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Hispanic News

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**FAMILY - FRIENDS - NEIGHBORS**

**"Welcome Home"**

**Desert Storm Soldier**

Publisher's note: The American public has recently witnessed arrival of troops from the Desert Storm War and soldiers have received numerous homecoming receptions. The Inland Empire Hispanic News has exclusively interviewed one of its returning veterans from Desert Storm.

Lieutenant Ron Casillas arrived at San Bernardino Street in a stretch limousine followed by a caravan of decorated cars and relatives, neighbors and friends standing by the side of the street, waving American flags, yellow bows and signs of welcome and shouting greetings of "welcome home" and "job well done" to a very astonished soldier.

There were unashamed tears of joy by many who had, for weeks, anticipated the arrival of the young serviceman and were very anxious to personally greet him. None of the greeters were more anxious to greet him than two individuals, Grandmothers Conception "Concha" Casillas and Catarina "Katie" Guzman. Showering their grandson with tears of joy and big emotional hugs, the grandmothers refused to release him to others wishing to greet him. Eventually, adults and children were able to greet the young serviceman with the same emotion.

A couple of hours later, after sampling a variety of delicious Mexican food, the stated that during his tenure overseas, he had gone through a withdrawal period from not indulging in Mexican food. Lt. Casillas was able to relax in his Grandmother's living room to be interviewed.

Lieutenant Ron Casillas, 33, was an Air Force brat, graduating from Shreveport High School, Louisiana, getting a sport scholarship to Centenary College, (he was the state's two mile champion), receiving a Physical Education Degree and a Secondary Biology Degree. Enlisting in the Army in 1983, he received basic training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, with additional training in Fort Hood, Texas and served in Germany for three years, reaching the rank of Sergeant E5.

Applying for Officers Candidate School, he graduated in 1987, "I developed leadership skills in the Army as a Bradley fighting vehicle commander and felt that being an officer would give me the opportunity to be more effective in leading a larger number of people. At OCS, I learned the value of teamwork and most importantly, the moral development of personal and team integrity. I also made lasting friendships which I cherish to this day," he said.

Receiving further training as a nuclear/biological/chemical officer, he volunteered for airborne school and after graduating, was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Lt. Casillas, at a later date, became a member of the Green Berets.

In September 15, 1990, Lt. Casillas landed in Saudi Arabia and was immediately assigned to lead a ten man team to train an Egyptian regiment and ranger platoon in bio/chemical/nuclear defense. Promoted to temporary captain, he was assigned to a special mission as chemical advisor to a Czechoslovakian platoon. When asked how he was able to communicate with the Czech officers and men, Lt. Casillas stated that one of the Czech spoke English, two spoke German, which was sufficient for communication purposes. (Lt. Casillas is fluent in German and French and partially in Spanish and Arabic). He said, "I became friends with every platoon member and we became an effective unit."

In February, 1991, the platoon went on excursions into Kuwait and eventually were able to enter Kuwait City. The platoon's main responsibility was to identify chemical and biological stockpiles. "Entering Kuwait, we saw the devastation that our air raids had done. There were many casualties and tanks, vehicles and motorized units that were completely demolished and other units were abandoned. The scene was very gruesome," he said.

(Underwriter's note: due to military restrictions, Lt. Casillas was unable to divulge detailed information regarding action taken by his platoon and other military units. When military action ceased, the platoon was disbanded and Lt. Casillas was reunited with his original unit.)

On March 5, the unit was notified that it was returning to the United States. "We thought that someone was pulling our leg, because we were under the impression that our unit would be in Saudi for one year or longer. But we didn't argue. To be able to have a hot shower and eat good food, that was heaven."

Continued with more photos on page 4
Downtown Gran Fiesta Set for May 2

Gran Fiesta!
On May 2, 1991, in City Hall Plaza, downtown, San Bernardino there will be a pre-Cinco de Mayo celebration sponsored by the El Camino Real Cultural and Economic Foundation along with Main Street, Inc., the Sun News paper, the City of San Bernardino and several Hispanic community organizations to include the Hispanic Roundtable.

The event will feature mariachis, ballet folklorico, street vendors selling Mexican artifacts, an art exhibit and special presentations by members of the community. The event will be all day and will receive live coverage by Radio KDIF and KGGI. A special part of the program will be 5th and 6th grade posters submitted by students from San Bernardino Unified School District and the Colton Unified School District, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners as well as ribbon winners having their poster art displayed. The theme of the contest is "Sharing our Culture".

Organizers are still accepting applications for food booth vendors and individuals wishing to sell artifacts such as jewelry, clothing and flowers, all in the spirit of Mexican culture and "fiestas patrias". Individuals should call (714) 825-8123 for additional information.

EDITORIAL: Council Gangs Up on Hernandez

No one ever said getting elected to public office is easy. But who would suspect that after a successful campaign, things would get worse.

Recently, the City Council effectively exonerated Ralph Hernandez, third ward councilman-elect from key committees by reappointing themselves to vacancies created as a result of Councilman Jean Flores' resignation. A special part of the program will be 5th and 6th grade posters submitted by students from San Bernardino Unified School District and the Colton Unified School District, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners as well as ribbon winners having their poster art displayed. The theme of the contest is "Sharing our Culture".

