Letter from the Editor this Labor Day
Creating a Labor of Love

Roxanne Eguia is journalist from San Antonio. She is a part of a experimantal art collective and also works as a computer lab tech at St. Philips College.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A questioned begged by everyone when we were so little. Some kids knew, others parroted positions they saw on television and still others had no context for the idea of a career.

The modern workforce journey is unique for all of us. It requires a balanced mix of searching, preparation, creating our own path and connecting to the economy we live in. Merging our passions with a job that pays can seem impossible but we must shift our perspective and realize the opportunities our city can offer. As we enjoy our time off this week, let’s examine the state of the San Antonio workforce economy and how it relates to our own career journeys.

City leaders are dedicated to sustaining the cities major industries: Healthcare, Bioscience, Aerospace, New Energy Economy, Information Technology and Cybersecurity. Some of the most bleeding edge innovations are happening in these industries and we can all be apart of it by learning the key skills.

Higher education is made accessible by the Alamo Colleges system that works with these industries to design certifications that prepare students for real life application of these skills. Not an associates degree, but a certificate, can be earned in some cases less than a year and connect students directly to their future employers through internships and engaged faculty.

I am SAC proud and had an incredible experience with the Journalism department at San Antonio College. Working for the college newspaper prepared me for the expectations of a working newsroom, but like many others, I struggled to find employment after graduation. Media is going through an innovation period and writers must really create their own path in order to succeed.

Some industries are not as easy to enter. Especially the fun ones that we are all passionate about. Appreciating what we are good at and finding an outlet for those skills is key in navigating potential careers. We may not care about computers or data or anatomy, but when searching for a job that has longevity, it is good to get creative about the application of our skills.

Moving from retail to something that pays more like construction may seem like something from left field, but there are a lot of parallels and you have to find them. Reading the requirements on a job listing and translating skills from one discipline to another can make or break a job application.

Knowing where you ultimately want to be can help you choose what entry level position to prepare for. Getting into a starter position guides us by learning from our superiors and feeling out the culture of a company.

Then there is always the option to do it yourself and become a self starter. San Antonio harbors a nourishing environment for startups with numerous Tax Abatements, Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF) Performance Grants, SAWS Impact Fee Waivers, Development Services Fee Waivers, Foreign Trade Zone no. 80, Tax Rebates, Skills Development Fund, State Enterprise Fund and State Enterprise Project Designations. It is no wonder why the city has become a lighthouse for ambitious entrepreneurs.

Moving into the future passionately with a priority for the people who were born here is real. We must take advantage of these programs and incentives now before the displaced Californians do. Texas has a reputation for moving and talking slow, but we must make haste to fulfill our passions because the soil that our families have toiled for centuries is nutrient rich and you must have faith that anything you plant here will grow.

Launching the new interpretation of La Prensa Texas has been an illuminating period. This is our 12th print issue and we are still working out the kinks. Being apart of a skeleton crew has emphasized our responsibilities and our strengths but more importantly magnified the need for a paper like this.

I published my first story in the second grade. I wrote about my favorite holiday tradition: making bunuelos with my grandma Hopie for New Years. I knew I would be working in media when I grew up and aggregating the content from every corner of the city is no easy task, but it is a heartfelt one. La agua conectiva. And so we go with the flow. I am so honored to be a Tejana and to be apart of a print legacy that guides me.

This week, I hope that you will listen to yourself, to your city and to the people that came before you to find your own path and discover how you will change the world. I encourage you to go out and meet people you would like to be like one day, visit places you would like to work at one day and take risks. We are all capable of so much and we only have this one life to do it.

Thank you for your consideration and support in this transitional period. We have a lot of exciting news to be announced this month.

Besitos Infintos,
Roxanne Eguia

You can reach me directly at r.eguia@laprensatx.com or call our office at 2106860600
About the Cover Artist: Denise Homer Pintor

Por Melissa Bryant

The cover artwork is entitled, “Morning Chores over Easy”, created by a diversely skilled artist, Denise Homer Pintor. Denise has an indiscernible educational background; in 1987 she obtained her degree in Political Science with a minor in Fine Art at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Further pursuits included learning from old Masters at Bellas Artes de San Luis Potosi in Mexico which were offered during several summer programs that she attended. Exploring her way through her talents and educational opportunities, Mrs. Pintor directed her focus on interior design and decorative arts. This field provided a wealth of experience and contacts. She enjoyed traveling and applying her skills in the custom builders profession as a talented artist / designer creating custom faux finishes and plasters.

