Air Force: Chief

Master Sergeant a rank held by no more than 1% of the military.

After retiring from the military Mr. Alvarado decided to get involved in educating our youth. He was a principal and a teacher in several schools in North Texas. He got involved in education because he says, "after spending 28 years in the military and witnessing all the changes that happened in this country, I had hoped that Mexican-Americans would be better off. I was surprised to learn that things hadn't changed that much for Mexican-American kids. They were dropping out of school like flies and working low-wage jobs. No different than the kids of my generation who consumed their lives in the dusty cotton fields. I wanted to use all my military and life experience, especially my leadership strengths and skills to inspire our children to generate confidence within themselves and take on an attitude of achievement. Many of my students went on to do very well in life and I am very proud of having been part of their lives." Mr. Alvarado retired from teaching several years ago.

Politics is also of concern to Mr. Alvarado. When I asked him about politics, he smiled and responded, "I ran for Texas governor in 2010, and for the U.S. Congress two times. One great hope of Chicano leaders of my generation was that by gaining the right to vote we would be able to elect representatives of our choice. This happened in South Texas, but North Texas has been lagging behind, that's why we have so much racial inequality in North Texas. Remember Chicano activist Willie Velasquez, he founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in 1974. He believed like many other Chicano leaders that Mexican-Americans would be important in the American political world. This won't happen in Tarrant County if we don't vote. One of my current projects is to promote the culture of voting in our people. If they don't vote, nothing is going to change. This is important especially in these days when access to voting for minorities is facing many barriers."

The great Chicano leaders are Mr. Alvarado's inspiration for living a life full of service and activism, he said, "Reies Lopez Tijerina, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzalez, and Cesar Chavez, along with many others have inspired me by their dedication, sacrifice, and creativity, to make this a better nation for all people. I learned a lot from them, they were social innovators before the term was coined. Cesar Chavez especially has a special place in my heart.

His life was like mine, he faced the same hardships as a child of a migrant family. I understand why Chavez was determined to expose the savage slave-labor mindset that fueled the agricultural industry in this country. I lived in those conditions like he did, I experienced the same stigma. One of the situations that makes me uneasy today, is that Fort Worth has no major street named after Cesar Chavez. Martin Luther King and John F. Kennedy are recognized in the city, but Cesar Chavez is absent. I believe that it is time we follow the example of other major cities and name an important street or highway stretch after Cesar Chavez here in Fort Worth."

Mr. Alvarado also has a passion for Mexican-American history in North Texas, he says, "I am a historian of Mexican-American history in North Texas. I travel all over North Texas gathering testimonies and taking pictures and notes on historic markers and sites that are part of Mexican-American history. It is very sad that in Fort Worth we don't have a museum or cultural center specifically for Mexican-American history and culture in North Texas. My hope is to create an institution that can preserve and share this important historical information with the public. I don't want people to forget that Mexican-Americans were important in the development of North Texas."

Felix Alvarado has devoted a great deal of his life and time to civic duty in the political life of the community. His life is a testimony that he has gone beyond the call of duty to serve his community. He has worked always with the highest principles of honor and justice. He is an example and model for us of dedication and fearless effort to make this a better world for our children.

Following are some of Mr. Alvarado's credentials: Retired US Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Veteran, US Army. Staff Sergeant, Vietnam Veteran, US Naval Reserve, Seaman Apprentice Master of Public Administration, Troy University-Bachelor of Science, Business and Management, University of Maryland Administrator Certification, University of Texas at Arlington Teacher Certification, University of Texas at Arlington AAS, Navigation Systems Technology, Community College of the Air Force



## Nuestra peregrinación a la tierra Santa

Ser cristiano exige trabajar cada día. Incluye el trabajo para evitar el pecado. Implica trabajar en mantener el conocimiento de la palabra de Dios. Requiere llenar nuestro cerebro con las cosas que Jesús dijo e hicieron como le dijo en el nuevo testamento. Leemos en la Biblia acerca de todos los lugares que Jesús fue cuando realizó sus milagros y la

Al leer sobre el tiempo de Jesús aquí en la tierra hace 2000 años, se siente como esos lugares ya no existen. Son lugares del pasado antiguo largo pasado y enterrado. Bueno suerte para nosotros y para el mundo cristiano todos esos lugares han sido guardados y preservados por los Cristianos antiguos. Cristianos modernos han construido una iglesia grande en la mayoría de esos sitios. Millones les visitan cada año. El lugar donde Jesús caminaba y realizo todos sus milagros es conocido como "la Tierra Santa" se encuentra en Israel.

¿Así que si tienes oportunidad de ir a los lugares donde Jesús anduvo como se menciona en el Nuevo Testamento no te gustaría ir? Por supuesto que lo harías. Es un sueño de toda la vida poder ir allí. Mejor si une con un grupo organizado en hacer el viaje una peregrinación religiosa que se convertiría en una parte de su búsqueda para acercarse a Dios y fortaleciendo su vida religiosa. Bueno aún mejor.

