

LA PRENSA TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO'S HISPANIC FAMILY OWNED NEWSPAPER

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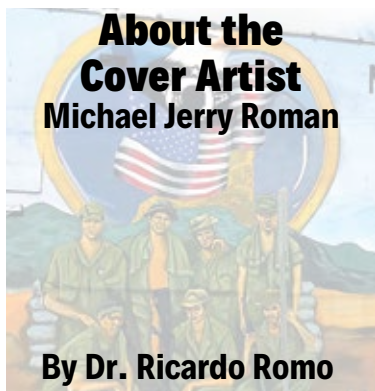
Remembering our Fallen Heroes

Child Advocates
Celebrating 35 years of
helping children in need



By Roxanne Eguia

**About the
Cover Artist**
Michael Jerry Roman



By Dr. Ricardo Romo

Financial Focus
Tips for a non-
traditional worker



By Edward Jones

**Remembering a
fallen Hero**



By Lisa Buentello

**Casa Salud –
Helping the Gente**

Casa Salud
FAMILY MEDICINE CLINIC

By Isa Fernandez

LAPRENSATEXAS

This grass roots publication is the life source for a community that is not easily afforded viable access to diverse and accessible media. San Antonio and the surrounding counties have become accustomed to relevant news brought to them in both English and Spanish since 1913.

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Let's Talk About it...

Remembering those who paid the ultimate price for you and me

By Yvette Tello

This Memorial Day edition is for everyone that loves America, the Spirit of Freedom and those that gave their life defending it. Memorial Day is a day we as the country come together to honor and remember our servicemen and women who served and paid the ultimate price. I asked a 6th grader what it meant to her; she said it meant she had a day off of school. Are we teaching our youth how much was sacrificed to have the freedoms we have today? I asked a 14 year old, he said there should be no wars. We should just worry about ourselves and let other countries take care of their own problems and so many Americans wouldn't have had to die. What does Memorial Day mean to you? Let's talk about it...

Linda Hanna Padowitz:

"Thank you to all heroes for our freedom. May you all Rest In Peace in Our Heavenly Father's arms. Sending prayers to all your families with thanks for a heartbreaking sacrifice"

Ken Turner:

"Rest In Peace Warriors. God Bless America"

Patty Grubb:

"RIP brave soldiers and thank you for your service"

Laurie Hansen:

"Thank you for paying the ultimate sacrifice! May God be with your family & friends!"

Carol Grubbs:

"I can't imagine how awful this must be for their families and friends. I am in awe of our men and women in uniform, who serve our country. They will not be forgotten."

Roger Eloise:

"Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans, it's honoring those who lost their lives. Veterans had the fortune of coming home. For us, that's a reminder of when we come home we still have a responsibility to serve. It's a continuation of service that honors our country and those who fell defending it."

Gerald Alaniz:

"As America celebrates Memorial Day, we pay tribute to those who have

given their lives in our nation's wars."

Veronica Castillo:

"Memorial Day this year is especially important as we are reminded almost daily of the great sacrifices that the men and women of the Armed Services make to defend our way of life."

Angela Jones:

"There is nothing nobler than risking your life for your country."

Juan J. Gonzales:

My biased opinion: Memorial Day is the "Unofficial Beginning of Summer" without reflection to many. To me it's a day to

Reflect on how many have sacrificed their lives for the Freedom we enjoy so freely.

Mary Svetlik Watkins:

"It's a day to honor the brave men and women who gave the ultimate gift to our nation so that we have the rights we do. We can gripe and complain and call our politicians names because brave soldiers paid with their lives."

Steve Walker:

"As a Vietnam Veteran who was spit on twice and asked if I napalmed babies as I got off the plane on my return, this is the time to thank a vet, not spit on them."



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About the Cover Artist

Michael Jerry Roman

By Dr. Ricardo Romo

The cover art for this issue portrays only part of a larger mural titled "You Are Not Forgotten," This mural, painted in 2006 by Michael Jerry Roman, is a tribute to the men and women who served in the U.S. Military. Michael's dad, Tony Roman, a Vietnam veteran, served as an inspiration for the mural.

Michael Jerry Roman was born during the last year of the Vietnam War. As a teen, Roman loved to paint as well as work on classic cars. He began his art career at age 18 when he landed an artist apprenticeship with Andy Benavides, a well-known Southtown gallery owner and muralist. Benavides served as Roman's first mentor and made an effort to introduce him to many other San Antonio artists.

In 1996 Roman interviewed and

won a position with famed artist Jesse Trevino. Trevino was about to start his nine story ceramic mural, "The Spirit of Healing" on the south wall of Christus Santa Rosa Hospital. Roman was one of several assistants who help Trevino cut and glue the thousands of small mosaic tiles that were needed for the mural.

Following his mural work with Jesse Trevino, Roman met artist Cruz Ortiz of the San Anto Cultural Arts. Ortiz assigned Roman a large wall at the art center for the mural "Salvacion," a depiction of Christ.

When the San Anto Cultural Arts team heard about a proposed mural for the corner of Commerce and Colorado streets, they contacted Roman. The theme concerned military service.


