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Hispanic News

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Inland Empire

Hispanic News

Serving the Hispanic Communities in the Inland Empire

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The Inland Empire’s only Hispanic Minority Owned English Language Newspaper

AMERICAN LEGION POST 650 HONORS MEMBERS ON 50 + ANNIVERSARY

The Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion, Redlands, honored four post members for over 50 years of continuous membership in a special ceremony at its monthly meeting. Tony Torres, 53 years, Dan Ramos, 51 years, Alfred Armendarez, 52 years and Juan Ramirez, Post Commander, were instrumental in organizing and the chartering of the current Post 650 in 1949. He is credited with donating hundreds of hours during the initial renovation of the post building and has continually contributed his construction skills to the present time.

Tony Torres served in the 37th Infantry Division in World War II and fought in the battles of Luzon and Leyte in the Philippine Island campaign. He and his wife, Anita, are parents of the late Mercy, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He retired from Norton Air Force Base after 31 years. Torres has served in various Post’s committees.

Tony Ortega, long-time Redlands resident who recently passed away, was posthumously awarded an Honorary Commander at a special ceremony at the Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion Post, Redlands.

Ortega, born in Corona, and John Castaneda were instrumental in organizing and the chartering of the current Post 650 in 1949. Ortega was selected to be the first interim post commander.

Helios Joe Hernandez sworn as new judge

Helios Joe Hernandez was sworn in as the newest Riverside County Superior Court judge on March 2, 2001 at the Riverside Historic Courthouse with friends, fellow employees and superior court judges filling two courtrooms and many other supporters overflowing into the courthouse halls.

The occasion was one of jubilation and pride as Hernandez is one of two Hispanic judges who have risen to the level of judgeships in the Riverside County’s judicial system.

Commander Juan Ramirez read the resolution, a documentary on the initial activities of Ortega that was the catalyst for the chartering of the veteran’s group and currently serving veterans to the present time.

Virginia Ortega, widow, was presented with the resolution by Sergeant-At-Arms Alex Garcia and witnessed by the Ortega’s sons and daughters.

Ortega was in the Army for two years and served statewide. After his discharge, he worked at Universal-Rundle, Mentone and Norton Air Force Base.

Ortega was also a professional musician for 55 years and played at popular nightclubs, like the Cresendo Club in San Bernardino and the Rainbow Gardens in Pomona and other nightclubs in the Inland Empire. He also directed his own band for many years.

Ortega and his wife, Virginia, were parents of nine children, 29 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

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The Miller Brewing Company and the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) recently hosted a reception in Los Angeles to unveil the “Portraits of Success: Hispanic Americans in the Media Arts” 2001 Calendar. Pictured from left to right are (top row): Jeff Valdez, Calendar Honoree/Comedian and Producer; Ignacio Gomez, Portraits Artist; Luis Avalos, Calendar Honoree/Actor and Director; Tina Nalls, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Miller Brewing Company; Gregory Nava, Calendar Honoree/Director; Carla Martinez de Castro, State Local Public Policy Director for NCLR; Evelina Fernandez, Calendar Honoree/Actor; Dolores Huerta, Portraits of Success Calendar Selection Committee Member; Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of La Raza; Nancy Alicia De Los Santos, Calendar Honoree/Film and Television Writer; Pepe Serna, Calendar Honoree/Producer; Carmen Zapata, Former Calendar Honoree/President of Bilingual Foundation of the Arts; and Judy Chapa, Supervisor of Corporate Relations for Miller Brewing Company.

Miller Brewing Company has issued its 2001 Calendar “Portraits of Success.” This year’s calendar, titled “Hispanic Americans in the Media Arts,” is available to the public and will benefit the National Council of La Raza’s (NCLR) Education Policy Projects.

For nearly two decades, the Miller Brewing Company has recognized the many achievements of Hispanic Americans in various professions, such as science, law, medicine, education, politics, music and sports, through the “Portraits of Success” calendar series.

The 2001 Calendar features oil portraits, painted by renowned artist Ignacio Gomez, of 12 outstanding Latinos who have succeeded in the media arts and continue to contribute to their community. They include: Luis Avalos; Nestor Carbonell; Nancy Alicia De Los Santos; Gregory Nava; Rachel Ortiz; Tony Plana; Evelina Fernandez; Pepe Serna; Jimmy Smits; Ray Suarez; David Valdez; and Jeff Valdez.

