El Corazón de los Estados Unidos
Let’s Talk About It
Should the 25th Amendment be Invoked?

By Yvette Tello

Do you think Vice President Pence should declare that President Trump is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office? Should the Vice President have the President removed immediately by invoking the 25th amendment? Let’s talk about it.

Kelli Ralph: “This will not heal our nation, it will cause further divide and Pelosi should know that. She is equally to blame for yesterday because she has had a big part to play in this nation’s division. This Nation will not begin to heal until there is a peaceful transition from Trump to Biden as Trump said would happen and Pelosi reigns as speaker of the house. Then this nation will begin to heal.”

Abel Saldana: “Yes he should but he won’t because he’s more concerned about his political future.”

Kirsten Lind: “No! Let’s Hold the Democrats and Republicans liable for the Security Breach Yesterday. There is no way that anyone should have been able to penetrate a National Institution. Period! There is more to all of this than we are thinking. We as Americans need to ask More Questions.”

Bonnie Taylor: “I think the process will take longer than the 13 days he has left in office. It has to be invoked, debated, the POTUS can present a case for himself and the 2/3 of the house and senate have to approve it.”

Laura Flores: “This is all on Trump not Pelosi. He was a joke from the beginning. Look at all the damage he’s created in 4 years. It would take a very very very long time to clean up his mess. People can’t see how corrupt he is. He doesn’t care about his supporters. You all are his puppets. And you all walked right into his trap. Yes, everyone is entitled to their opinions but when people use violence and hate towards your own people then the problem just got bigger. Trump has some really serious issues. It’s time to get the sick person out of office.”

Steve Rizo: “Yes he should. He showed more poise then Trump ever has in his 4 years in office. He should have been the president from the get go.”

Christie M Willis: “This is appalling to me, Pence should stand his ground and keep Trump president until the transitioning. Pelosi is trying to humiliate the greatest President we have ever had.”

Rita Velasquez: “Yes, agree wholeheartedly.”

Ruby H Roel: “Pence is not going to do anything. He learned his lesson yesterday. He had to run for his life, after Trump released his hound dogs for saying he is going to follow the constitution and not reject the elector votes.”

Max Muñiz: “He’s one sick puppy! 25th Amendment now! Otherwise he’ll pardon anyone who gets arrested as a result of these despicable actions!”

Francisco Javier Aldana: “Both should simultaneously quit!”

Steven Espinoza: “Stillness. If he won’t challenge the election, he won’t do this. Media stoking the fire as usual.”

Maria Chávez Rocco: “Absolutely, but when has he or any Republican “leader” demonstrated real leadership these last 4 years???”

Mary Sherman: “Pence is an invertebrate.”

Shawn Armstrong: “What good would that do? It’s only 14 days from now until the Jan. 20 inauguration. It would take more time for the paperwork.”

Amanda Cena: “Absolutely! What more do we need to see? Votes were counted by Dems, Republicans and Independents and it was verified zero fraud occurred. When people were marching by the thousands, that was a political stunt. Because if it weren’t, they would have been marching by the thousands since they started crossing over decades ago. I am woke enough to see the hypocrisy and hate that chump has spewed for 4 years.”

Jorge Glez Merriam: “Nooooo Por que Pence lo perdonado.Juicio político a Trump Ninguna persona está por encima de la ley. Que pague sus crímenes a la humanidad de los periodistas asesinados x Saudis, niños inmigrantes muertos y desaparecidos in las cárcel de EUA inmigración. Y un sin fin de tranzas y corrupción familiar”

Antonio Banderas

Antonio Banderas was already a famous Spanish star before making his Hollywood debut in 1992 as a young cuban musician in “The Mambo Kings.” Speaking little English, he learned his lines phonetically. He landed roles in “Philadelphia” and “Interview with a Vampire” which launched his heartthrob image. By 1995, Banderasmania hit mainstream as he starred in three multi budget thrillers, “Assassins,” “Desperado” and “Never Talk to Strangers,” making him one of America’s most desirable and sexy men. Turning in a riveting performance in “Evita” and capturing the title role in “The Mask of Zorro,” Banderas is being billed as the next blockbuster star.
About the Cover Art

By Joel Salcido

Starting in 2002 Texas Highways began commissioning me to produce an annual photo essay on any small Texas town of my choice.