Growing up Roman had met many veterans of military conflict

through his dad, Tony Roman. His dad and many Vietnam veterans went through difficult times in the years after serving in the military. Tony Roman served honorably in that war earning two Purple Heart medals.

Roman credits the San Anto Cultural Center for providing him with an opportunity to express his creativity and to provide recognition to those who served their country in the military. In painting this mural he met many veterans, including Alex Macias, who owned the building on Commerce Street and Patti Raddle, who served on Advisory Board for the San Anto CC. It has been more than ten years since Roman finished this military tribute, but on a frequent basis he receives thanks and congratulations for the excellent work and inspiring message.



A tribute to the men and women who served in the U.S. Military. (Mural by Michael Jerry Roman)



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A Memorial Monument

By Romo Ricardo

Memorial Day is a very special day in Military City USA. This American holiday is observed on the last Monday of May and honors the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. This year many of our local Vietnam veterans have the opportunity to honor our fallen military soldiers twice.

Over the past weekend members of the Fox Tech Vietnam Memorial Committee unveiled a beautiful black granite monument in front of Fox Tech High School facing Main Avenue. On Memorial Day, May 27 family and friends of Fox Tech Vietnam veterans are expected to return to the memorial for a second remembrance.

The monument is a first for the school, and hundreds gathered on May 18 to recognize our twenty-three Fox Tech classmates who gave their lives for their country in the Vietnam War.

The May 18th gathering was one of the most solemn occasions of this century old school. Young men and women who attended Main Avenue, San Antonio Tech, and Fox Tech, as our school has been known since its founding in the 1880s, fought in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and numerous Middle East wars. With this monument, we recognize the

brave young soldiers who fought and lost their lives in Vietnam.

An American clergyman, Minot Savage, wrote that "The brave never die, though they sleep in dust: Their courage nerves a thousand living men." In their sacrifice the warriors that we honor this Memorial Day gave the living soldiers greater courage and greater caution. They gave us a greater appreciation for those who fought for their country but were never fully thanked or properly welcomed back. We are forever indebted to our 23 Tech classmates who gave their lives for this country.

The Fox Tech Memorial Monument honors these twenty-three heroes, our classmates, who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the U.S. military. They served in uniform during one of America's most difficult military conflicts.

What makes this Memorial Monument special is that just ten years ago we knew little about our classmates who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Yes, their names were engraved on a beautiful black granite wall in Washington, DC, but they were nearly forgotten in their own home town.

Ten years ago I learned that the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund was seeking the photos of all the 58,000 men and women who were killed in action or miss-

ing in action during the Vietnam War for the period 1955-1975. I wanted to do my part for my high school. I volunteered to create a Faces With Names project for our Tech classmates. After recruiting several Tech alumni who served in Vietnam during that period, we determined that we would research the fallen heroes for all of Bexar County, and for every single high school. Our initial team included Manuel Marquez, JR Garza and Charlie Calderon. The team recruited US Army Ret. Maj.

General Alfred Valenzuela, Rosalinda Trevino Berlanga, Bea Zepeda and Sylvia Orta Spradlin. We appointed our talented computer whiz, Charlie Calderon, as Chief Researcher.

With the help of Tech classmates in San Antonio and a dedicated friend from Washington DC, our team which we named Faces With Names, was able to locate the photos of every single person, 362 from Bexar County, who lost his or her life in Vietnam.

Over the next eight years we reached out to every school, every Vietnam group and Veteran's post, and every friend we knew who served in that war. We learned,

sadly, that many schools in our Military City USA had no information about the Vietnam casualties from their district. Some schools

had the names of the fallen heroes, but not the photos.

After eight years of research, Charlie Calderon was able to locate the last of the 362 photos that we had set out to find. The last photo that we needed was that of Pvt. Elvin Price who had attended Wheatley High School, a segregated school that had been shut down in the 1980s. For the most part, his school records did not exist.

We were almost ready to give up and acknowledge that we had found 99% of the names and photos when a chance conversation that Charlie had with a total stranger while shopping at Walmart provided that last photo of Pvt. Price.

Charlie was buying picture frames for an upcoming Fox Tech ceremony when good fortune struck. As he made his purchase, Charlie conversed with a fellow customer about the project. The customer said he knew of a soldier from Wheatley who had died in Vietnam. Charlie nearly fainted when he learned it was Pvt. Elvin Price, the very soldier for whom we had searched for eight years!

With the Faces With Names projected completed, we had, for the first time, the names and photos of our Tech 23, along with the names and photos of every soldier who died in Vietnam from all of

Bexar County.

In early 2016, Ralph Morales, a 1962 Fox Tech alumni who had served 13 months in Vietnam with the 3rd Marine Division, proposed the monument idea to the SAISD to honor the fallen heroes from Fox Tech. With the support of Fox Tech principal, Jennifer Benavides, the school board granted permission and allowed the SAISD Educational Foundation to receive funds for the monument.

Morales also recruited a dozen Vietnam veterans for this project. Fortunately for us, he found Richard Lopez Garza, a Tech alum who served as a Second Lieutenant Field Artillery Forward Observer with Company B, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Garza, a San Antonio Attorney, earned a Bronze Star and received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained due to a land mine explosion. Garza worked with the Fox Tech monument committee with dedication and passion. And it was Garza who first envisioned a black granite monument that could be placed in front of the entrance of Fox Tech on Main Avenue.

