May 19th 2004

Hispanic News

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Ted Alejandre was recently appointed Assistant Superintendent for the San Bernardino School District. He started teaching at North Park Elementary School for the San Bernardino School District in 1989, and appointed vice principal at Kendall Elementary School in 1993. He was later appointed vice principal at Ramona-Alessandro Elementary and became principal at the school when Principal Tom Crist retired because of illness. After six years, he was appointed principal at Serrano Middle School.

During his tenure with the school district, Alejandre established a reputation as an effective school administrator and an advocate for strong education programs for all students.

Dr. Arthur Delgado, San Bernardino School District Superintendent, stated that Alejandre was an able teacher and administrator. "We hate to lose good administrators, but this is an upward move for him and we wish him the best of luck." He said.

"I enjoyed working for the San Bernardino City Unified School District and the board has been extremely supportive of me. I am excited to start in the Yucaipa/Calimesa School District and become involved in their communities," Alejandre said.

FONTANA, CA - Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto) was honored on Saturday by the city of Fontana Mayor Mark Nuaimi, Fontana City Officials, Public Service Director Curtis Aaron, the Bulik family and members of the Fontana community during the grand opening of the Jack Bulik Park Expansion Project.

"The expansion of the park has been a long time coming," said Congressman Baca. "The park looks beautiful and more importantly is a great recreation area for the kids. This is a great diversion for the kids, a great place for them to come and play." Congressman Baca joined by friends and family was honored by the city of Fontana Mayor Mark Nuaimi and the Fontana City Council for his steadfast commitment to the community and for proving instrumental in obtaining funds for the expansion of the community park. The senior baseball field, whose construction is said to begin in September, was dedicated in honor of the Congressman and named the Joe Baca Senior Field.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Nuaimi for his kind words and the City of Fontana for this wonderful dedication. I would also like to thank Curtis Aaron for his hard work and dedication in helping this happen," said Congressman Baca. "I have always been a huge fan of baseball, ever since I was a boy. I never once thought that I would have a field named after me. This is a huge honor."

MEMORIES OF WAR
PAST-THE ANTHONY ACEVEDO STORY
See story on pages 4 & 5

Anthony Acevedo displays war medals for military service in World War II. Acevedo was one of thousands of American soldiers captured by the German Army and suffered undue cruelties during his captivity. Photo by IEHN

CONCIERTO PARA LAS MADRES
CONCERT HUGE SUCCESS
See pictures on page 3

Mrs. Magdalena D. Bravo, 102 years old, center, was escorted to the Concierto Para Las Madres concert at the California Theater by her daughter, Lucy Acosta, left, and son in law, Joe Acosta. Mrs. Bravo was one of the oldest mothers at the event. Born in Zacatecas, Mexico, Mrs. Bravo has lived in San Bernardino for approximately 70 years. Photo by IEHN

The Inland Empire Hispanic News Wishes you a safe Memorial Day
The University of Redlands' Orton Hall was the ideal setting for Redlands Northside Impact Committee's 2004 Annual Latino/a Leadership Awards. The event honored over 200 elected officials and community leaders.

The Northside Impact Committee selected outstanding recipients and entities to receive awards in a broad array of categories: Latino of the Year, Outstanding Male Youth Award, Outstanding Female Youth Award, Scholarship recipients, and more.

Redlands Northside Annual Latino/a Leadership recipients: (I to r) Miguel A. Olmedo, Educational Award; Barbara C. Wormser, Cultural Award; Martin L. Gil Humanitarian Award; Patty Holohan, Latina of the Year Award; David Regalado, Latino of the Year Award; and Captain Dan Crowe, Firefighters Association Award.

Redlands Northside Annual Latino/a recipients: Combiz R. Abdolrahimi, Outstanding Male Youth Award; LeeAnn Rigby, scholarship award; Jesus Nolasco, scholarship award; Sisi Tian, Outstanding Female Youth Award; Talisha Barrios, scholarship award; and Crista Mendoza, scholarship award.