In 2004 I chose the eclectic town of Valentine, TX with the idea of publishing it the month of February for Valentine’s Day. Since there were no hotels in Valentine I asked local famed artist, Boyd Elder, if I could stay a couple of nights at his ranchito home.

Once there I started exploring the town and its residents. Somewhere along the way I thought I had to create an emblematic, if somewhat cliche image of a flaming heart. After mentioning the idea to Boyd he said we could do it in his backyard. So I drove out to Marfa and bought several feet of lead rope from a quaint hardware store in town.

In spite of the rigidity of the lead rope, we both had trouble shaping a heart with any degree of success. At that point Boyd suggested we use a stiff wire to create the heart shape, which we did.

I proceeded to set up my massive Toyo 4X5 camera in place and pointed the camera against the backdrop of the Sawtooth and Livermore Mountains. Once we positioned the heart in place on the dividing fence between the Gear Hart Ranch and Boyd’s ranch house we doused the rope with Coleman camp fuel. With the rope saturated and in position, I took a meter reading, made several camera adjustments, focused under the black cloth covering and quickly loaded my film holder.

I began to stress out because the February desert winds were really beginning to crank up and I knew I was at the mercy of getting two maybe three peak action shots off of this notoriously cumbersome large format camera!

Once in position, Boyd lit the heart and the flames began to gradually flare but then a gust of wind picked up the flames in dramatic form. I quickly shot and loaded and unloaded one film holder after another. At the peak of the flaming heart the desert brush suddenly caught on fire!

In a matter of seconds we had a fairly sizable brush fire blazing uncontrollably. In shock, I looked at Boyd and he looked at me!

Immediately we both grabbed the single bucket of water we had reserved for an emergency and needles to say, it was a sad and futile gesture on our behalf!

We both watched in awe as the winds fanned the flames into a fantastic flickering rhythm on this Chihuahuan desert dance floor.

Just as the winds had become the alpha, they too became the omega to this flaming heart story. Boyd Elder died in 2018 at the age of 74.

Excerpt from the Texas Small Towns collection describing Valentine, Texas: “Perhaps it was also the best time of the year for a certain hardworking Southern Pacific Railroad crew as they toiled to expand the railway eastward. Local legend says that they reached this site on February 14, 1882, and named it Valentine. The town flourished as it became a shipping point for the surrounding cattle ranches, and it soon boasted all the amenities of a western town: saloons, a general store, and a hotel. The population peaked at some 600 residents in the early 1950’s right about the time that Johnny Porras, now 76, started running his general store and gas station.

Johnny was born in Valentine and remained here to raise his three children. Though the children have moved away, they haven’t lost touch with their hometown. Johnny chuckles when he opens his annual hand-stamped Valentine card from his granddaughter, who attends Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Johnny doesn’t philosophize about why he remained a lifetime here, but simply say he just “decided to stay in a small town.”

Many residents who worked for the railroad followed their jobs to big cities like Los Angeles and Houston. Gradually, the town dwindled in population, and now its main employer is the Valentine Independent School District, which stays busy educating a student body of 54.

Every year, students in grades seven through 12 here complete to design the Valentine Post Office cancellation stamp. Last year’s winner, 14-year-old Rebekah Lynn Santabar, rendered seven sketches in about 20 minutes before submitting her final entry- a drawing of intertwined hearts- to the city council.

This is a good place to be an artist. For example, Valentine native Boyd Elder, who returned to his hometown in 1987, creates spectacular abstract creations using holographic and colored foil, which he sells at galleries internationally. Boyd designed several album covers for the popular band The Eagles, whom he befriended as an art student in California, as well as for Jackson Browne and for Crosby, Stills Nash & Young.

The town’s mayor, Chuy Calderon, who also is a science teacher and a Federal Express deliveryman, often thinks about how to keep the town alive. And for now, the annual deluge of Valentine’s love letters helps do just that.”
Emotiva Fiesta de intercambio de regalos

Ofrecida al personal de Embassy Collision

Por Franco

Arturo Díaz, propietario del taller de carrocería Embassy Collision, ubicado en el domicilio 1423 Brady Blvd., en el corazón del sector Cupples Road y la autopista 90 West. Ofreció su tradicional fiesta navideña de intercambio de regalos (con participación de 15 empleados, que prestan sus valiosos servicios en los departamentos de la gerencia, talleres de mecánica y carrocería). En la organización participó Amanda Ramírez, quién es la contadora administradora.