“We are very pleased that this year’s Miller Brewing Company ‘Portraits of Success’ honors so many of the ‘unsung heroes’ of the Latino entertainment community. We are also deeply appreciative of Miller’s interest in, and commitment to ensuring more accurate, positive, and fair portrayals of Hispanics in the media,” stated Raul Yzaguirre, NCLR President.

To obtain a copy of Miller Brewing Company 2001 Calendar, “Portraits of Success: Hispanic Americans in the Media Arts,” please call 1-888-698-7447. The cost of the calendar is $10.00, with proceeds benefiting NCLR.

In honor of Women’s History Month this March, it is important that we bring attention to women who have played an extraordinary role in the America’s history but are often not fully recognized. One remarkable example is Dolores Huerta, an unsung American hero.

Ms. Huerta co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez in 1962. She worked tirelessly organizing farmworkers union and making it a political powerhouse. She fought hard for unemployment insurance, collective bargaining rights, and immigration rights for farmworkers.

Together with Cesar Chavez, they became giants in their dedication to non-violence and social change. Their movement was one that builds and does not destroy. Dolores has touched the lives of millions of Californians and Americans. She is a role model for Latinas and has inspired many people to rededicate their lives to the fight for dignity and justice.

This March, I hope we will all take a moment to learn more about remarkable women, like Dolores Huerta, who have strived to make this country a better place for all.

Si Se Puede! Si Se Puede! Is a symbol of Hope!

Sincerely,

JOE BACA
Member of Congress

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SCHEDULE LUNCHEON FORUM

The League of Women Voters has scheduled a luncheon forum on March 22, 2001, at the Uptowner Restaurant, 155 W. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino at 11:45 AM.

Topics on the agenda are “Our Local Water Position—does it need revision?” Discussion on the agenda are determinations of local positions that were voted at the LWVSB’s Annual May meeting, including subjects on water, land use, redevelopment, education and other items of interest.

The League of Women Voters have scheduled a luncheon forum on March 22, 2001, at the Uptowner Restaurant, 155 W. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino at 11:45 AM.

For further information contact Gloria Anderson at (909) 334-4163

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In honor of Women’s History Month this March, it is important that we bring attention to women who have played an extraordinary role in the America’s history but are often not fully recognized. One remarkable example is Dolores Huerta, an unsung American hero.

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Sincerely,

JOE BACA
Member of Congress

Scholarship Benefit Dance

March 17th, 1:00pm - 1:00am at Gents Community Center 1462 Art Townsend Drive • San Bernardino, CA (Formerly Norton Air Force Base)

Doors Open at 12:30 pm

$12.00 Per Person / $15.00 at Door

DJ Nightlife Productions (Russ)

Featuring San Bernardino Valley’s Popular Music Groups

• Crystals & The Diamonds
• Ten East
• Crossfire • NightLife
• Westside Latin • Timepiece

Proper Dress Code Strictly Enforced
All Proceeds Benefit THE GENTS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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San Bernardino (Tony) 909-886-3229
Redlands (Sherry) 909-793-1206
Colton (Santos) 909-825-5824
Latinos with health insurance coverage remains unchanged at 36% since 1994. 63% of Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and 59% of African Americans had job-based insurance in 1999.

"Though there is notable improvement in California's employment-based coverage, this study makes it clear that people of color, the working poor, and those unable to work continue to be at highest risk of being uninsured," says Gary Yates, president and CEO of the California Wellness Foundation. "This lack of coverage has significant implications for the health of the state's residents and the vitality of the health care system."

To improve health insurance coverage for all Californians the report recommends that the state simplify the application process and expand outreach to California residents who are eligible but not enrolled in Medi-Cal and the Health Families Program. The report's authors also recommend expanding the Health Families Program to cover parents up to 250% of the federal poverty level, which could cover up to $18,000 uninsured parents.

"It's very clear that the expanding economy is not going to expand health insurance coverage for the millions of working Californians who are now uninsured, particularly the state's ethnic and racial minorities," said E. Richard Brown, director of the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. "Federal matching funds are available to help the state expand its Medi-Cal and Healthy Families Program to cover more uninsured residents, particularly parents of eligible children. It makes good fiscal and policy sense to take maximum advantage of this opportunity to expand access to health insurance coverage. The state and federal governments should act now."