One can try to understand and sympathize with Flores' motives. As a one term incumbent, no doubt, he had many plans and visions for the future if elected. As stated in our February 27 editorial, "Mr. Flores has been a professional throughout his governmental career...His additional activities are pertinent to the problems facing the community." To speculate that Flores initiated this selfish maneuver is really beyond what we felt were his admirable attributes.

What the Council has done, with the exception of Councilwoman Pope-Ludmum who voted against the action, is to freeze Hernandez from decision making and participation in key actions at the committee level. More damaging, they (the Council) have effectively cut the citizens of the third ward from participation in the political process by limiting participation by their chosen elected official.

This is particularly disturbing because of the high percentage of Latino's that comprise the ward. After the first ward the third and sixth wards have the highest Latino population in the city. Because Hernandez would be the council member strongly carrying the Latino agenda, the Council, in effect, has sent a message to Latinos that their participation is not essential nor needed.

Hernandez should be given an opportunity to participate and work with the Mayor and Council in a productive manner. We believe that the Hernandez of old, confrontational and argumentative, is passed. Even in his response to his removal he stated, "I am really not angry, I am more disappointed."

Councilman Maudsley is reconsidering the action. The Council, particularly Flores, should follow Maudsley's leadership move to either reconsider or rescind their action. If not corrected, a precedence will be established for future committee assignments that could be manipulated by elected officials that have their own selfish vested interests in mind.
Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino raises funds for Blood Bank, Option House

Kathy Flynn, Kiwanis Club of Greater San Bernardino president-elect is presenting a $600 check to Paul Sautter, Blood Bank’s Community Relations Director, toward the purchase of a bloodmobile. A St. Patrick’s Dance was held at Norton’s Officers Club as part of a fundraising project toward the Blood Bank and Option House. Witnessing the ceremony is Ray Quinto, Kiwanis Club president.

American Cancer Society Seeks Volunteers

The American Cancer Society is looking for thirty eager volunteers to help with the operation of its new Riverside Discovery Shop. Volunteers are needed on a regular basis - once a week minimum - to sort, price and sell donated merchandise. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Barbara Lewis at 714/824-2724, 683-6415 or 983-2784.

Carmen Zapata laughs during a scene from "Our Lady of the Tortilla," Luis Santeiro’s Bilingual Foundation of the Arts comedy to be staged April 18 and 19 in the San Bernardino Valley College Auditorium, 701 S. Mt. Vernon Ave., San Bernardino. Zapata plays a devout spinster who sees an apparition of the Blessed Virgin on a tortilla while praying for strength to finish a 1,000 tortilla order. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m for both performances. The first is in Spanish, and the second is in English. Admission is $5, adults; $3, students, senior citizens and children 12 or under. For reservations call (714) 888-6511, Ext. 1127.

Are you looking for a career you can be proud of? Are you ready for the challenge of your life?

If so, The California Highway Patrol is looking for you!

The California Highway Patrol is accepting applications from men and women for the position of State Traffic Officers. We strongly encourage people who speak Spanish to apply. The starting salary is $2531 per month. Requirements: 20 to 31 years of age, high school diploma or the equivalent, no felony convictions.
Lt. Ron Casillas is "out flanked" by grandmothers "Kathy" Guzman (left) and "Concha" Casillas and father Roy Casillas.

Lt. Casillas plants a direct hit on the target, his fiancee Rita.

Stopping in Frankfurt, Germany, Lt. Casillas visited with his brother George, for two hours. Eventually, the plane landed in Westover, Massachusetts on March 9th. "We had not anticipated the homecoming that was waiting for us. We were greeted like heroes with a huge American flag, decorations and a band playing. And a beer wagon and food. But it made us feel good. However, I felt sorry for the Vietnam veterans that were not warmly welcomed when they returned."

Returning to Fort Campbell, Lt. Casillas was given leave and decided to visit his fiancee, Rita Abrams, in San Antonio, Texas. "The ticket agent in Nashville asked me if I had come back from the war and when I responded that I had, she reduced my plane ticket, walked around the office, gave me a big hug and said, 'welcome home and thanks for everything'. That really shook me. Again, on the plane, the stewardess kept giving me drinks and food throughout the trip. I felt very uncomfortable. When the plane landed in San Antonio, the pilot, co-pilot, stewardesses and passengers were at the plane door, welcoming me back, thanking me and gave me a bottle of champagne. That really shook me."

Arriving at his fiancee's home in San Antonio, her family invited him to a Mexican supper club for the evening. During supper time, the orchestra started playing in his honor with a spotlight on him and everyone stood up and applauded him. "This was really something for me which I was unprepared for and unable to deal with and it really shook me up," he said.

His fiancee and he visited his mother in San Diego where he celebrated his 33rd birthday and was scheduled on March 30th to visit his family in San Bernardino.