Arturo Díaz, quién a la edad de 17 años se inició en la industria de la carrocería, con el tiempo logró ser dueño de su propio taller “Arturo’s Body Shop, el cual administró y trabajó por 10 años y posteriormente tras excelente servicio en dicha industria, decidió modernizar el taller con la razón social de Embassy Collision, cuyo edificio cumple con los requisitos de higiene en su sala de recepción, oficinas y servicios sanitarios. Así como en los talleres qué ofrecen todas las comodidades para el mejor trabajo y rendimiento de los técnicos carroceros y mecánicos de alta tecnología. Durante el festejó Díaz, dio muestra de su pasión culinaria, cocinando en su parrilla favorita con brasas de mezquite. Aprovechado el fuego para asar elotes. Y luego en brasas deliciosos steaks Tomahawk, piezas de pollo, y sausage. De botana antes de los platillos estelares los empleados y sus invitados se deleitaron con “Ceviche del Bucanero” en tostadas y picantes salsas. Arturo Díaz, dijo a La Prensa Texas, qué durante sus 10 años con el primer taller y 5 con Embassy Collision, siempre han realizado trabajos garantizados con seriedad y rapidez. Motivo por el cual compañías aseguradoras y lotes de autos continúan adquiriendo sus servicios. “Nuestro deseo para el 2021, es seguir creciendo para llegar a los hogares necesitados”. Añadiendo lo siguiente. “Agradecemos el apoyo qué por años nos han venido dando compañías de aseguranzas con las qué hemos venido trabajando. Por igual al personal en general qué con sus respectivas capacidades, hacen posible nuestra representación”.

The City Of San Antonio’s Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Commission Welcomes You To The 2021 Martin Luther King Jr Virtual March And Legacy Celebration

By Renee Watson

Each year, San Antonio hosts the largest MLK march in the nation that attracts approximately 300,000 participants. With a variety of educational, inspirational and celebratory events, we honor one of the world’s most revered civil rights leaders.

In order to prioritize the health and safety of our community and visitors, The City of San Antonio’s MLK Commission decided to commemorate the legacy of Dr. King by virtually celebrating his life and legacy and recognizing the 53rd anniversary of the 1st March for Justice organized by the late Rev. R. A. Callies, Sr., a San Antonio teacher and pastor.

Rev. Callies began in March in 1968 to call attention to the need for basic infrastructure on the city’s east side. Since then, community members along with thousands of others who travel across the country to participate, have gathered each year in increasing numbers to reflect on their own Dream of Justice, Peace and Equality in America.

The MLK Commission organizes the annual March and leads the community’s effort by hosting various events paying tribute to Dr. King.

The “MLK Commission,” was established on April 3, 1986, by official act of the San Antonio City Council under the leadership of then-Mayor Henry Cisneros. The first chair of the Commission was Mrs. Aaronetta Pierce.

The mission of the San Antonio Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to promote human equality, the principles of nonviolence, and the understanding and acceptance of racial harmony, respect, and goodwill among citizens, all as a way of building community in San Antonio and across the United States.

Mere words cannot begin to demonstrate the immense pride that I feel in having been appointed in February by Councilwoman Jada Andrews Sullivan to chair the 2021 March Committee of the Commission and this past October to serve as Chair of the MLK Commission.

The Commission makes clear and ensures that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March is not a “parade.”

As you will see in our virtual presentation, the March is very inclusive of all groups. Such as Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, and Political Justice TO INCLUDE Voter Registration, AND Frontline Workers, Garbage Workers, our VIA Transit’s 1966 Commemorative Rosa Parks Bus, Community Activist, First Responders to include Fire and Law enforcement, grocery workers, nurses, doctors, Veterans, Ministers, Churches, Family Groups, Middle Schools & High Schools, some Corporations, Civic, business and elected leaders, nonprofit organizations, colleges, universities, sororities & fraternities, and the MLK Commission award winners.