After a time, Denise redirected her attention in a more expressive artist direction of creativity. Drawing on her diverse background Mrs. Pintor is of Mexican-American / Anglo heritage and her work is reflective of nostalgic, family, childhood memories of a time that is often forgotten as our world quickly advances through modern contributions. Growing up on farms in both Mexico and in the Midwest her works often share with the audience what life was like from day to day. The featured artwork on our cover depicts a young girl washing eggs as a part of the list of daily chores that needed to be performed for survival... it was the way of life. Denise is attentive to share close details in her works, paying homage to the life she remembers and paying tribute to distant memories - always in hope that those memories don’t completely fade.

As we communicated for developing this story I understood her love and appreciation for family, and hard work and working together. She revealed a quote to me that has had a lasting impact on her life. This quote from her maternal grandmother was spoken often in her home while growing up - in Spanish, this is the English translation: “Land is the most important thing one can own, it can make the person better, it can feed your soul as it can your body, if you take care of it and honor it, you will always take care of you.”

Denise Homer Pintor’s work can be purchased and viewed at Hausmann Millworks Gallery and she will be displaying works in an extensive art exhibit that is being organized by Giselle Diaz. For more information you can contact the artist: facebook.com/denise.pintor.1 or at her studio 925 West Russell Place, San Antonio, Texas 78212

If you are a local artist or know an artist from San Antonio who would like their work featured on the cover of La Prensa Texas, Please contact Melissa Bryant at info@laprensa-texas.com or call 2106860600
Just a Thought: Labor Day Weekend

Could be wishful thinking on my part, right?

In 2016, September 5th, I hit the ripe old age of 70, or as I call it, three score and ten! That means this year on Wednesday I will be 72!!

Local singer Erica Gonzalez-Horvat who was a finalist some years ago for Puerto Rico’s version of American Idol, I will celebrate her birthday with me as well. She turns 33. This grandpa tells her “my shoes are older than you!” Actress Raquel Welsh is also born on September 5th. What most fans don’t know is she is Hispanic. She was born in 1940 as Raquel Tejeda. She worked as a model, pin up girl and actress. She made her debut in the movie, “One million B.C.”

Ironically the first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5th 1882 in New York City in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The CLU held its second Labor Day holiday just one year later on September 5th, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the official holiday, as originally proposed, and the CLU urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a “working men’s holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

In 1882, Matthew Maguire a machinist first proposed the holiday while serving as Secretary of the CLU of New York. Others argue that it was first proposed by Peter McGuire in May 1882, after witnessing the annual Labor Day celebrations in Toronto Canada. Oregon was the first state to make it a holiday on February 21, 1887. By the time it became a federal holiday in 1894, signed into law by President Grover Cleveland, thirty states officially celebrated Labor Day.

Over time, speeches by prominent men and women were introduced as part of Labor Day, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday to include modern celebrations to include Labor Day sales and specials.

As a former President of the Harlandale Federation of Teachers which is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, I served on the Central Labor Council of Labor Unions in Bexar County. As a union member I have been an active part of Labor Day celebrations over the years that happen coincidentally to coincide with an occasional birthday for me.!

Since I have been affiliated with the Bexar County AFL-CIO we have also had three female Hispanic presidents to include Alicia Garza, Rachel Hernandez and most recently Gloria Parra. In the 70s the local elected the first Hispanic female president, Joan Suarez.

Whether or not you are a union member, remember it is a national holiday to honor all hardworking Americans who provide for their families. So Happy Labor Day tomorrow and remember me when you celebrate!!!

As always, I write “Just a Thought.”

City announces Labor Day holiday schedule of City services

City Hall and most municipal offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, 2018 to observe Labor Day. Public safety and emergency services will remain in operation. Other City services will operate as follows:

Open:
- Recycling, organics recycling and garbage will be collected
- Police will be on duty
- Fire and EMS personnel will be on duty
- 3-1-1 Call Center will be operational 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Downtown visitors will enjoy a free on-street parking day
- Dead animal collection crews will be on duty
- Animal Care Officers will be on duty
- Parks & Recreation’s four regional swimming pools will be open from 1-7 p.m.: Heritage, Lady Bird Johnson, Southside Lions and Woodlawn.