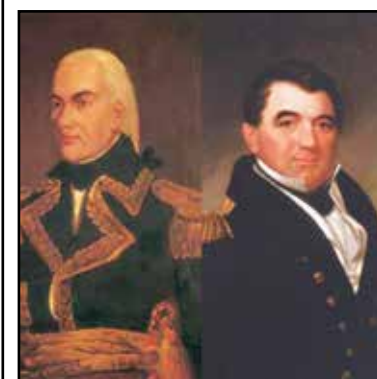
I cannot say enough about the dedication of the two Tech Vietnam committees to ensure that this beautiful and meaningful monument would be a reality. I also wish to thank Garza for uncovering the great President Kennedy quote



to Honor our Veterans



By Leonard Rodriguez
This column highlights inspiring stories of Latino leaders. For more than 500 years, Latino men and women have positively influenced the face of United States society. Let us celebrate these outstanding hispanics



Juan de Mirrales and Jorge Ferragut

In a letter dated October 4th 1778, George Washington wrote: "If the Spaniards would but join their fleets to those of France, and commence hostilities, my doubts would all subside. Among the many Hispanos who answered Washington's call to fight the British were Juan de Mirrales and Jorge Ferragut. Juan de Mirrales, the first Diplomat to the colonies, not only financed, supplied and repaired several US ships from South Carolina, but also fought the British in New York. Ferragut, father of civil war hero Admiral David Glasgow Ferragut, fought courageously in the Continental Army and Navy. He fought the British at Savannah, Cowpens and Wilmington as well as in the War of 1812 alongside his son. Both men helped establish the United States of America.

that we placed on the monument. It reads: "A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers." John F. Kennedy.

Tom Rogan, the CEO of Rogan Industries and a Vietnam veteran, mentioned to Garza and Morales that the Fox Tech black granite memorial would be the only one of its kind in the nation other than the black granite Vietnam Wall in the

nation's capital. Morales, a retired civil engineer, made enormous contributions to the placement of the monument by making sure that the 15 feet concrete and steel pillars needed under the monument were properly in place.

A few weeks ago on a beautiful Good Friday, we officially delivered the Fox Tech monument to the site on Main Ave. My good friend, Bobby Corbo, a Jefferson graduate

and also a Vietnam veteran, assisted us greatly with transporting and placing the monument in its proper destination.

Ralph Morales, who led the effort and devoted 40 months to the monument planning, welcomed the Fox Tech Vietnam War Fallen Heroes Memorial Committee to the official placement of the memorial.

It should be noted that hundreds of San Antonians donated to the

Fox Tech memorial wall. As it shines in the sun next to us, it is also a memorial to all Vietnam Veterans in San Antonio and beyond. This monument also serves as an inspiration to continue to love and fight for this country, one nation indivisible, in war and in peace, in small ways and through sacrifices, all of which have made the world a better place for everyone.



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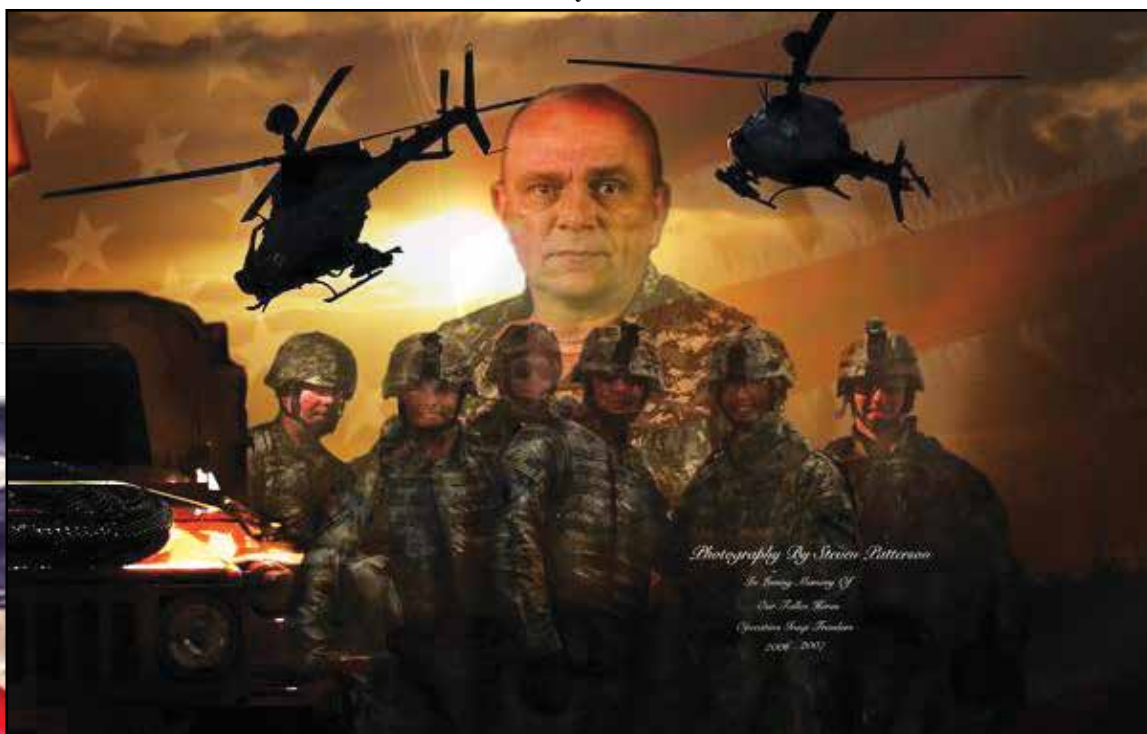
SERVING WITH the 3rd MARINE DIVISION in VIETNAM
ROBERT is THE SON of MR. JOE JIMENEZ, MQQE. HE IS ONE
OF OUR FIGHTING MEN THAT DEPEND EACH DAY on YOU
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Army 1st Sgt. Ricky L. McGinnis. Died October 26, 2006
Serving During Operation Iraqi Freedom 42, of Hamilton, Ohio;
assigned to 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade,
1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; died Oct. 26 in Balad,
Iraq, from injuries sustained that same day in Muqdadiyah, Iraq,
when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dis-
mounted patrol.