Leaning back against the easy chair, Lt. Casillas spoke philosophically about the Gulf War and the affect on his life. "All of us were aware that going over was due to protect the oil resources in the area. We also knew that Saddam Hussein is a dictator and has not only abused the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people, but murdered many of them. He is a ruthless dictator. It was, and is necessary that he be stopped, whatever it takes. I am proud to be fighting for our country and the leadership that President Bush has provided. I'm not a hero, but I am willing to die for what this country stands for, for all the benefits that it can provide for my little cousins and for our future. We are not aware of the total support that we had in the United States, but I get a good feeling from it. It takes a war or going to a foreign country to appreciate what we have here in the United States. I'm so glad to be back."
Coalition - From p. 1

individual minority groups are striving to become more active in every area, especially in the political areas.

Arnold San Miguel, CFR Minority Demographic Specialist, presented general census data and specific population figures in which minorities groups reflected demographic increases since the 1980 census. The County of San Bernardino gained 223,364 persons which is a 58.48 percent increase and a gain of 128.25 percent for Hispanics, according to Mr. San Miguel.

Jerry Lopez, CFR and Fontana Hispanic Chamber of Commerce member, proposed recommendations for the 65th and 66th Assembly Districts, and in combination of the two assembly districts, would compose the 34th Senate District. The assembly districts would have 386,078 and 372,000 respectively.

Walter Hawkins, CFR and San Bernardino West Side Action Group member, recommended realignments for the 35th which comprise the upper desert and 36th covering the San Bernardino, Colton, Rialto, Fontana, Ontario and Pomona. A second option would eliminate Pomona and include the Casa Blanca area.

Population representation would be 575,220 and 575,000, respectively, including the option plan.

Community support for CFR Plan were presented by Maria Anna Gonzalez, Institute for Social Justice, Olivia Mariscal, Concilio for Educational Excellence, Ray Abril, Colton Unified School District, Francis Vasquez, Small Business Coordinator, County of San Bernardino, Harold Webb, NAACP and Graciano Gomez, Inland Counties Hispanic Roundtable.

San "G" MECa Plans Super Walk-A-Thon

The Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MECHA) of San Gorgonio has scheduled a SuperWalk-A-Thon fundraiser on Saturday, April 13, 1991, at 9:00 A.M. with starting point being at Mount Vernon and Mill Street (behind Taco Tia). Fred and Sylvia Chavez, Benji Ibarra and Mr. and Mrs. Pedro Hernandez are sponsors of the event.

Persons wishing further information on the event may call Ms. Lopez at (714) 888-1790.
FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Crafton Hills College

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

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If you need help with the cost of attending college, the Financial Aids Office may be able to help you.

No student should be denied access to the educational experience because of lack of funds. The Financial Aids Office makes limited funds available to needy students in an equitable manner. The distribution of these funds is closely regulated by laws designed to direct education support funds to those who need them most.

You are eligible to apply for financial aid at any time during the year. However, it takes time to process your application, determine your award, order your check and deliver that check to you. A minimum of six weeks is involved.

Financial aid will be awarded on the basis of need. Qualified applicants with the greatest need, who have completed their applications before the priority dates, shall be awarded until funds are exhausted. Should funds not be exhausted, any remaining and/or late applicants will also have priority according to need.

DETERMINING NEED

To determine your financial aids need, the Financial Aids Office uses the nationally standardized needs analysis procedure of the Act, CSS Programs or the application for Federal Student Aid. Based on the information you have provided, the Financial Aids Office establishes a fair contribution from you and/or your family toward your educational expenses. Your need is the difference between the total cost of your attendance and the available resources from you and/or your family.

Once your need figure has been established, the Financial Aids Office can offer you an award package designed to meet your financial needs. Usually this "package" will include loans, grants, college work study, or a combination of these sources, as long as funds are available.

FINANCIAL AIDS STAFF

Dennis L. Farhar, District Director SBVC/CHC
San Bernardino Valley College
701 South Mount Vernon Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92410
(714) 888-6511, Ext. 1684

Gloria Dufosse, Financial Aids Coordinator
Crafton Hills College
11711 Sand Canyon Road
Yucaipa, CA 92399
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The Department of Mental Health is recruiting for a Supervising Social Worker to supervise a work unit of social workers engaged in providing social services and AIDS testing for clients in drug treatment programs. The position requires 30 semester or 45 quarter units of upper-division coursework in social work, behavioral science or counseling, and two years of professional social service experience in a drug/alcohol or HIV treatment program.

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EOE m/f/h

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The California Department of Education is recruiting candidates for upcoming Attendee vacancies at its school for children with disabilities in Riverside and Los Angeles. Supervision and personal care assistance of deaf and/or learning handicapped children. Salary: $1581-$1832/mo.

Final filing date: May 8, 1991. Night shift only. For more information call School for the Deaf, Riverside (714) 782-6519 Voice/TDD; or Diagnostic Center, Los Angeles (213) 222-8090. Hispanics, disabled and other minorities are encouraged to apply. AA/FOF

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2 B/R - Garage - Quiet neighborhood near St. Bernardino's Hospital / Perris Hill Park - $650 mo/pl plus deposit. Renter pays utilities - Credit Check - Only outside pets. Call (714) 889-2144 after 5 PM

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For applications and more information, contact:
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Wednesday, April 10, 1991

Inland Empire Hispanic News
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