The disparities in coverage are reflected in the lower rates of job-based insurance among racial and ethnic minorities. 43% of Latinos had job-based insurance in 1999 as compared to 72% of the non-Latino white population. While job-based insurance for Latinos has risen from 39% in 1994, health insurance coverage provided through Medi-Cal or Healthy Families Program declined from 22% to 17%. As a result, the number of Latinos with health insurance coverage remains unchanged at 36% since 1994.
HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN TESTED FOR LEAD POISONING?

Lead poisoning is a serious problem among Hispanic children. Low levels of lead poisoning can cause serious health and behavior problems in your child. It also affects their ability to learn in school. If your children are one or two years old, you should get them tested for lead poisoning. They should be tested all the way up to six years if they have never been tested for lead before. A blood lead test is the only way to know if your child has lead poisoning. MOST CHILDREN WITH LEAD POISONING DO NOT LOOK OR ACT SICK!

Your child can get lead poisoning from the following sources:

- Dirt and soil around these homes
- Children can also ingest paint by chewing on window sills or picking up lead paint dust from around the home.
- Imported pottery and ceramics from Mexico and other countries can contain high amounts of lead. (For example, the popular bean-pot used by many Hispanic families)
- Home remedies-azarcon, greta and surma, contain extremely high levels of lead.

The ONLY way to know if your child ingested lead from these sources is to have their blood tested for lead!!!!! Ask your doctor to test your child for lead poisoning today! The Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program offers free physical exams which include free blood lead testing for those who qualify. Medi-Cal and other health insurances cover the cost of a blood lead test. If your child does not have health insurance, he/she could qualify for free services. For more information call the CHDP program, 1-800-722-3777.

San Bernardino High School class of 1961 is having a 40th reunion on Saturday, June 30, 2001, at the Arrowhead Country Club in San Bernardino. If you are a 1961 graduate, a friend of the class of 1961, or taught there at that time and would like to join this festive occasion, contact Sandy Bennen at (909) 882-7025.
ASSISTANCE LEAGUE TO HOLD 40TH ANNUAL HEADDRESS BALL

Michael Milian, above is one of the many performers to be presented at the 40th Annual Headdress Ball to be held at the National Orange Show on Saturday, March 31.

The Assistance League of San Bernardino announced the 40th Annual Headdress Ball to be held at the National Orange Show Events Center, San Bernardino on Saturday, March 31, with the event beginning at 5:00 PM.

According to Co-Chair Christina Milian, this year's theme, "A World of Fantasy," will highlight an international, multi-cultural production comprised of talented headdress models. The event is a tireless effort by many volunteers, the business community and members of the Assistance League, Milian said.

The event will include a six-course dinner, presentation of headdresses, door prize awards and dance with music by Delaney, Jaymes and Stevie E. Band.

The San Bernardino tax-exempted chapter of the Assistance League was founded in 1940 and chartered in 1947 to enrich the lives in the community. The proceeds derived from the annual events directly benefit the Dr. Earl R. Crane Children's Dental Health Center, located at 580 W. Sixth Street, San Bernardino, which was founded in 1949. The dental center provides complete services on an annual basis to over 6,000 children of low-income families who are without insurance and are not receiving public assistance. The services include general dentistry, oral hygiene, minor oral surgery and prosthetics and orthodontics.

An added sponsorship is Operation Bell Program, which began in 1983 and provides new clothing, shoes and personal hygiene products to children who are without adequate school clothing.

Program referrals are made by the San Bernardino School District.

For information on this year's event, call the Headdress Chairpersons, Christina Milian at (909) 864-3139 or Ann Atkinson at (909) 889-8561.

Christina Milian, above, is Co-Chair with Ann Atkinson of the 40th Annual Headdress Ball to be held at the National Orange Show Events Center, San Bernardino on March 31. This year's theme "A World of Fantasy" is highlighting an international multi-cultural production.