Mi esposa y yo hicimos eso. Nuestro pastor en Saint Patrick Cathedral organizó un viaje a Israel y la Tierra Santa. Estábamos alegres de haber podido ir. Pero antes del viaje estábamos triste porque mi cuñada que había estado enferma durante mucho tiempo estaba em los últimos días de su vida la semana antes de que estábamos



programados para ir. Yo sabía que esta peregrinación era necesario por el bien de mi alma y que mi esposa sentía lo mismo. Hablé con nuestro Pastor sobre él y dijo: "no te preocupes vamos a ofrecer una Misa en su nombre mientras que en Jerusalén al igual que hará en su funeral. Pensé que sería excepcional. Sin embargo, estaba preocupado acerca de cómo aparecería a la gente si no estábamos en el funeral porque habíamos tomado un viaje.

La mayoría de las mañanas intente leer unos versículos de la Biblia. Siempre le digo a mi esposa que me deje ver lo que Dios tiene para decir esta mañana. Siempre leo algo que me recuerda a cómo vivir como Jesús nos dice. El día que sabíamos que era sólo cuestión de horas antes de que fallciera Silveria comenzamos a pensar en cancelar el viaje. Le dije a mi esposa antes de hacer la decisión de cancelar "vamos a ver lo que Dios tiene que decir". Mantengo nuestra Biblia en la mesa del comedor donde me siento a leer. La Biblia estaba todavía abierta desde donde había dejado el día anterior. Así que comencé a leer donde dejé. Al terminar el primer párrafo estaba asombrado al leer lo que fue

en el siguiente párrafo. Leí sobre un hombre que le dijo a Jesús que quería ser su Apóstol, pero primero tenía que ir y enterrar a su padre, Jesús le dijo no, ven conmigo ahora, que los pobres en espíritu entierren a los muertos. No hubo mensaje de Dios para nosotros. Sabía que habíamos hecho por Silveria mientras ella estaba bien. Incluía lo que ella necesitaba para salvar su alma. Ella estaba dispuesta a encontrarse con Dios. No cancelamos. Nos fuimos en nuestra peregrinación. Fue increíble tener la Biblia mientras caminaba en el suelo mismo en el que Jesús caminó y ver algunas de las mismas

cosas que él vio. Lugares que visitamos como se menciona en el Antiguo Testamento y Nuevo Testamento son ahora impresiones visuales en nuestras mentes. Pude sentir mi alma vibrar de alegría al acercarse a la misma piedra, que Jesús oró de en Getsemaní. Nuestra peregrinación fue muy satisfactoria.

La misa de Silveria en la iglesia, cerca de la tumba de Jesús era hermosa, igual que ella fue mientras estaba viva.

Tu amigo en Cristo,

Joe M. Govea, un devoto católico cuya tarea es evangelizar.



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## Porqué unirse a LULAC

Como la organización Latina más antigua de América, LULAC ha estado a la vanguardia de la lucha por la justicia social y la igualdad desde su creación el 27 de febrero de 1929. La lucha no ha sido fácil. El camino hacia la justicia social y la igualdad estaba lleno de baches. Había leyes racistas como Jim Crow que sofocaban la votación. Había desventajas económicas y educativas que impidieron la movilidad ascendente para la mayoría. Había y hay barricadas internas. Durante el movimiento Chicano el más poderoso mexicano americano, Henry B. Gonzalez, era del pensamiento que se podría mejorar todo siendo “mansitos”, básicamente, pequeños corderos. Había otros. La lucha interna fue la más perjudicial porque jugó directamente en las manos de aquellos que nos ponían abajo el poder anglo. El progreso fue lento y doloroso con muchos que se quedaron atrás.

Tal vez usted pueda sentir que hoy no hay necesidad de LULAC más o que usted personalmente no lo necesita. Usted es uno que no se quedó atrás. Debemos aclarar una cosa, cada mexicano americano se benefició de la lucha y los logros de LULAC. Todos. La discriminación contra el mexicano americano fue tan flagrante como contra los afroamericanos. En 1931, la Junta Escolar de Fort Worth ISD consideró hacer escuelas para niños mexicano americano. Esto era improbable ya que los niños mexicano americano no asistían a la escuela en número suficiente para tener una escuela en cada vecindario a menos que hubiera una presencia de niños mexicano americano fuera mayor. Había una escuela mexicana americana en el centro de Fort Worth en Henderson y Belknap. Katy Lake en 3900 St.

Louis fue para niños mexicanos de los grados 1 al 3. Localmente, Juanita Salinas y Paulino Valenciano asistieron a Katy Lake.