Redlands Northside Annual Latino/a recipients: (I to r) Miguel A. Olmedo, Educational Award; Barbara C. Wormser, Cultural Award; Martin L. Gil Humanitarian Award; Patty Holohan, Latina of the Year Award; David Regalado, Latino of the Year Award; and Captain Dan Crowe, Firefighters Association Award; Community Service Award. Photo by IEHN

Regalado began his teaching career at Moore Junior High in 1971. At Moore, he sponsored Los Convenios Club, a program to motivate Hispanic students to participate in school activities, and developed a Social Studies Curriculum, including a course on Minority Studies.

In 1977, Regalado was appointed Assistant Principal at Cope Junior High School. In 1982, he was appointed Principal at Cope Junior High School.}

Continue on Page 7
CONCERTO PARA LAS MADRES CONCERT HUGE SUCCESS

Concierto Para Las Madres was presented by the Sinfonia Mexicana and performed by the Mariachi Reynas de Los Angeles and Mariachi Divas to a packed audience of mothers and their families from throughout the Inland Empire. The Sinfonia Mexican Board of Directors presented mothers entering the California Theatre with a rose. Mariachi Reynas de Los Angeles played traditional Mexican music and Mariachi Divas played a variety of Mexican music and Latin music including cumbia, merengue and cha-cha-cha, a mix that was enthusiastically enjoyed by the audience. Sinfonia Mexicana is celebrating its 17th anniversary of sponsoring the best of Mexican music and Mexican musical stars and presented to the best of appreciative audience, the Hispanic public of the Inland Empire.

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Memories of War Past: The Anthony Acevedo Story

Anthony Acevedo, right, and Bill Trotter. Both servicemen were inmates in the German prison camp at Berga. Trotter credits Acevedo for saving his life by stitching an aggravated wounded arm, later healing successfully. Photo courtesy of Anthony Acevedo.

On April 23, 1945, several days before the end of World War II, Anthony Acevedo and 170 of the remaining German prison survivors were shipped from Boston, Mass., on the USS America to Europe via Marseilles, France in December, 1944.

During the battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944, American troops, ill clothed for the severe weather, were overrun by a strong and well-equipped German Army. Thousands of American troops were captured and forced to walk barefooted to a railroad junction, and tightly packed into railcars that only allowed them to stand up. The soldiers were shipped by rail to the eastern part of Germany to an overcrowded prison camp known as Bad Orb, Stalag 9 B. There was an estimated 10,000 Russians, 5,000 Britains, 4,000 French and 4,000 Americans in the prison camp.

Each soldier was interrogated for information regarding American troop movements and other details beneficial to the Germans. A high ranking German officer questioned Acevedo and, to his surprise, had detailed information on the Acevedo’s family, including his father’s background. Acevedo responded by giving his name, rank, and serial number, according to the Geneva Convention regulations regarding prisoners of war. When he refused to give added information, stating that the officer was sufficiently informed on his family, the Germans tortured him by inserting needles under his fingernails. “It was very painful situation for me,” said Acevedo.

The Germans continued to interrogate the American soldiers and attempted to have soldiers of Jewish descent identified. American officers refused to allow Jewish American soldiers to identify themselves.

Soldiers with Jewish names and other “undesirables” were segregated and 350 soldiers, including Acevedo, were shipped to a labor camp at Berga am Elster, Germany, an unsold experience of torture and starvation of a company of soldiers that has recently been documented and publicized on PBS.

Acevedo was born in San Bernadino and the family moved to South Pasadena after his mother died when he was one year old (he is related to the Saenz and Contreras family in San Bernadino). When he was 13, his father was offered a position of director of public works in the State of Durango, Mexico during the mid-depression. He graduated from the (equivalent) high school in Durango. Later, at the suggestion of the American Consul, he traveled to the United States to register for the draft and was inducted in August 1943. After basic training, he was trained as a medic and assigned to the 70th Division, 275th Regiment, Company B, and the unit was shipped from Boston, Mass., on the USS America to Europe via Marseilles, France in December, 1944.

It was very painful situation for me,” said Acevedo. A variety of sufferings were prevalent in camp, the worst being dysentery. The men were assigned at hard labor, specifically to dig tunnels into the mountains. A plan by Hitler’s planners to have war production secured from Allied bombers, according to video documentaries produced for public review. The harsh conditions were attributed to Hitler’s orders to annihilate prisoners of war, said Acevedo.