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Disfruta Disney's California Adventure

Advertencia: No es necesario. Los premios deben ser solicitados antes de exhibir "Coca-Cola" a la marca "Gira la tapa!".
LATINA HISTORY: PARADOX AND TRIUMPH
By Frances J. Vasquez

Las mujeres vinieron del poniente... Vienen del mar, de la piedra de la lluvia. Son hijas del mar, de la diosa del mar, Chevimu.
Ancient Indigenous poem

Women's History Month presents a great opportunity to take the time to reflect on the quantum leaps women have made to attain the dignity and respect they deserve as equal partners in society. It provides the opportunity to honor the positive impact Latinas have made on our culture - on our social consciousness. Today, we see Latinas in more positions of power than we have ever witnessed in modern history. They run mega corporations, universities, government, and play a crucial role in developing public policy. The Latina voice can now be heard loud and clear in the halls of the State Capitols and other institutions. She has come a long way, indeed.

From a historical perspective, the evolution of the role of Latinas is remarkable. They were first depicted as goddesses, princesses, wise elders...to slaves, concubines, and even a traitor/heroine...La mujer Latina served a dynamic and pivotal role in the history of our continent. Through the ages women have made a special mark in the culture and socialization of Mexico and Latin America. To better understand the status of Latinas today, it is vital to understand the context that helped shape the Latina history.

One particularly strong woman was an Aztec called La Malinche. She was a woman of historical contradictions. Her very name stirs up controversy. An Aztec noble woman, Malintzin Tenepal was the daughter of a Cacique. In line with her wealthy status, Malintzin was allowed to be educated. After her father died, she was traded as a slave to the Cacique of Tabasco. It was during this period that she learned several dialects, including Nahuatl, Mayan and later, Spanish. She became slave, interpreter, strategic advisor, mistress, and mother of the first mestizo. After the Spanish landed in the port of Veracruz, the Cacique gave Hernan Cortes 20 young women, including Malintzin.

The Spanish baptized her Marina. According to Bernal Diaz, author of "The Conquest of New Spain" they always addressed Cortes as "Malinche" which he translated as Captain. He defined "La Malinche" as "the captain's woman." Using her intellect, education and facility with languages, she quickly proved her value to the Spaniards as a translator. Without her help and diplomatic skills, Cortes may never have fulfilled his goal of conquest in Mexico. Without her, attempts to negotiate with the Aztecs would have been impossible; thus Doña Marina played a key role in avoiding more bloodshed. The picture of Malintzin that emerges is that of an intelligent, religious and loyal woman. While her contributions to the success of the Conquest are immense, she cannot be held responsible for it happening. A major factor was the brutality and oppression by the Aztecs of their neighbors, who also participated in the rebellion to seek relief from Aztec demands for tribute and sacrificial victims. La Malinche has become an important historical and archetypal figure in Latina/Chicana literature. According to Carol Brochin, "Malinche was not the only figure in Chicana culture, but she is a woman who used her voice and language. She was not silent."

The impact of colonization on Latinas was profound. The role of women was very stratified. She had two choices when she grew up: the institution of marriage or the convent. Men controlled the institutions. Girls and women were subservient to their fathers and husbands. A widowed woman became subservient to her son when her husband died. Nuns, of course, took their orders from the Bishop and the priests. Possibly the most influential Latina was Sor Juana Ines de La Cruz, a prolific self-taught intellectual, writer, poet, and scholar. Her contemporaries referred to her as "the Tenth Muse" and "the Phoenix of Mexico." She was born an
The decision to enter the convent was a practical one. She did not wish to marry. She wanted to pursue her love of knowledge and writing. Sor Juana wrote, "given the total antipathy I felt towards marriage, I deemed convent life least unsuitable and the most honorable I could elect if I were to ensure my salvation." Convents were small cities in those days. Her quarters were ample enough for a kitchen, bedrooms, and a sitting room large enough for the nun and her servants. She was not cloistered. A girl's school attached to San Jeronimo convent was noted for its classes in music, dance, and theater. Sor Juana composed songs for productions that were attended by members of the court. She wrote poetry of all kinds, including love poems. She turned the convent locutory into an intellectual salon. During her lifetime, Sor Juana amassed a large body of printed work. Her literary works and her reputation as a poet and thinker are remembered in the mid-18th century because Sor Juana defied and challenged the wrath of the male establishment, her voice was publicly silenced. However, her will and determination remained viable. Her poetry was uncensored. Her literary works and her memory are indelibly inscribed in history.

"Homage to her superiors was the price Sor Juana paid for freedom to be a nun and her servants. She turned the convent locutory into an intellectual salon. During her lifetime, Sor Juana amassed a large library of over 4,000 books.