Let me now say, that for decades, I have marched either by Reverend Callies side or with his spirit. In doing so, I have always used this occasion to reflect upon where we as a people, and as a community, region and nation, stand with the Reverend Dr. King’s legacy. How his fight for equality and equity has progressed. Where it has succeeded, AND where we, the incarnation of his dream, carry it through. It is, specifically, in recalling the obstacles and the pitfalls that I, myself, have seen firsthand over these decades the resistance that makes us pause and yes, at times question, whether we should suspend or try to carry on the fight when it is a more popular idea, or when it is a better political climate, that I am reminded of a ringing statement made by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr as he sat in a Birmingham jail in 1963:

“For years now I have heard the word “WAIT!” It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This “WAIT” has almost always meant “Never.” We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that “justice too long delayed is justice denied.”

1963. 58 years... To say that an event occurred 58 years prior was simply ‘a long time ago’ is a vast understatement. In 58 years we have elected, 12 different presidents. We have ushered in hundreds of new Congressional leaders.

We have seen a Black man elected president. We have seen a Black woman elected as vice president. And a Black man elected to the US Senate from GEORGIA! All of these, momentous and absolutely prolific happenings in this nation spearheaded by an open-minded, open-hearted populace, imperfect though WE may be.

And yet… and still… WE ARE here now, as we lay our memorial wreaths, and look to all of you and say, the Reverend Dr. King’s words are still relevant to this day.

For more than three decades, our March participants have heard the words of Dr. King as spoken by some key leaders to include Martin Luther King III, Rev. Bernice King, Rosa Parks, Congressman John Lewis, Olymian Carl Lewis, Coach Herman Ike Boone, Rev. Joseph Lowery, Lane Kirkland, Ben Chavis, Rev. Claudette Copeland, Rev. E. Thurman Walker, Rev. Claude Black, Tom Joyner, Hill Harper, David Banner, Jamal Bryant, Former Obama US Trade Rep Ron Kirk, Tommy Calvert, Jr., Roland Martin and the Freedom Riders.

We must continue to come together and act upon these words rather than just use them in classrooms and speeches.

In closing, I wish to leave you with two things: one is a reminder and the other is a task. With all the powerful emotions evoked at commemorative events such as this that are designed to honor and recall the profound greatness of the Reverend Dr. King and his legacy of fighting for racial equality, there is often an overlooked reality. In his last months, the Reverend Dr. King began to focus heavily on the plight of the poor and the notion of economic justice. The very reason that he stood upon that Memphis balcony where he would be assassinated that god-awful day in April, 1968 was to lead a demonstration in support of those striking in favor of economic justice.

Your reminder is this: let us remember to not ignore disparity. Let us remember to not feel apathy. Let us remember to not allow our focus on matters of equality among races force us to turn a blind eye to the socioeconomic injustices beset to those same individuals we fight for equity and equality. With the same passion, let us be reminded that economic justice is true social justice, and may we not be satisfied until this is realized.

Now, your task is this: If you are one of our future civic leaders; if you are a dreamer, if you are a decider, if you are a person of action and determination and resolve to mold this world, to shape it to the ideals that we share with the Reverend Dr, King for social and economic justice… then I now look to you. I look to you with hopeful eyes and a faithful heart and I say, NOW IS YOUR TIME. Now is your time to lead, to teach, to mold this world, to shape it to the ideals that we share with the Reverend Dr. King for social and economic justice. That is your time to lead. That is your time.

Remember the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday is a day not just a day off. And as the late Congressman John Lewis would say, get into some good trouble today for a better tomorrow!
Por Lisa Anderson

Albert Uresti, Asesor-Recaudador de Impuestos del Condado de Bexar tomó el juramento del cargo administrado por el Honorable Ron Rangel, Juez del 379º Tribunal Penal del Distrito. La ceremonia tuvo lugar el jueves 31 de Diciembre en la ubicación Oficina Southside del Condado de Bexar Impuestos del asesor y recaudador con una abundancia de revestimientos de la cara y las precauciones de seguridad distancia social.

“Es un verdadero honor haber sido elegidos para un tercer mandato consecutivo por los ciudadanos del condado de Bexar. Bajo Uresti, su administración ha reducido los tiempos de espera y ha eliminado tener que hacer cola. Además, la Oficina del Tasador-Recaudador de Impuestos del Condado de Bexar ahora tiene la mayoría de los planes de pago de impuestos a la propiedad de cualquiera de los 254 condados del estado, incluido el ÚNICO plan de pago de impuestos a la propiedad de 10 meses en Texas. Uresti también ha negociado algunas de las tarifas más bajas del estado para transacciones con tarjetas de crédito y débito, incluidos los cheques electrónicos gratuitos.