During his captivity, Acevedo kept a diary of activities at the camp, the harsh conditions, and its effects on the American prisoners. He detailed, as much as possible, the death of each soldier and reasons for their death, i.e.: deteriorating health or execution (a document later served as valuable evidence for verification of atrocities and rehabilitation vehicle for former prisoners, decades later).

Guards announced the death of President Roosevelt to American prisoners with derogatory statements like “your Jewish president has dead”

CNS-675005#
Anthony Acevedo, right, and Charles Guggenheim, who documented, produced and directed the experiences of American soldiers held prisoners in Bad Orb and Burga am Elster in World War II and publicized on PBS. The documentaries depict the uncomfortable conditions in prison camps and suffering of American war prisoners. / Photo courtesy of Anthony Acevedo.

In April 1995, the Germans became aware that Russians and American troops were advancing in the region close to the Bingen prison camp and the prisoners were ordered to move out toward the Bavarian Mountains. During the march, American prisoners witnessed the many political prisoners: men, women and children, who had been killed by Germans and were lying alongside the roads.

Many American prisoners also died while on the march and Acevedo attempted to document their deaths as much as possible in his diary.

German guards told the men to continue to March and American leaders told the men to ignore the order, based mainly on the physical condition of the men. Although threatened by the guards, the men stayed. As American troops got closer, the guards either ran or surrendered.

On April 23, 1945, a day of freedom, Acevedo and other prisoners watched as Patton's tanks rolled into the area and were overcome with emotion and pride as they saw an American flag on one of the tanks. The 350 American prisoners, who were originally sent to Bingen, only 170 survived the ravages of the cruel German prison environment. Acevedo, at that time, weighed 85 pounds.

At the time of his Army discharge, Acevedo and the company were required by the American government to sign an agreement to keep their imprisonment a secret. The government refused to accept that they were in a prison of war camp, the reason given that it would compromise other POWs. According to Acevedo (at the previous time, a reasonable explanation has yet to be given by the government).

The after effects of his prison experience was difficult for Acevedo, who was able to only have discussions of his experiences with his former survivors. He was sent to Santa Barbara for rehabilitation, where a social worker helped many discharged soldiers talk about their ordeals. He was later given a 90-day pass to visit his family.

Acevedo suffered for many years after his discharge. He had digestive problems because of the "food" provided at the prison camp. In addition, the beatings he received resulted in joint difficulties. He took vitamins for joint difficulties. He took vitamins for his conditions, but was not able to be properly treated. Acevedo, at that time, had four children, however, the marriage resulted in a divorce.

Aside from wartime difficulties, Acevedo was also accused with prejudice regarding being a POW. They were called cowards, an obvious reference that soldiers must fight instead of surrender. "My father asked why had I let myself be captured."

Acevedo continued to be in touch with several of the Bingen survivors. In a meeting in Spokane, Washington, a former survivor, Bill Trotter, recognizes him and was appreciative for saving his life. "I didn't remember him," he said. Acevedo stitched Trotter's wounded arm, deflecting infections and later healing.

He, was united with the woman he initially intended to marry and is now living in her home in Yucaipa.

He proudly displays his many medals and honors: Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Silver Star, Commendation Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon, European Theatre Ribbon, and the German Occupation Ribbon.

The government eventually dropped the agreement and Acevedo and other survivors have spoken publicly throughout the country about their ordeals. He recently spoke to students at the Bishop Gabriel High School in Santa Barbara. "I strongly feel that our young people must know about history and what occurred to many of us during World War II. This knowledge is valuable in planning for a better world," he said.

Three PBS films, "Berga: Soldiers of Another War, Voices of Berga and Tony Acevedo and Norm Fellman, an interview by Dr. Deborah Starks" and other materials produced by Charles Guggenheim are available for public review on www.pbs.org/berga/stories/acevedo_transcript.html.

Editor's note: EHN thanks Anthony Acevedo for his contribution to the article by releasing valuable historical data for this exclusive interview.
CASTANEDA FAMILY HAVE ALSO SERVED

Many families have established traditions of military service to our country in time of war and peace. Castaneda family members have continued to served in the Armed Forces for several generations since World War II.


Sp. 5 Martin Shores (Castaneda’s stepson), Army, 1st Infantry Division, Vietnam War, 1967-1969, two Purple Hearts.