The University of Darmouth's, Sor Juana Project, surmised that "Homage to her superiors was the price Sor Juana paid for freedom to write and study. She wrote for the court and church for status and power. Being a nun freed her from the rigorous duties of a married woman and the endless round of household chores. Her poems, plays, and songs freed her from many of the duties of a nun..." She wrote religious songs and plays as well as secular ones, and had influential patrons. Sor Juana was a critical thinker. She wrote a critical analysis of a sermon given by a Jesuit priest. In a power struggle between the Bishop of Puebla and the Archbishop of Mexico, the letter was published as a veiled attack on the Archbishop. Having the critique written by a woman and published under a woman's name added another insult. He disapproved of her intellectual prowess and her plays. The published letter provided him the opportunity to attack and silence Sor Juana. Under heavy pressure, she turned over her books and scientific instruments to the Archbishop and gave the proceeds to the poor. Because Sor Juana defied and challenged the wrath of the male establishment, her voice was publicly silenced. However, her will and determination remained viable, but in private. Her literary works and her memory are indelibly inscribed in history. Margaret Sayers Peden, Professor Emerita of Spanish, University of Missouri suggests, "She asserted her right as a woman to explore the very foundations of knowledge..." As the title of one of her famous poems states, "Primero suelo." Or, "First I Dream" it reveals the yearning, questing mind that seduces us today. Tenacious and hard working, numerous Latinas are forging new territory everywhere. They are winning elected political office. Locally, Senator Nell Soto is the highest-ranking elected official. She was elected to the 32nd District (again all odds!) She is the first woman - the first Latina to serve as State Senator of this region. She chairs the Senate Committee on Public Employment Retirement, Senate Select Committee on Defense Conversion and the newly created Senate Select Committee on Urban Economic Development. She also serves on other committees, including the Senate Select Committee on the Alamada Corridor East. Previously, she served in the Assembly, representing the 61st District, and the Pomona City Council. She was the first woman elected from the San Gabriel Valley to the powerful South Coast Air Quality Management District. Other Latinas in the California Senate include Deborah Escutia, Liz Figueroa, and Deborah Ortiz. Dr. Gloria Romero of Los Angeles was recently elected to fill Hilda Soliz' vacant seat. Gloria Negrete McLeod of Chino was elected last year to the 61st Assembly District, and Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes of Fresno represents the 31st District. Latina members in the U.S. House of Representatives include: Anibal Acevedo-Vila of Puerto Rico, Grace Napolitano of California, Jeanne Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, Lucille Roybal-Allard of California, Loretta Sanchez of California, and Nydia Velasquez of New York.

Prominent local Latina elected officials include trailblazer, Judith Valles, Mayor of San Bernardino, and the first Latina to head a major city in California. A former college president and former member of the Board of Trustees of San Bernardino Community College District. She was elected to office three years ago. Grace Vargas was elected Mayor of Rialto last year. She served on the City Council before becoming Mayor. Mary Figueroa was elected to her second term on the Riverside Community College Board of Trustees. A strong advocate, she was appointed by the Attorney General to the State Commission on Civil Rights, Hate Crimes Division.

The face and voice of the Latina is strong and powerful. Like the Phoenix, she has ascended to glorious new heights. She is making changes. Her strength and influence grace the halls of power in a most intelligent and clear way. Mujer, we celebrate you.

Frances J. Vasquez is on the staff of Senator Nell Soto

LATINA ELECTED OFFICIALS IN NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICES
The following California Latina women are currently members of Congress, State Senate, State Assembly and local offices.

Members of Congress

State Senate Office
Martha Escutia, Liz Figueroa, Deborah Ortiz and Nell Soto.

State Assembly Office
Sally Havice, Gloria Negrete McLeod, Jenny Oropeza, Sarah Reyes, Gloria Romero and Charlene Zettel.

County Supervisors
Blanca Alvarado, Mary Lou Andrade, Gloria Cortez-Keene, Rebecca Martinez and Gloria Molina.

County Recorder
Delores Provencio and Mary Alice Ramirez-George
The San Bernardino Unified School District’s Board of Education recently announced the promotion of Mauricio Arellano to serve as Director of Certificated Human Resources with direct responsibilities to recruit teachers and increase the number of credentialed teachers currently in the school district.

The student population is increasing on a yearly basis throughout the state and the majority of districts have set a high priority to increase teaching staff. Corresponding to the demand for teachers has required hiring persons on a continual basis who essentially have college credits and need the teaching credentials required by the state.