“Nuestra misión es ‘Ayudar a mantener a las familias en sus hogares con énfasis en ayudar a nuestros ciudadanos mayores, nuestros discapacitados, nuestros veteranos y, en última instancia, a nuestros niños’. Quiero que los ciudadanos del condado de Bexar y nuestra comunidad empresarial sepan que estamos aquí para ayudar, y juntos superaremos los desafíos de esta pandemia y evolucionaremos aún más fuertes y mejores”, dijo Albert Uresti, asesor-recaudador de impuestos.
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Para mas información, viste [cpsenergy.com/flexrfp](http://cpsenergy.com/flexrfp)
Sultanes campeón del Torneo Navidad 2020

Por Sendero Deportivo
El tradicional cuadrangular anual Thanksgiving Day 2020 por lluvia se canceló y fue pospuesto para jugarse en los festejos navideños con el título Torneo Navideño 2020.

Los organizadores, el artista Eloy Rocha (dueño del estadio Potranco Baseball Field), el presidente Simón Sánchez y la oficina del abogado Óscar A. Garza, durante las fechas del sábado 26 y domingo 27 de diciembre, se esmeraron en los preparativos.

Los equipos participantes fueron Sultanes, Potosinos, Cachorros de Nava y el visitante Eagle Pass.

En la primera ronda Sultanes dirigidos por Nacho García, Ruperto Ortega y el patrocinador Jesús Ramírez Sr., derrotaron 7-4 a Potosinos del timonel Catarino Obregón y su coach Pedro Espinoza con pizarra de 7 por 4 carreras con victoria para el izquierdo venezolano Goyo Quintero y derrota para el derecho Will Martínez. Potosinos empató el encuentro en dos ocasiones pero no logró superar el score.

Los Cachorros aplastaron 16-2 a Eagle Pass, destacó con el bate Freddy Rodríguez que dio de 5-4 con imparable productor de tres carreras.

En la segunda ronda por el trofeo del tercer lugar Potosinos se impuso 14-4 ante Eagle Pass. “Potosinos dio lo mejor de su juego en la ofensiva. Esté torneo es una experiencia más en nuestras participaciones especiales ante grandes rivales”, expresó el mánager y patrocinador Catarino Obregón.

“Eagle Pass vino contento a participar en este gran torneo. damos gracias por la excelente hospitalidad”, indicó el timonel y jugador Gerardo (Gera) González, quién fue asistido por el lanzador local Héctor “Papo” Garza, y los esposos Linda y Roberto Garza, así como del investigador Albert “Tor” Torres.

La final fue ganada por el equipo Sultanes ante Cachorros de Nava dirigidos por la tercia Alejandro Becerra (Rábano), Benito Martínez y Rubén Galindo (el Alacrán).

Sultanes dejó en el terreno a Nava que los había empatado en la apertura del noveno capítulo 4-4. En el partido de campeonato trabajaron los ampayers Pato Gutiérrez y Jose Mendoza en las bases y Eduardo Torres en el plato cantando las bolas y los strikes.

“Buen nivel de béisbol béisbol a nivel Veteranos. Los dos equipos tuvimos suerte de ir por el trofeo del campeonato. Felicitó a Cachorros quié presenta gran alineación. Gracias a los organizadores y a todos en nuestro equipo, así como a los otros clubes participantes y en especial a la noble afición”, afirmó Nacho García.

La presentación de los trofeos (donados por el abogado Óscar A. Garza), y donativos económicos fueron presentados por el investigador y beisbolista Albert “Tor” Torres, quién presta sus valiosos servicios para la firma del abogado Garza, quién a la vez presentó hielera individualmente con cerveza Bud Light a los campeones y el subcampeón.

“Se agradece el apoyo de todos los equipos participantes, afición y la familia Garza”, concluyó el presidente Simón Sánchez.

Las acciones retoman este fin de semana en Potranco.
Con partidos del playoff Veteranos invernal 2020 y dominical Abierta de Liga Independiente San Antonio.