Closed:
- Central Library and all branch libraries
- Centro de Artes Gallery (regularly closed on Mondays)
- Culture Commons Gallery at Plaza de Armas
- All Metro Health locations and clinics
- Animal Care Services Lobby and Adoption Center
- Bitters Brush Recycling Center and Nelson Gardens Brush Recycling Center
- Bulky waste collection centers and household hazardous waste sites
- Alamodome Administrative Offices and Box Office
- Municipal Court, 401 S. Frio
- SAPD Administration and Records
- SAFD Administration and Records
- Office of the City Clerk, Passports, Vital Records and Municipal Archives and Records
- Pre-K 4 SA offices and education centers
- Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry
- Senior Multi-Service Centers
- Senior Nutrition Sites (seniors or the general public may contact individual nutrition sites for holiday schedule information)

City of San Antonio Community Service Centers
- Head Start administrative offices and school district sites
- Child Care Services administrative offices
- Fitness in the Park and Cultural Classes will not be held
- Parks & Recreation Community and Senior Centers
- Enrique Barrera Community Fitness Center, 5800 Old Hwy. 90 W
- McFarlin Tennis Center, 1503 San Pedro
- San Antonio Natatorium, 1430 W. Cesar Chavez
- Spanish Governor’s Palace (regularly closed on Mondays)
- La Villita Administrative Offices
- Market Square Administrative Offices
Westside Business Entrepreneurs Can Live Where they Work with an Opportunity to Start-up and/or Grow their Business

Launched in spring 2014, the Live-Work Unit Accelerator Program provides low-to-moderate-income (60% or below area median) westside business entrepreneurs who live where they work with an opportunity to start-up and/or grow their business with low overhead while receiving technical support.

This SBA Accelerator Award winning program helped to Revitalize the neighborhood by enabling participants to reside in affordable housing while running a business in the same space. Each program participant was provided with start-up education (if needed), technical assistance, business education including financial and human resources, mentorship, access to capital, financial literacy and credit counseling, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

Each program participant is provided with start-up education (if needed), technical assistance, westside business education including financial and human resources, mentorship, access to capital, financial literacy and credit counseling, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Each program participant is connected with a variety of additional sources to grow their business and receive technical assistance which is tailored to their specific business.

The Westside Development Corporation honors and congratulates three successful women entrepreneurs of the Westside of San Antonio that reside in the live-work units at the Gardens at San Juan!

If you are a west side entrepreneur and interested in growing your business idea call the WDC at (210) 501-0192 for more information or send an inquiry to info@westsidedevcorp.com.

Christian Reed-Ogba, CEO/founder BethanyEast PR, LLC – New York Life, San Antonio Woman of the Year Award

Lika Torline, founder and owner of In the Weeds Natural Skin Care – National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

Elsa Fernandez, founder and owner of Eye Candy Boutique – 2018 Retailer of the Year, Fashion Award
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"Looking good is the best revenge"
Arizona Senator John McCain passes at 81

By Steve Walker

Along with the rest of the county we mourn the passing of a true hero who survived five + years in confinement as a prisoner of war in Viet Nam after his plane crashed flying over the war zone. He was released March 4 in 1973.

I arrived there in Phu Bai 40 miles from the DMZ in April 1970 and came home March 15, 1971.

January 30, 2007, I covered him here in San Antonio when he spoke at the opening of the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center for wounded warriors and again at Mi Tierra Restaurant March 24 in 2008 when he was officially running for President.

I shook his hand at both events and I talked with him the second time, wishing him well in his Presidential race. I found him to be honest and forthcoming on issues and a man with a good sense of humor. I thanked him for his service and he responded in humor. I thanked him for his service and may the Almighty keep you always in his Good Graces.

President Barack Obama issued a statement saying that “despite their differences, we shared, for all our differences, a fidelity to something higher.” Both former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush each gave an inspiring eulogy at the National Cathedral, while former Vice President Joe Biden spoke at a separate service honoring the senator in Arizona. It should be noted the former Vice President and Senator McCain were close friends over the years.

Locally, a number of Bexar County residents posted their thoughts on facebook after hearing of his death. Dora Gonzales says Senator McCain was the keynote speaker at the 2008 American GI Forum National Conference held in Denver, CO. It was truly an honor to meet him. We have lost a true hero. May he Rest in Peace!!