Our Last Family Photo.



Photography By Steven Pitterman
In Loving Memory Of
1st Lt. Ricky L. McGinnis
Operation Iraqi Freedom
2006 - 2007

NON-PROFIT HIGHLIGHT

Child Advocates of San Antonio

By Roxanne Eguia

For decades, Child Advocates of San Antonio has worked with some of the most vulnerable children in the community by acting as their eyes and ears out of the courtroom.

On our 35th year anniversary they have kicked off a \$5 million Capital Campaign to secure funds for new Headquarters on the southeast side of San Antonio with room for more volunteers. “We’ve been working behind the scenes to make this happen for

well over a year and as you can see, our current training facility, we have outgrown [it] and to meet the community needs and serve more children, we have to move to a bigger place,” President and CEO Marina Gonzales said. However, CASA is in search for more volunteers who are bilingual due to high rate of Hispanic children being advocated for.

Learn more on how to become a volunteer <https://www.casa-satx.org/become-an-advocate/>

Side Bar:

The mission of Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) is to recruit, train, and supervise court-appointed volunteer Advocates who provide constancy for abused and neglected children and youth while advocating for services and placement in safe and permanent homes.

The efforts of CASA’s volunteer Advocates help ensure Bexar County’s foster children are receiving the necessary medical, developmental and educational

attention they need. Our goal for this fiscal year mirrors our past success, with a minimum of 95% of children served being impacted specifically because of the work and dedication of their volunteer.

As it becomes increasingly difficult for the courts and social workers to make the system work for families and children, judges continue to appoint CASA to as many cases as possible. Now more than ever, they are relying on our Advocates’ independent

and impartial recommendations to speak to the needs and best interests of the child. CASA volunteers are essential because they provide valuable information and insight about each individual child, helping to ensure that they do not “fall through the cracks” or simply become another statistic in the often times generational cycle of abuse.

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Marina Gonzales is in the second year in her position as CEO and continues to fight for the rights of children. (Courtesy photo)

Red Sox o Cardenales en final del Playoff serán rivales de Broncos

Por Sendero Deportivo

Cuando un manager de béisbol teniendo a un corredor en tercera base, y el bateador en turno tiene la orden de conectar elevado a las praderas, es porque su plan defensivo es que el corredor logre llegar al plato anotando la carrera que bien pueda recortar o aumentar la pizarra, ello luego de que algunos de los tres jardineros logren capturar el elevado. Para luego realizar de forma rápida el lanzamiento al plato, y así ganarle la carrera al corredor que "piso y corrió" desde la antesala, logrando anotar o siendo puesto fuera de acción.

Eso no le resultó a Rieleros en el segundo partido del playoff contra el campeón Broncos de Reynosa SA, en partido que se fue 3-3 hasta el décimo capítulo, en

el cual en calidad de visitantes, el timonel Juan Sánchez de Rieleros, envió a su corredor emergente José Montoya, rumbo a la registradora, anotando la cuarta carrera.

Con esa acción defensiva bien aplicada, Rieleros ya comenzaba a celebrar la pizarra a favor por 4-3 carreras. Directivos de Broncos dieron la orden a sus jugadores para que lanzaran la pelota a la tercera base cubierta por el jugador Gonzalo (Chalito) Carramán, quien piso la almohadilla y el ampáyer de bases marcó "out", quedando la pizarra 3-3.

Como resultado a pronta apelación de Broncos, los umpires Mark (home plate), y Rico, juez de bases, ambos en breve conversación dieron su decisión decretando invalida la carrera anotada

por Montoya.

Broncos en el cierre del décimo capítulo en los ganchos de Sergio Torres, anotó la cuarta carrera dejando en el terreno de juego a Rieleros que deportivamente aceptaron la derrota.

Lamentablemente con la pésima decisión de los umpires, se echó por la borda una gran partido que estuvo colmado de espectaculares acciones y buen trabajo de los lanzadores Luis Alfonso Velázquez (Chorejás) de Rieleros, Gilbert Salazar (abridor derecho de Broncos), y del relevista derecho Henry Pichardo, quien se adjudicó la victoria y la eliminación de postemporada de Rieleros. "Respetamos a Rieleros, un gran rival, sin embargo alguno de los dos tenía que salir victorioso.