The district has planned to hire many credentialed teachers for the forthcoming school year to meet the increased population.另一个 priority is to increase the teaching staff to reflect the district’s diverse population. The district’s student ethnic population continues to increase as follows: American Native 1%, Asian 3%, Pacific Islander 1%, Hispanic 55%, Black 21% (and White 20%) with a total numerical population of 52,185. (writer’s note: district’s rounding adds to a percentage of 101).

Arellano is the current principal at Vermont Elementary School and will continue serving in this position until a new principal is appointed. He was educated in the San Bernardino school system and received a BA in sociology and BA in Spanish from the University of California, Riverside and a MA in Educational Administration from Cal-State, San Bernadino. Hired by the district in 1989, Arellano taught at Muscoy Elementary School and in 1994, was assistant principal at North Verdemont and Bonnie Oehl Schools and in 1996, appointed principal at Wilson, Thompson and Vermont Schools. His membership includes the Association of California School Administrators, San Bernardino School Managers, Cal-State University Alumni Board of Directors, California Association of Bilingual Educators and Phi Delta Kappa.

In a prepared statement, Arellano said, “I am honored and proud to know that the San Bernardino Unified School District has the confidence in me to serve as the New Director of Certificated Human Resources. I am looking forward to the opportunity of hiring qualified and dynamic teachers to educate and motivate the fifty thousand students in our school district. Working with Dr. Harold Volkcomer will no doubt provide me with an effective mentor and expose me to endless strategies for teacher recruitment and retention.”

Arellano and his wife, Kristin, are the parents of Alysa, 4 and Erynne, 9 months.

Every once in a while a bright idea will pop into your head. Like the one Riverside Public Utilities had when we decided to give rebates to business customers who changed out their older inefficient indoor and outdoor lighting with new high-energy efficient fixtures. By taking advantage of our lighting efficiency incentive programs businesses can receive substantial rebates and save on future energy costs. Just ask Rolando Iglesias, owner of Maxi Foods, about it. He’s already cashed in on over $7,500 in rebates for the changes he made to one of his Riverside stores. “The store is much brighter now, but we actually use less energy for lighting than we did before,” Rolando says. To inquire about our Outdoor Security Lighting and Energy Efficient Lighting incentive programs for business customers, call (909) 826-5485.
Leonard Torres was recognized for 51-year membership in the veteran's Post. He served in the Army's 511 Airborne Division in World War II and fought in the Pacific Theater of War. He and his wife, Jessie, are parents of Leonard III, Debra and twins Dennis and Delbert and have 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He retired from Universal-Rundle and served on various Post's committees.

Alfred Armendariz was recognized for 52-year membership. He served in the Navy in World War II in the South Pacific and was recalled in 1951 to serve in the Korean War. He and his late wife, Consuelo, are parents of Ray, Irene, Anita and Susan. Armendariz retired from Universal-Rundle, Montecito. He volunteers his time serving on committees.

Dan Ramos was recognized for 51-year membership. Ramos was called into the Regular Army as a member of the National Guard during the Korean Conflict. He was stationed in Camp Cook, now the Vandenberg Air Force Base. He retired from Santa Fe Railroad after 36-year tenure in the mechanical department. Ramos and his late wife, Juanita, are the parents of Dan Ramos, Jr. He has served on the post's executive committee and other committees.

Many Mexican-Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II. After their discharge, veteran groups encouraged Mexican-American veterans to join local veterans' posts. Redlands, like many cities and towns throughout the United States and primarily in the Southwest, had large number of veterans who were undecided on whether to join local veteran groups or form their own groups. In 1949, as a result of meetings and the initiative of Tony Ortega and John Castaneda, Post 650 was chartered as an independent American Legion organization, with Ortega serving as the first interim commander. The post has become a distinguished veteran group and recognized throughout the state of California for their dedication to serving the veterans and service to the community and youth.

The post was named after Philip Marmoiejo, who distinguished himself in combat and the first Redlands Mexican-American resident killed in World War II.

The present post clubhouse was purchased from the Redlands School District and moved across town and renovated. The post serves as a community center for Redlands' Northside residents.