Queta Rodriguez (Retired Marine) A true American hero has left this world. Sen McCain was a man of honor and integrity who dedicated his life to serving others, who put others, his family and Country before self... His loss is a great one for our nation. My deepest condolences to the McCain family. Rest In Peace, Sir.

Peter Vallecillo wrote: John “Maverick” McCain dies, a legend, a leader and a warrior. Larry Romo (former Director of Selective Service in Obama Administration) shared “Friends, I want to share part of an American GI Forum (AGIF) Resolution passed at the National Conference held in Denver, CO. It was truly an honor to meet him. We have lost a true hero. May he Rest in Peace!!

Maria Perez added: John McCain was always on the right side of being tolerant and Hero representing what is best of our great Country! May He rest in Peace.” (note: there were nine more WHEREAS)

WHEREAS, In July 2017, he was diagnosed with brain cancer; since the diagnosis he has taken a reduced role in the Senate, and

WHEREAS, John McCain is a Veteran American Hero who has dedicated his life to promoting partisan issues to put country before party, and

RESOLVED; The American GI Forum meeting held on July 27, 2018 passed this resolution to acknowledge its appreciation for his contributions and long dedication to public service, for veterans and for the United States of America. Thank you for your service and may the Almighty keep you always in his Good Graces.

RESOLVED; This resolution be forwarded to Senator John McCain’s office and any other interested parties.

The last thing I wish to say is, to me Senator John McCain is the best example of integrity, honesty, and a true patriot in every sense of the word. Politically and personally he is an icon that set high standards for the American people.”
Chicano Art Is Coming To Major Texas Museums

Recent interest in Latino art in San Antonio and Houston is not surprising. This interest was long overdue. A recent exhibit in Houston, Right Here, Right Now: San Antonio (April 21-August 5, 2018) focused on San Antonio Latino artists, and the involvement of many Latino artists in San Antonio’s Tricentennial shows that inclusion makes sense in these major Texas cities, where combined, nearly two million Latinos reside.

An article in the New York Times titled “Museums Turn Their Focus to U.S. Artists of Latin Descent” got me thinking about why minority groups remain generally unrepresented in most American museums. While I am pleased at this sudden interest in Hispanics, there appears to be a massive amount of catching up to do. The Times commented that “As the Hispanic population continues to grow and immigration has become an increasing hot-button political issue, art institutions around the country are beginning to increase their exhibitions, curators and acquisition in Latino art.” This makes perfect sense.

Scott Rothkopf, chief curator of the Whitney Museum of American Art observed in the Times article that the Whitney Museum is re-examining its collection historically. “We’ll be looking back at the whole of the 20th century and saying, ‘Who did we miss because of our biases, because of our ignorance?’” Mr. Rothkopf said. “Why don’t we have a Luis Jiménez sculpture?”

As people who believe in fairness and justice, we have to answer questions like that, and I suggest, we can do better. Here is some good news: San Antonio actually has several Luis Jiménez sculptures. One in particular, “Man on Fire,” sits outside the front patio of the McNay Museum. This seven foot bronze statue created in 1969 by El Paso native Jimenez, represents one of the earliest works in what was then an emerging field of Chicano Art.

As for the museum curators interested in the Latino art they missed in collecting during the last century, there is much to say. For the first seventy years of the 20th century, Texas Hispanic artists were not identified by ethnicity. In an upcoming exhibition at the Witte Museum, visitors will see examples of this art in the works of Jose Arpa, Xavier Gonzalez, and Porfirio Salinas. The first two artists were born in Spain and emigrated to Texas from Mexico. Their art is mainly landscapes filled with bluebonnets.

No one can say for sure where or when Chicano art first appeared in Texas. Based on a few studies and newspaper articles, we can estimate that the beginning years were between 1968—1972.

Jacinto Quirarte, a graduate student in art history at the University of Texas at Austin in the late sixties, knew as much as anyone in America about the rise of the Chicano art movement. For his dissertation research, he traveled throughout the Southwest interviewing artists. He documented a total of 28 painters and sculptors who appeared in his book, Mexican American Artists published in 1973.

We do know this about the origins of Chicano art: it evolved from different communities, principally in the Southwest, but also in several cities of the Midwest, specifically Chicago and South Bend, during the early 1970s.