Ahora descansaremos en espera del ganador entre Cardenales y Red Sox", dijo Roberto Garza, manager de Broncos.

"Chorejás, venía preparado para darlo todo, dejamos corredores en bases sin lograr concretar. Broncos con su defensiva (atrapadas a la hora oportuna), logró salir adelante", dijo Juan Sánchez.

Red Sox y Cardenales, empataron su serie (1-1), a ganar 2 de 3 partidos, tras caer 13-3, con derrota para Chris Lee, que fue relevado por David Hernández, y victoria para Víctor Vázquez. "Racimo de cinco carrera en la primera entrada nos ayudó en la victoria", dijo Saúl Navejar, directivo de Cardenales, quien dio crédito a su jugador Jaime (Crema) Rodríguez, que bateo de 3-4 con 3 carreras producidas

y tres anotadas. "Cardenales nos dieron buena sacudida. En el tercer partido Red Sox irá con todo", apuntó Pedro Espinoza, manager de Red Sox.

Red Sox y Cardenales se jugaran su pase a la gran final este sábado en el horario de la 1 p.m. estadio Potranco, sede de las ligas Veterano y Abierta. El campeón Piratas de Sabinas de los hermanos Guerrero y el manager Sergio De Luna, continúan invictos tras derrotar 7-1 carreras a Broncos de Reynosa SA que nada pudieron hacer contra la serpentina del lanzador izquierdo Devon Torres, quien llegó a su segunda victoria consecutiva en liga Abierta 2019.

En las fotos aparecen el equipo Cardenales, José Montoya barriéndose y el receptor Memo Arriaga en espera de la pelota.



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America's Veterans

By Steve Huerta

This weekend we will celebrate America's veterans. That celebration and what it means to be a veteran has changed throughout time. It's the celebration of a sacred promise that Abraham Lincoln said was our national duty "to care for him who shall have borne battle and for his widow and his orphan".

Our social contract with our veterans has changed since the beginning of our nation. At first America offered little to its veterans and some might argue it still does. That aside, all that changed after the Civil War. Veterans groups in the north and south became powerful domestic lobbies. The first real political fight

for Veterans rights and benefits had begun. After every conflict from the Great War, World War II, Korean, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars and the current War on Terror have Veterans groups formed powerful lobbies to advocate for the needs of their generation of soldiers.

Although we provide services and benefits to our Veterans we are also far from meeting our sacred promise. Integrating back into society isn't easy for many veterans who have served either in times of peace or war or both. Frequent scathing reports from the VA's Inspector general about flaws in the care and poor conditions at VA facilities still plague the Veterans Administra-

tion. With the VA increasing the privatization of its services we can only hold our breaths and pray that the idea of cheaper is better will equate to an increase and improvement in healthcare and other services.

Veterans have their own identity that has mutated from a personality trait to a comprehensive sense of self. Today's post 911 all volunteer force even has its own marketing brand. In many ways veterans are a part of our society and also separated from it. Nonetheless, the broken veteran narrative, that is so often unintentionally fueled by the tone of veteran legislation, has contributed to the real difficulties today's veterans face in transitioning into civil-

ian life. There is an unexplored historical relationship between public perception, legislation, and veteran identity that suggests that reframing veteran legislation and strengthening civilian identity may be the Joint Action Plan today's veterans need to thrive after their service. George Washington in his farewell orders to the new nation's armies recommended that veterans funnel their energies as soon as possible into active pursuits and "prove themselves not less virtuous and useful as citizens, than they [were] preserving and victorious as soldiers".

War has evolved and so has the needs of veterans. Veterans need a pathway home. Without the advocacy of Veterans groups

healthcare, employment, housing, suicide prevention and other issues veterans face would go unattended.

Advocating for Veterans benefits may be the focus of veteran groups but it is the duty of citizens to inform themselves to always try to understand how, where and why our leaders might choose to use military force overseas, in our own hemisphere and perhaps even in our own homeland.

As we celebrate this Memorial weekend, we celebrate both lives lost and lives saved at home and in the battlefield. We celebrate those who have served and those who currently serve to preserve our democracy, our nation and our way of life.



Veterans visiting the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. (NPS Photo)

HBG REMASTERED

BY LOUIS R. ESCAREÑO

It turns out that it was a good thing that the eastern wall of Estela's Mexican Restaurant was painted over. But it didn't seem that way at first.

Back in February of 2018 Estela's, on Martin street in San Antonio, was sold and the new owners began to change the building from an eatery to a funeral parlor. There were three larger-than-life murals inside: Selena Quintanilla, Flaco Jimenez and Henry B. Gonzalez - hardly the appropriate backdrop for somber ceremonies. So the dining room murals were erased to make way for chapels.

At the time there was community outcry and it seemed that the murals were lost forever.

If you ever had a meal at Estela's you understand the emotional response to the loss. It was more than just a restaurant, Estela's was a gathering place, a politicians' hotspot, a place to see and be seen, to touch base and take the city's political pulse. There were rallies and fundraisers, speeches and organizing, and through the years Henry B.'s furrowed profile presided over it all.