Third Annual ESF Dinner recognizes deserving students

The Esperanza Scholarship Foundation (ESF) Dollars for Scholars, a 501 © 3, non-profit organization, is hosting its Third Annual Dinner event on Thursday, June 3 at the Ontario Airport Marriott. This event brings together business, education, community leaders, as well as local residents committed to community building through education.

The Foundation is committed to the educational success of our youth by providing financial assistance and academic support in the form of scholarships and grants. In addition to awarding scholarships, this year’s program will feature keynote speaker Dr. John Husing, the renowned Inland Empire economist, and Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Herb Fisher, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools. The mayor of Ontario, Gary Ovitt, will be the Honorary Dinner Host.

In 2003 the Foundation awarded $2,500 in scholarships. ESF and Burrtec Waste Industries partnered to award a $5,000 scholarship named for last year’s keynote speaker, Dr. Frances A. Cordova, Chancellor of the University of Riverside. Dr. Cordova has been invited to be present at this year’s event to award the scholarship named in her honor.

The Foundation is actively soliciting corporate and individual donors for the June 3rd event and welcomes the involvement and participation of local residents. Tickets for this event are $100 per person, the cost for a table is $800, with corporate sponsorships available at the $500 to $5,000 level.

For more information, contact Paul Gomez (909) 238-6444.

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pointed Principal at Lugonia Elementary School. At Lugonia, he strengthened the Bilingual Program; hired Bilingual Credentialed teachers; established health clinics for parents; received San Bernardino County recognition for improved quality of education for language minority students-1999; recipient of the ACSA Elementary Administrator, Region 12 (composed of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) in 1991; and recipient of the PTA Honorary Service Award.

In 1996, Regalado was appointed principal at Moor Middle School, establishing the following in-school activities: AVID Program, Dream Program-a program to encourage girls in math and science; reestablishing the Reading Program for "at risk" students; and organizing the Intervention/Summer School Program for "at risk" students. He received the PTA Golden Oak Service Award-2001 and Friends of Music Award-2002.

In 2002, he became principal at Bryan Havi Elementary School. The school was recognized as State Achieving School-2003, and named a Blue Ribbon Nominee-2005. His educational involvement include: ACSARA member (15 years), president 10 years); RUSD Strategic Planning Program-1991, recognition by Parents and Friends for a Second High School-1993.

Regalado is also involved in his community: church youth sponsor, president-board of trustees, chairperson-council of ministries, and Sunday school teacher. In Boy Scouts, Weblos leader, cub master pack 5, Franklin School and parent volunteer-Troop 44, AYSO coach (15 years), YMCA Board, Redlands High Aquatic Booster Club and Noon Kiwanis Club.
Regalado's wife, Sharon Carr Regalado, is a teacher at Franklin Elementary School.

David P. Regalado continues the family tradition of contributing to the quality of life in education in Redlands.

LATINA OF THE YEAR-PATTY SEGOVIA HOLOHAN
Patty Segovia Holohan was recognized as one of the most active volunteers in the Redlands area. Her participation in social and education activities, health and youth programs in the area has increased a demand for her leadership roles.


Segovia Holohan is involved at Sacred Heart Parish/Academy: parish council/parish life commissioner, Eucharistic minister, lector and prior Sunday school instructor, Parent-Teacher Group, school board president, 1996-1998, room parent, K-7th grades, chair-Major Fundraiser and current Middle School Flag Football coach.

Segovia Holohan is associated with the Diocese of Riverside/San Bernardino Office of Catholic Schools. She was appointed golf tournament coordinator in 2002 and 2003, both fundraiser events being financially successful and current Sacred Heart Development Director, and YMCA Hockey, team mom.

Patty Segovia Holohan represents the spirit of volunteerism and her leadership role in advancing a progressive social and educational life in the Redlands and adjacent areas.

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San Bernardino City Unified School District

The proposed 2004/05 Budget for the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be available for inspection from June 8, 2004 to June 15, 2004 during regular business hours located at the Board of Education, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410.

The 2004/05 Proposed Budget Hearing for the San Bernardino City Unified School District will be held on June 15, 2004 at 5:30 p.m. at Board of Education, Community Room, 777 North F Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410.

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The Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District is pleased to recognize the Crystal Apple Award Winners for 2004 representing the 3,000 plus men and women who serve the students of the San Bernardino community.