Por otro lado en el legendario estadio Colt 45 su gerente general Jaime Guerrero, presentará partido de veteranos el sábado 9 y do encuentros pendientes del rol regular dominical Abierta 2020 entre los equipos Astros vs. Bobcats. Piratas de Sabinas vs. Hooks. “De acuerdo a los resultados de ambos partidos, se estarán decidiendo las opciones de quienes clasifiquen para la postemporada. Águilas de Veracruz tienen marca de 8-1-1, más aún no se puede declarar como campeón de temporada. Indios de Nava tiene récord de 7-3. Invitamos a la afición para que venga a presenciar partidos de buen béisbol”, dijo Jaime Guerrero. En resultados tenemos que Highsox banequó a Texas Jays 14-0. En el pasado clásico Piratas de Sabinas dejó en el terreno de juego a Broncos de Reynosa SA con pizarra de 3-2, con triunfo para el relevista Goyo Quintero que entró en rescate del abridor Roel Ramírez en lo que fue duelo de pichers contra el abridor Jorge González, quién dejó el partido ganando 2-0 y luego retorno cuándo el daño ya estaba hecho. En la jornada le tocó descansar al supuesto campeón Águilas de Luis Cerros, Hooks. Braves, Pickman y Nava.

En las fotos aparecen: Sultanes, Gera González y Papo Garza. Cachorros de Nava y Potosinos. (Fotos por Franco).
La presidenta de la Asociación de Periodistas Hispanos de San Antonio, Silvia Foster-Frau, contratada por The Washington Post

Cortesía de SAAHJ

La presidenta de la Asociación de Periodistas Hispanos de San Antonio, Silvia Foster-Frau, se une a The Washington Post. Ella será la reportera de multiculturalismo del Post, cubriendo temas de raza, cultura y cambio demográfico que están dando forma a la sociedad estadounidense.

SAAHJ aplaude a The Washington Post por contratar a Foster-Frau, una latina de ascendencia puertorriqueña. Estamos seguros de que vieron lo que hemos llegado a saber sobre Foster-Frau: que es una escritora apasionada y una reportera dedicada con el compromiso de elevar las voces de las comunidades desatendidas.

“Aunque nos entristece ver partir a Silvia, celebramos este increíble logro con ella”, dijo la vicepresidenta de SAAHJ, Krista Torralva. “Nos alienta que el Post la haya promovido a un escenario nacional, y sabemos que seguirá representando con orgullo a los periodistas latinos”.

Foster-Frau seguirá siendo residente de San Antonio durante los próximos meses antes de mudarse a Washington, DC.

La junta de SAAHJ pronto convocará una reunión para discutir los próximos pasos.

Foster-Frau llegó por primera vez a San Antonio en 2016 como miembro de Hearst Journalism Fellow asignado al San Antonio Express-News. Ha cubierto educación, la masacre de Sutherland Springs e inmigración para Express-News.

Los miembros de SAAHJ la conocen bien. Antes de ser elegido presidente en 2020, Foster-Frau se desempeñó como vicepresidente. En sus cuatro años con la organización, ha sido una activa recaudadora de fondos de becas para estudiantes y una feroz defensora de los latinos en las salas de redacción.

Foster-Frau desafió los esfuerzos de su empleador para contratar y retener la diversidad cuando ella y un grupo de miembros de SAAHJ escribieron una carta abierta a Hearst en 2019. La carta fue en respuesta a los resultados de la encuesta de la Sociedad Estadounidense de Editores de Noticias que mostraban a Express-News El personal no reflejaba la composición racial de la ciudad en ese momento.

Como presidente, Foster-Frau cruzó el pasillo para trabajar con Hearst y, como resultado, la compañía donó $50,000 al fondo de becas de SAAHJ, un regalo récord para nuestra organización.

Ella ha llamado a este movimiento inesperado un trabajo de ensueño.

“Estoy lleno de gratitud. Creo que mis mejores cualidades fueron cultivadas y moldeadas por la gente de San Antonio y la comunidad SAAHJ”, dijo Foster-Frau. “Prometo llevarme todo lo que he aprendido en este nuevo capítulo y seguir representando y mejorando la experiencia latina en el escenario nacional”.
Latinos Recall The 1960s As Transformational

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Ritchie Valens singing La Bamba, Ford Mustangs and Chevy lowriders cruising on Commerce Street, sitting in our cars at Rogers’ Drive Inn eating burgers and fries, and going to high school football “Chili Bowl” games [Tech vs. Lanier] at the Alamo Stadium. These memories, as well as the musical rise of the Beatles and the remarkable moon landing, are a few of my treasured thoughts of the great sixties era. And the sixties certainly changed San Antonio.