To understand how the shock of the mural's loss rippled across San Antonio's Mexican-American community you have to understand the community's history and the pivotal role that Henry B. played in it. From the start of his political career in the early 1950's until his death in 2000 there are scant instances in our city's politics where his leadership and influence weren't felt. He was a trailblazer, a warrior, a relentless advocate, defender and voice of the voiceless. For San Antonio's Mexican-American community the mural at Estela's told myriad stories without saying a word. The loss was understandably profound.

There was an unspoken dread when it happened, a fear that history would be lost without Henry's pensive gaze to serve as a reminder. The fear was that Henry B.'s influence would slowly erode from the community's remembrance and be relegated to archives and academic treatises.

There was more at stake than a painting on a wall, because that painting represented the hopes of generations of San Antonian's who stood with the fiery Congressman when he stood against the most pernicious forms of discrimination at the highest levels of government.

The list of Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez's accomplishments is too long to record in this space and too nuanced to describe - he lived and fought for civil rights when every step, every defense, every bold initiative carried the seeds of deep change and the dangerous backlash that came with standing up for the most marginalized in America. I don't say that lightly, because the effect of the work of the 18-term congressman reverberated across the country - he championed educational equity, banking reform, Civil Rights, Voting Rights, and labor rights. He railed against the war in Vietnam, and he famously called for the impeachment of then Attorney General William Barr. And yet he rejected being called a "Latino leader" or any other kind of ethnic leader for that matter, all the while battling segregation and inequality.

He was a mastermind of the housing reform that enabled many working-class Americans to own a home in which to raise their families, and in the 1980s, in what some have called a precursor to the 2007 financial crisis, Gonzales reacted to a savings and loan crisis that put the savings of millions of Americans in peril. He put together a bailout that saved the industry and the U.S. economy.

This is the Legacy that teetered on the edge of being forgotten, that could have been forgotten if not for the work of San Antonio artist Analy Diego who recreated the original mural, done by Ronald Rocha and with the strong support from San Antonio City Councilman Roberto C. Treviño, the Westside Development Corporation and the San Antonio West Chamber of Commerce that Recreation now has a permanent place in the San Antonio Convention Center that bears his name. And it is there



(Left to Right) City Councilman Robert C. Treviño, San Antonio artists Analy Diego and Ronald Rocha. (Courtesy photo)

that it will continue to tell its story so that Mexican-Americans from San Antonio, from Texas, and from the entire country will come to know, remember and feel pride in one of their own. It's there that Americans from every corner of the country and people from every part of the world will know who

Henry B. was, what he did, and how his proud Community has contributed, defended and worked for our nation.

So, yes, it is a good thing that the mural at Estela's was painted-over because that act, which felt devastating when it happened, has given us an opportunity to tell the Henry B.

story to a wider audience for many years and generations to come.

Henry B. fought for justice and relevance, and it's fitting that the piece of art that was held in dear regard by so many people in his home community will be the way in which his legacy will be remembered.

EVENTOS ESPECIALES



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31 de Mayo de 1936



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Remembering a Fallen Hero

By Lisa Buentello

USMC MSGT Rodney L. Buentello was born June 27, 1973 and left this world on June 8, 2016. Rodney had such a big personality. You either really liked him or really hated him and probably all at the same time. MSgt Buentello served in the Marine Corps for 21 years, was a two-time Purple Heart recipient and survived four combat tours. The Marine Corps was his love and his passion. During his time in the Marine Corps, he made a huge impact in so many lives. As a Gung-ho Marine, he pushed his limits and made sure the Marines did too. Rodney was an avid jokester and loved to make people laugh. He was the only person I know that could get away with saying and doing the most absurd things. People didn't know what to do or how to react to him. Most of the time they would laugh, like did that just happen? He would have this huge smile followed by a hearty contagious laugh.

The struggles of deployment took their toll on him as well as our family. After his 3rd deployment, and two new baby boys, the impact of war started to set in. He began to struggle with sleep, anger, and remorse. The solution was inevitable. He was going to have to get help. Our future as a family depended on it. Counseling was painful and having to relive the loss and feelings of losing so many young Marines in his presence was killing him emotionally. I did the best I could to listen and support him. As a military brat myself, I knew the impact war had from watching my Dad, my Grandfather and my uncles. He struggled with why God had taken his Marines at such a young age. Rodney felt he had lived enough of a life that it should have been him not them. Their lives hadn't even begun. It was moving time again and we were thankful for some of the tools we received to get us to our next duty station.

Deployment came quick and this one hit us all really hard. Our sons were a little older and able to recognize what deployments meant. Ryan, our oldest child together, took it the hardest. As Ryan was saying his good-byes, he told his Dad, "what if you don't come back? what if your gun jams and you can't protect yourself?"

How do you answer that? Rodney assured him that he would do everything in his power to get back home. He told all three boys he was good at his job and nothing was going to keep him from getting back home soon.

Thank God he was right and that would be his last deployment. He dropped papers to retire and we would be back home in San Antonio within a year.