MAPA TO SPONSOR CESAR CHAVEZ PRAYER BREAKFAST ON MARCH 31

The Mexican American Political Association is sponsoring a Cesar Chavez Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at El Patio Restaurant, 333 E. Foothill Blvd., Rialto from 8:00 to 10:00. Special guest is Congressman Joe Baca. Mariachi, entertainment, door prizes and raffles will be provided for the guests.

Tickets are $15 per person. For tickets call (909) 820-3288.

Congressman Joe Baca was keynote speaker at a special career day at Kucera Middle School in Rialto and spoke to over 400 8th grade students that are preparing to enter high school. Baca, above, later spoke to students in a classroom, encouraging the students to continue their education into the college level. Baca spoke on his background and illustrated the many challenges he endured while growing up as a minority person. Career day is an event for students to become aware of life careers that are available and to initiate career preparation.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The Riverside County Office of Education, Riverside County Child Care Consortium and the Riverside County Children and Family Commission have planned a Child Development Legislative Breakfast on Friday, March 30, 2001, at the Riverside Art Museum, 3425 Mission Inn Blvd., Riverside, beginning at 7:00 AM.

The program will address current issues relating to school readiness and child care services in California. Other agenda items will identify the role that government, business, education, community organizations, child care providers and proposition 10 funding can have in the process.

Fees for the event is $22 and includes breakfast and materials. RSVP by March 23. For additional information call Jan Peterson at (909) 826-6367.

BI-LINGUAL (Spanish) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Riverside hospice Companion Connection Program desperately needs bi-lingual volunteers to help with the isolated and frail elderly who need assistance and companionship. They have no stimulation other than TV and feel deserted and useless. You could be their link to the outside world.

Are you willing to volunteer a couple of hrs. twice a week?

call Rosa at: (909) 274-0710

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DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTRY'S HISPANICS HIGHLIGHTED IN U.S. CENSUS BUREAU REPORT

The proportion of the Hispanic population age 25 and over with at least a bachelor's degree ranged from 23 percent for those of Cuban origin to 7 percent for those of Mexican origin, according to survey data collected in 2000 and released today by the Commerce Department’s Census Bureau. Overall, 11 percent of Hispanics 25 years and over reported having at least a bachelor's degree, compared with 78 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.

"The country's Latino population is quite diverse," said Roberto Ramirez, co-author with Melissa Therrien of "The Hispanic Population in the United States of the March 2000 current population survey (CPS). "And this diversity is reflected in demographic and socioeconomic differences among people whose origins go back to Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, other countries in Central America and South America and Spain."

According to the 2000 CPS estimates, 12.8 million Hispanics were foreign-born; of this number, 1 in 4 were naturalized citizens. Among foreign-born Hispanics, 43 percent entered the United States in the 1990s while 27 percent entered before 1980. Although 74 percent of those who entered the country before 1970 had obtained citizenship by 2000, only 7 percent of those who entered between 1990 and 2000 had become citizens. (The process of becoming a naturalized citizen usually requires five year of residence in the United States.)

Other findings:
• Among Hispanics, 77 percent were of Mexican Origin; 14 percent were Central and South American origin; 9 percent were of Puerto Rican origin; 4 percent were of Cuban origin; and the remaining 6 percent were other Hispanics. The country's overall Latino population was close to 33 million, or 12 percent of the total population.
• Hispanics generally are younger than non-Hispanic Whites. Thirty percent of Hispanics were under 18 years old and only 5 percent were 65 or older; for non-Hispanic Whites, the corresponding proportions were 24 percent and 14 percent.
• Among Hispanic family households, those with Mexican householders were the most likely to have five or more persons (36 percent). Hispanic family households were larger than their non-Hispanic White counterparts. 31 percent consisted of five or more persons, compared with 12 percent for family households with non-Hispanic White householders.
• The proportion of Hispanics who had attained at least a high school education ranged from 73 percent for Cubans and 72 percent for other Hispanics to 51 percent for Mexicans. Over 57 percent of Hispanics were high school graduates compared with 88 percent of non-Hispanic Whites.
• Hispanics were more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to work in service occupations (19 percent versus 12 percent) and almost twice as likely to be employed as operators and laborers (22 percent versus 12 percent). Conversely, 14 percent of Hispanics were in managerial professional occupations, compared with 33 percent of non-Hispanic Whites; among Latino groups, Mexicans were the least likely to work managerial or professional occupations (12 percent).
• Among Hispanic groups, Mexicans had the lowest proportion of full-time, year-round workers with annual earnings of $35,000 or more (21 percent). Overall, Hispanics were less likely than non-Hispanic Whites to have earnings of $35,000 or more (23 percent compared with 49 percent).