Chicano art followed the rise of the Chicano Movement which we began to witness following the campaign by Cesar Chavez for justice and fair wages for farmworkers. Strong artistic images were needed to communicate support for the farmworkers movement which had its roots in California, but also emerged in South Texas and the Texas Rio Grande Valley.

Chicano activists expressed a sense of frustration at injustices. To Chicanos who engaged in painting, art was needed to compliment the writing and poetry of the new Chicano Movement.

The cities of El Paso, San Antonio and Kingsville gave the Chicano art movement its major impetus in Texas. Luis Jimenez, a sculptor and Gaspar Enríquez, an artist famous for his barrio portraits, were among the most prominent Chicano artists of the El Paso artists community. Jimenez, an art graduate of UT Austin, spent the turbulent sixties in New York City experimenting with pop art. His first Chicano art pieces can be traced to his 1969 “Man on Fire” which was one of the first Chicano art pieces to be included in the Smithsonian’s world famous art collection.

Jimenez told a writer for the Smithsonian that “Man on Fire” memorializes the disproportionately large numbers of Chicanos who were drafted into the military and sent to Southeast Asia.

Another El Paso native, Mel Casas had grown up in that border city, but moved to San Antonio in 1961 following his graduation from the UT El Paso and the University of the Americas. Casas, who taught at San Antonio College for 29 years, is known for his clever incorporation of English and Spanish words in his images. He also mentored many young Chicano artists.

During the late 1960s, several of the most important early Chicano artists received their training at Texas A&M Kingsville. They included Cesar Martinez, Carmen Lomas Garza, Jose Rivera, Amado Pena, and Santa Barraza. After their graduation, Martinez, Garza and Barraza moved to San Antonio where they began an association with Mel Casas, an art professor at San Antonio College.

The early works of these South Texas artists have appeared in many exhibitions, but their art is held by only a few museums. Latino artists have important things to say about life and diversity in Texas. Museum curators interested in including Latino art for their permanent collections would be wise to consider these artists and others from this region.
Here’s a Checklist for Changing Jobs

A few generations ago, it was not uncommon for workers to stick with a single job for their whole careers. But for many of us today, frequent job changes are a fact of life: The average employee tenure is just over four years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. So, assuming you’re going to switch jobs a few times, you’ll want to be prepared. Here’s a checklist of things you can do to smooth these transitions and help your financial situation:

___Build an emergency fund. Some of your job changes may be involuntary, so you’ll want to have a cash cushion handy – just in case. One smart move would be to build an emergency fund, containing three to six months’ worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

___Consider your options for your former employer’s 401(k) plan. If you had a 401(k) plan with your former employer, you have three main options: You could leave your money in the plan, if the employer allows it; you could move the money into your new employer’s plan, if permitted; or you could roll the funds over to an IRA. You’ll want to weigh the “pros” and “cons” of these choices carefully before making a decision.

___Make sure you’ve got health insurance. The health insurance offered by your new employer may not begin the minute you start your job. Given the high costs of medical care, you’ll need to make sure you are protected until your coverage kicks in. So, for that interim period, you may need to consider the federal health insurance marketplace, COBRA continuation coverage or private medical insurance. You might also be eligible to be covered under your spouse’s health insurance. And you may want to learn what your options are for health savings accounts (HSAs), if available.

___Review your new benefits package – and take steps to fill gaps. Your new benefits package may include life and disability insurance, but these group policies may not be enough to fully protect you and your family. A financial professional can help you quantify your protection and insurance needs and offer guidance on how much coverage you may require.

___Understand your income tax considerations. Getting a new job may involve income tax implications, such as changes in your tax bracket, severance pay, unused vacation and unemployment compensation. And if you are thinking of exercising stock options, be aware that this, too, can be a taxable event.

Finally, if you have to move to take a new job, you may incur some relocation and job hunting expenses that could be deductible. You will need to discuss all these issues with your tax professional.

Starting a new job can be exciting – and challenging. But you may be able to make your life easier by putting the above suggestions to work.
River Authority Invites Public to Celebrate Mission Reach 5th Anniversary with Photo Contest

FREE Photography Workshop Kickoff on September 1. Over $3,000 in Prizes will be Awarded.