Retirement wasn't all that easy. Jobs were hard to come by. We decided I would go back to work. I got a job at our Alma Mater, John Jay High School. After about 3 months of Rodney sitting at home and not having any successful jobs offers, a position as an in-School Suspension Instructional Assistant came available at John Jay as well. He applied and of course was overly qualified but was given a chance.

Rodney made such an impact and was right where he was supposed to be. As a natural mentor, leader and motivator, students quickly took to him. He started to feel like he had a purpose. He volunteered to help coach the football team and the track team. Without knowing it, this was how he would give back to those Marines he lost. He listened and inspired these young adults. Giving them hope and a taste for what they could achieve.

With the help of the Wounded Warrior Program Rodney was able to find a job that would allow him to utilize his degree in leadership. He made the very hard decision to leave Jay for a second career as a manager for Cintas. He would leave John Jay at the same time school ended which allowed him and the students to say their goodbyes.

We had only 2 weeks before he would start his new job so we cleaned out the shed, did some much needed room improvements and decided we needed a break and wanted some relaxation. Bandera City Park had become a favorite and we enjoyed ourselves the few times we had been plus it was a quick drive. It was a Wednesday, June 8th, 2016 and we knew it would be less crowded so we packed up our truck and headed out. We usually go down to the back part of the river but that day we decided to stay closer to the dam in a spot that seemed calmer.

Some teenagers came to enjoy the spot we were at and we made small talk. They moved on and went closer to the dam. We had just finished setting up and Rodney had attached a rope to the tree for the boys to pull themselves in just in case. Rodney was always very cautious and very prepared when it came to the water. He was an amazing swimmer and could hold his breath for a long period of time. Sometimes he would scare me as to how long he could stay under water.

Just as I sat in my chair and told Rodney how peaceful it was, we heard screaming and one of the teenagers running towards us. Rodney took off. The boys and I followed. Two of the teenagers had tried to walk across the dam and fell in. They were caught in the undertow and bobbing up and down. The water was high from all the rain and the water was rushing down the dam. Rodney yelled for the boys to get the rope. He was trying to keep the teenagers calm and walk them through getting out. I could tell he was starting to get really worried. The boys were crying and Roman, our youngest, kept saying he didn't want his Dad to die. Rodney couldn't take it anymore and decided he had to do something. He went to step on to the dam and turned around to look at me. I told him "Don't" I could see in his eyes he had to do it. I think he thought he was going to walk down the dam and pull them out. When he got half way, the water was too strong and he couldn't hold himself; he fell in. As he fell the impact pushed the girl out. Rodney was trying his best to kick the boy out of the undertow and kept trying to push him. He would go underwater and come back up. At this point the boys were falling apart. Roman was crying and Ryan told Roman that "Daddy was a Marine and he was a good swimmer he is okay; he is going to save them." I tried my best to stay calm and keep them calm. There was a log in the water that was hitting both the boy and Rodney. Rodney used it to push the boy out. A sheriff finally showed up. He had this orange disc with a thin rope he was trying to throw it in the water for Rodney but it was going nowhere. I could see Rodney getting



Remembering a fallen Marine. (Foto by Lisa Buentello)

so tired. He started to lose energy. It's like time was standing still. He just stared at me. I was yelling for him to get closer. I saw him take one last deep breath. I thought he was just going to go deeper in the water and come up the other side. By then fire trucks, a helicopter and ambulance were there. They started moving me and the boys back. I didn't want the boys to see anymore so I took them up the hill to my parents. They were supposed to meet us there. I called them as it was happening to hurry.

When I went back down to the river, they wouldn't let me get closer. The Marshall made me stay with him near his vehicle. I was just waiting to see them pull him out. I finally saw them pull him out on an orange board. I remember thanking God that they got him and smirking because it must've been hard for them he was so muscular and heavy. As they pulled him on to the bank, they covered him with a tarp and I knew he was gone.

Rodney lived his life to help others. His struggles with PTSD because of the loss of his Marines weighed on him. Those teenagers triggered that

pain and he went into survival mode. The Marine Corps trained him to survive and taught him how to save lives. I know in my heart this was God's plan for him.

Rodney impacted so many lives and I know that telling his story and keeping his memory alive along with giving back is the only way to keep his legacy going. In order to continue to motivate and inspire our friends Mark Acuna, Dalia Acuna, Monica Morales, Vincent Morales, Pete Pruneda III, and Lesa Soto have helped me to host an annual golf tournament to raise funds for scholarships for John Jay seniors to follow their dreams. It just made sense to give back to the school that had given us both so much. As a student, at Jay HS, Rodney was heavily involved in sports and it kept him out of trouble. My hope is that the Rodney Lee Buentello Memorial Foundation will help to give back to the community Rodney was so devoted to.

Greater love hath no man, than to lay down his life for another.

—John 15:13

EVENTOS ESPECIALES

SAFC y SAFC SC se asociaron

Por Sendero Deportivo

La empresa, Spurs Sports and Entertainment (SS&E) y su filial San Antonio Fútbol Club (SAFC), que tiene registro en la Segunda División en la liga internacional USL Championship, continúa apoyando el deporte y la economía local.