The Census Bureau cautions that these estimates, collected in the March 2000 Current Population Survey should not be confused with Census 2000 results, which are scheduled for release over the next three years.

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HELIOS JOE HERNANDEZ SWORN AS NEW JUDGE

Continued from Page 1

Newly sworn in Judge Helios J. Hernandez II, center, with wife, Gloria Lopez, right, and the judge’s father, Helios J. Hernandez I, right posed immediately after the swearing in ceremony. Judge Hernandez’ mother became aware that his son’s application for judgeship was being processed before passing away in July, 2000. Photo by IEHN

Grover Trask, Riverside District Attorney and Hernandez’ former boss, spoke of his supervising deputy district attorney’s career highlights.

Hernandez joined the Riverside County District Attorney’s office in 1980 and handled more than 80 jury trials and 100 juvenile cases. His 11 years as supervising deputy district attorney included heading the district attorney’s drug unit, which was created in 1996. Hernandez is known as a hard-working attorney who accepted difficult assignments.

John Pacheco, representing the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association, praised Hernandez for his commitment to volunteer his legal services to indigents. “Mr. Hernandez has been a role model to many of us in the legal profession and his elevation to judgeship will greatly appeal to many people the idea that there is opportunity for many, especially the young people of color,” he said.

Hernandez graduated from Stanford in 1967 and served in the Navy as an officer on the aircraft carrier Kittyhawk during the Vietnam War. After his discharge, he enrolled in the University of Southern California School of Law, graduating with a J.D. in 1973.

He worked in Washington as a legislative analyst on the Cabinet Committee and the National Institutes of Health, and later practiced law in Santa Ana, California prior to his appointment in the Riverside District Attorney’s Office.

Hernandez was sworn into office by Judge Manuel Ramirez, Presiding Judge of the Fourth District Court of Appeal. Gloria Lopez, his wife of 27 years, and son, Helios Joseph Hernandez III, robes the judge while receiving a standing ovation.

“I am very honored in this occasion to become a Riverside Superior Court Judge.” Judge Hernandez said.

He introduced his family: father, Helios Joseph Hernandez I, wife, Gloria, son Helios J. Hernandez II and visiting relatives who journeyed to witness the swearing in ceremonies. He spoke of his family, traditions and his experiences and the need to help the unfortunate. “I will continue to uphold the law and still be a compassionate person.”

David Dominguez, a 21-year career police officer, was sworn in by City of Riverside Chief of Police Russ Leach as the newest captain in a city hall ceremony on March 9, 2001, witnessed by family, fellow police officers and friends. He is one of four captains in the department and the only minority.

Dominguez began his career in law enforcement with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Office, where he worked in investigations and training. He also supervised the gang unit, detective bureau and community policing team. After a 15-year tenure with the Sheriff’s Department, he was recruited and appointed as a lieutenant in the Riverside Police Department.

In Riverside, Dominguez worked in various divisions within the department: Bureau Commander of the General Investigations Unit, Area Commander for police services covering over 50,000 population, including the implementation of the community police program and Bureau Commander in Personnel Services, responsible for recruitment, research and development. He is currently Commander for field and patrol operations division, managing over 175 personnel.

Dominguez received a BA in Criminal Justice and an MA in Public Administration from Cal-State, Fullerton. graduate of the Senior Management Institute of Police at the John F. Kennedy Center at Harvard University, and has a lifetime supervisory teaching credential in the California State College System.

Dominguez is a consultant to the United States Department of Justice on community policing and leadership training; a member of the California Peace Officers Association, a state-wide police management organization of over 4,000 and current first vice president. He is slated to be sworn in as president in May, 2001. His membership also includes LaNet, a local community network group and the American Heart Association.

The Dominguez family has followed a tradition in law enforcement. His father, Richard Dominguez, and an uncle, Gilbert Dominguez, are retired after 30 years in the Los Angeles Police Department. Another uncle and several cousins are currently in law enforcement.

Dominguez and his wife, Rosella, have three daughters, Christina 10, Jessica 8 and Dominic 4. The family attends St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Temecula.

RIVERSIDE POLICE LT. DOMINGUEZ PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN

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