Most historians agree that the Sixties was one of those remarkable decades. It was also a troubled era. America witnessed political disruptions, three assassinations, and prolonged war in Vietnam. The sixties gave us the hippie generation, civil rights protests, and the unexpected rise of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. There was much history to remember. The sixties certainly changed San Antonio.

The sixties opened with great promise and hope as Americans elected John F. Kennedy to the presidency. Kennedy campaigned in San Antonio in September of 1960, shortly after selecting Senator Lyndon Johnson as his running mate. Johnson knew San Antonio well and his knowledge of local politics would be a boost for the Democratic ticket as well as for the Latino community. Kennedy won the state of Texas, giving him a very narrow presidential victory over Richard Nixon.

The special Congressional election in 1961 to fill a congressional seat gave San Antonio Westsiders the opportunity to elect the first Mexican American ever to Congress—Henry B. Gonzalez. The Mexican American community proved ready and ready for this opportunity.

For the congressional campaign, Cantinflas came to San Antonians’ Westside in the fall of 1961. The famous Mexican comedian joined Vice President Lyndon Johnson in several campaign stops for State Senator Henry B. Gonzalez. With the help of hundreds of Westside election volunteers and Johnson’s endorsement, Gonzalez won the 20th congressional seat.

The newly elected Mexican American congressman went to Washington in 1961 with great hope and high expectations. Back home, San Antonians were witnessing cultural change expressed in rock and roll music and dance, as well as the advent of feminism and the “establishment,” and of special significance, the gradual collapse of segregation.

How San Antonians handled this new era of racial integration and the fight for civil rights says much good about the city. San Antonio had been among the first Southern cities to begin desegregating its schools. The Supreme Court decision in 1954 prohibiting segregation. By the fall of 1960, newspaper stories of Black athletes excelling in football, track, and basketball teams in formerly all white San Antonio high schools were commonplace.

However, these Black high school students could only sit in the “colored” section of the major movie theaters downtown. In the early sixties I witnessed and joined small demonstrations of Black students from my own high school, Fox Tech, marching in front of the Aztec Theater protesting the segregated seating policy.

The early months of 1960 also saw a major development in the city’s civil rights posture. Across the United States old traditions were withering, and the Black college students, impatient with the slow progress of change, took the lead to challenge segregation. In San Antonio and beyond, Black college students led the way in developing new strategies of resistance and confrontation in the civil rights movement.

A test to end segregation in San Antonio eating establishments came on March 16, 1960 when Blacks entered the Woolworth department store where lunch counters had been reserved for white patrons only. Blacks were allowed to shop, but not to eat at the lunch counters. In the previous weeks, Mary Andrews, a student at Our Lady of the Lake University on the Westside, had assumed the task of requesting six stores to end their segregated practices.

City attorney Carlos Cadena instructed the police not to arrest students engaged in peaceful demonstrations.

When the stores opened their lunch counters to Blacks the next day, San Antonio became the first city in the South to do so. San Antonians participated in a political revolution and social transformation that set an example for the rest of America. However, the right to sit at lunch counters at local department stores was a small victory in a long battle that shifted to challenging discrimination in voting rights, housing, and employment.

With the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act under Johnson’s administration, the Federal government declared segregation illegal. San Antonio’s Black leaders also praised the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act which expanded the rights of Black citizens at the polling booths.

The sixties is also remembered in San Antonio for Hemisphere 68 and the subsequent opening of the Riverwalk to a new age when tourists came by the thousands to enjoy the jazz bars, restaurants, and shopping of the fabled city. Hemisphere 68 succeeded because of the earlier resolutions ending the political exclusion of Mexican Americans and ending segregated public facilities.

It was the young congressman, Henry B. Gonzalez, with his political connections that secured federal funds to bring Hemisphere 68 to San Antonio. These early civil rights victories were important because they made San Antonio a model city where racial strife had been avoided and progress in inclusion proceeded at a steady pace.

It took many more years, and continued struggles for equality and justice, but the leadership of Latinos of a later generation produced positive changes. These leaders included Mayors Henry Cisneros, Ed Garza, and Julian Castro, and U.S. Congress members Frank Tejeda, Ciro Rodriguez, Charlie Gonzalez, and Joaquin Castro. Their hard work combined with that of numerous local leaders made San Antonio a better city.
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