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio River Authority announced today that it will host a photo contest, with support from the San Antonio River Foundation and REI San Antonio, to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Mission Reach section of the San Antonio River Walk. The public is invited to submit photos taken along the Mission Reach to showcase the project’s beauty, recreational amenities and ecosystem restoration efforts. The contest kickoff will take place Saturday, September 1 with a free photography workshop starting at 10 a.m. at Confluence Park given by The Creative Light that is open to the public. Entries will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. (CST) on October 7, 2018.

To enter the contest, participants need to visit the contest's webpage at www.sara-tx.org to review the terms and conditions and view the six eligible categories. Then participants need to visit the Mission Reach (between S. Alamo and Camino Coahuilteca), take pictures and upload their entries on the contest’s webpage. Previous photographs taken by participants since the October 5, 2013 grand opening of the Mission Reach are also eligible. The contest is open to the community and individuals can submit photos in different categories for a chance to win. A judging panel will decide the winners for each category and the top three entries in each category will be eligible to receive the “People’s Choice” category voted by the general public. Winners will receive a prize package from the San Antonio River Authority, with support from REI San Antonio, designed to enhance enjoyment of the Mission Reach and the outdoors.

“The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project has revitalized the landscape of San Antonio south of downtown by transforming the San Antonio River from what was once a drainage ditch to nine miles of restored habitat, and a hike and bike trail system reconnecting the river to the San Antonio Missions, the only UNESCO World Heritage site in Texas,” said San Antonio River Authority General Manager Suzanne Scott.

“The success of the Mission Reach is seen in the smiles of the people enjoying the river and in the return of the native landscape, habitat and wildlife. Through this photo contest we invite the community to commemorate the project’s anniversary by showcasing the beauty and enjoyment of the Mission Reach through photos of their experiences along the restored river.”

The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project successfully restored the ecosystem of a nine-mile stretch of the San Antonio River south of downtown previously channelized for flood control purposes. Construction of the project was completed in October 2013. The restored ecosystem consists of 113 acres of aquatic habitat, 334 acres of riparian woodland, 31 riffle structures, 13 acres of embayment habitat, and two river remnants. The project was primarily funded by Bexar County, with additional funding from the City of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the San Antonio River Foundation. The San Antonio River Authority was the project manager during construction and currently oversees operations, maintenance and concessions. For more information about the Mission Reach project and the photo contest, visit www.sara-tx.org.

The San Antonio River Authority was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Basin. The State of Texas empowered the River Authority to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the River Authority visit our website at www.sara-tx.org.
Hawaii Wins Little League World Series

Por Jessica Duran

Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA -- Hawaii is back on top as they win their first title in a decade and the first title for the U.S. since New York back in 2016. Not just representing the U.S. against South Korea, but representing the island of Honolulu. Despite being thousands of miles away from their home, almost the entire crowd surrounding the entire field were rooting for the Hawaiians. Only 6 pairs of parents were able to fly from South Korea to support their team but many Korean-Americans showed up from all over the country to root for them.

South Korea had not given up a single run in the entire tournament but unfortunately with one pitch, Mana Lau Kong drove a hit to almost dead centerfield over the fence leading to a 3-0 lead. Kong’s mother was given the home run ball to keep after someone brought it to their side. Kong’s mother was visibly seen crying with tears of pride and joy for her son’s big moment. Hawaiian pitcher Ka’olua Holt was their pitcher that day and only gave up 2 hits in the game and pitched the first shutout in a title game since 2002. It was also Holt’s first ever shutout game he’s ever pitched. Rightfully so, he picked an important game to do so.

Despite South Korea’s great play throughout the tournament, every game, in every arena, of traveling Manu fans flying from all over the globe to see him play in person. And of course, Manu being Manu, after his shoot around before the game, he would stop to take pictures, sign autographs, and even hug fans, especially those who were from his native Argentina.

Manu went out on his own terms and revealed his incredible play during the past 2 seasons was because he was ready to retire, ready to go out with a bang. And he did just that. Even Mayor Ron Nirenberg late Monday night tweeted that August 30th will officially be “Manu Ginobili Day” in the city of San Antonio.

On behalf of San Antonio and a long time Spurs fan, gracias Manu. You got me through personally some tough times the past year or two as I’m sure for so many others as well. You are a man of the people with your sportsmanship and with your kind and friendly heart. You are a legend and no matter where life takes you, San Antonio will always be home and no words can express the gratitude us fans have for you. So, all we can just say is GRACIAS MANU.
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