El distrito escolar consideró la construcción de escuelas para niños mexicano americano grados 1 al 3. Al parecer, los niños mexicano americano se esperaba que asistían a la escuela por tres años solamente e ir a trabajar. Pocos niños llegaron en la escuela secundaria. En 1929 los padres protestaron por la falta de escuelas para sus hijos. También protestaron contra la discriminación y la segregación de sus hijos. Durante mucho tiempo se reconoció que había tres factores que afectaban el desempeño de los niños mexicano americano en la escuela; una, las leyes de asistencia obligatoria no se aplicaban a ellos; dos, la asistencia, que estaban ausentes demasiado y; tres, idioma, los niños entraban a la escuela hablando español. Las recomendaciones incluían que los niños comenzaran la a los 4 años para que pudieran aprender inglés y segregar a aquellos que sólo hablaban solo español en su propio salón.

Esto no es un esfuerzo para crear problemas. Creo firmemente que los problemas del pasado deben quedarse en el pasado. El clima político de hoy lamentablemente demanda que tomamos cualesquiera medidas o pasos que debemos tomar para prevenir la regresión de las muchas mejoradas hechas como resultado de la legislación de los derechos civiles. Debemos luchar en la urna. No te Armes con balas, sino con papeletas. En las urnas ganaremos la pelea.

No podemos dar la espalda a nuestros compañeros latinos, incluso y especialmente si somos estadounidenses multigeneracionales.

Sí, hay lugar en LULAC para ti y tu membresía es necesaria. Unirse.

Felix Alvarado

## The Book of Rojo



Por Marcela Sánchez

¿Quién dijo que hay edad para reproducir tu propia música? Jonathan Rojo, un estudiante de la Universidad del Norte de Texas acaba de realizar sus sueños después de haber grabado, escrito y lanzado su séptimo álbum. *The Book of Rojo* fue inspirada por los libros en el segundo Testamento de la Biblia. Así como los cuatro libros cuentan los encuentros con Jesús, Rojo quiere contar sobre sus experiencias también.

Rojo fue acompañado por doce de sus amigos. Amber Lucky, Andrew Trimble, Katelyn Sanders, Guthrie Schoolar, Natalie Merrell, Spencer Esmonde, Kent Rousseau, Matthew Redward, Malia Nelson, Kobe Goffney, Akayla Bogan y Jacob Rodríguez (por orden de aparición) aparecieron en diferentes canciones. Cada canción incluye un prólogo y un final – dos de sus cantantes representan cada elemento: el prólogo (el sacrificio) y el final (la resurrección).

Actualmente Rojo está estudiando Media Arts en la Universidad del Norte de Texas y le gustaría continuar su carrera musical después de graduarse. Aparte de producir música, le encantaría involucrarse en el mundo de cinematografía. Rojo comenta que no le importa qué tipo de plataforma use; lo que más le importa es narrar historias. En las palabras de Rojo, “Claro, quiero producir películas y trabajar en proyectos cuando pueda, pero lo más importante es relatar historias. Sin importar el medio que use.”

Su álbum se encuentra en SoundCloud y la música puede ser escuchada por todas las audiencias. Rojo quiere que todas las edades disfruten de su música y no incluye contenido explícito que dice lo motiva a ser “más creativo.”

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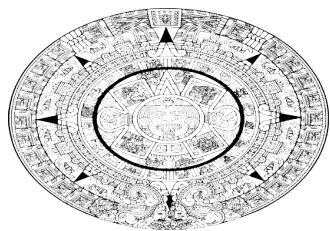
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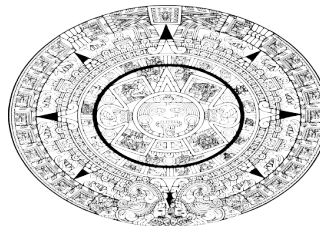
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# Hispanic Women's Network of Texas Awards Annual Scholarships



Fort Worth, Texas -- The Fort Worth Chapter of the Hispanic Network of Texas (HWNT) recently awarded over 50 college scholarships to graduating members of its Latinas in Progress™ (LIP) program. The total amount of scholarships awarded at the HWNT Graduation and Scholarship Banquet held at Tarrant County College on April 28th was over \$345,000.

Through the LIP Education Series, HWNT aims to mentor senior high school Latinas throughout their college journey and equip them with the means to succeed in their personal and

professional lives. LIP exposes senior high school Latinas to college life and provides them with the tools needed to succeed in their personal and professional life. The LIP Education Series consists of five learning sessions, city wide volunteer opportunities, and HWNT mentors.

Upon completion of the program, LIP participants are eligible to apply for scholarships established by HWNT and its partner organizations. HWNT scholarship funds are raised primarily from the organization's annual gala and other fundraising

events, as well as supported by individual donors. From 2007 to 2018, HWNT has supported 756 LIP students and awarded 376 scholarships worth over \$3.2 million.

Applications for the 2018-19 Latinas in Progress Program are due June 1, 2018. The application and guidelines can be found on the Latinas in Progress website at: [www.lipfw.org](http://www.lipfw.org)

For more information, contact HWNT Education Chair, Adagui Gomez, at: [fw-education@hwnt.org](mailto:fw-education@hwnt.org)

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