SAFC bajo la administración del gerente Tim Holt (Managing Director), se ha destacado en la región de El Álamo, donde le ha llevado exitosamente asociarse con entidades del mismo género deportivo, encontrándose con agrupaciones de gran relevancia en el desarrollo del balompié regional.

Recientemente el departamento

de comunicaciones del SAFC que dirigen Preston Petri y Luis Leyva, dieron la noticia en boletín informativo sobre la excelente asociación con la agrupación de desarrollo juvenil “San Antonio City Soccer Club (SACSC)”.

SAFC oficialmente dio a conocer su asociación o afiliación con SACSC, con el cual estarán promoviendo el desarrollo del balompié local y a la vez con opciones de fichar algunos de los jóvenes prospectos que bien podrán desarrollar sus respectivas habilidades que logren promover ser vistos por buscadores de talento en la franquicia patrocinadora y

buscadores de talento en la liga internacional USL Championship.

“Nos interesa haber lanzado este programa deportivo, que conectara a SAFC con clubes juveniles que positivamente se encuentran practicando el fútbol soccer en la región. “SA City SC es nuestra primera organización que mediante su afiliación estará respondiendo con la promoción del desarrollo de su talento juvenil. Con ello iniciamos labor de trabajar en conjunto que nos lleve a obtener buenos resultados en el periodo de la temporada juvenil 2019-2020, así como en el futuro”, dijo Holt.

“San Antonio tiene el honor de

ser la primera ciudad que cuenta con una franquicia profesional SAFC, que tendrá un club juvenil como afiliado, por ello estamos felices y nos sentimos alagados de haber sido elegidos para colaborar en esa gran oportunidad. Esperamos sea una relación duradera”, dijo Clarence Franke, presidente de SACFC.

“Estamos emocionados anunciar afiliación con el primer club juvenil que tiene sede en San Antonio (SACFC)”, dijo Darren Powell, director técnico de SAFC, quien añadió lo siguiente. “Comenzaremos un programa relativo y potencial con SACFC. El

departamento técnico se encargara de que entrenadores y jugadores busquen el desarrollo individual de cada elemento mediante clínicas y programas de desarrollo”, exhorto Powell. En las fotos aparecen: Niños (futbolistas), acompañando a jugadores de SAFC en el partido contra Orange County SC. Mohammad Dmour, fanático con el equipo SAFC. Porra brava del Mission City Firm 118 y Crocketeers. Rebecca Pérez, presentadora oficial de SAFC entregando premio al aficionado Ryan Bjeilard, ganador de la promoción “Twin Peaks Supporter of the Game”. (Fotos por Franco).



FINANCIAL FOCUS

Smart Financial Moves for 'Gig' Economy Workers

By Edward Jones

Edward Jones is a licensed insurance producer in all states and Washington D.C. through Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P. and in California, New Mexico and Massachusetts through Edward Jones Insurance Agency of California, L.L.C.; Edward Jones Insurance Agency of New Mexico, L.L.C.; and Edward Jones Insurance Agency of Massachusetts, L.L.C.

Not that long ago, most people worked for some type of an organization, such as a business or the government or a school district. But today, more and more workers are going their own way and joining what's known as the "gig" economy. If you will be one of them, you'll want to make the right moves to advance your financial goals in what can be a challenging work environment.

But first, you may find some comfort in knowing the prevalence of gig work.

About 36 percent of U.S. workers are now gig workers, according to a study from the Gallup organization, which defines the

gig economy as one made up of a variety of arrangements – independent contractors, online platform workers, contract workers, on-call workers, temporary workers and freelancers. People join the gig economy for many reasons, but most of them, like you, could benefit by considering these actions:

- **Establish your own retirement plan.** When you're a full-time employee, your employer may offer a 401(k) or similar retirement plan. But as a gig worker, you need to save for your own retirement. Fortunately, you've got a lot of attractive options.

Depending on your circumstances, you might be able to open a SEP-IRA or even a "solo" or "owner-only" 401(k), which offers many of the same features of an employer-sponsored 401(k). Both these plans allow you to make pre-tax contributions, which can lower your taxable income. Plus, your earnings can grow on a tax-deferred basis. (Keep in mind that taxes will be due upon withdrawal, and any withdrawals

you make before

you turn 59 ½ may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty.)

- **Create an emergency fund.** Working in the gig economy can bring rewards and risks. And one of those risks is unpredictable – and often uneven – cash flow. This can be a cause for concern during times when you face a large unexpected expense, such as a major car repair or medical bill. To avoid dipping in to your long-term investments to pay for these costs, you should establish an emergency fund containing at least six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account.

- **Address your protection needs.** Many companies provide some life insurance as a benefit to their employees, though the coverage is often inadequate. But, as is the case with your retirement plan, you will need to meet your own protection needs if you work in the gig economy. In addition to purchasing enough life insurance to protect your family, you also may want to consider disability

insurance. A financial professional can help you determine what types of coverage, and how much, you require.

- **Keep track of your expenses.** If you do your gig work out of your home, you may be able to deduct some of your expenses – phone lines, utilities, internet, newspapers, equipment, mileage and so on – from your taxes. Con-

sequently, you will need to track all these costs. And you will need to consult with your tax advisor on what can, and can't, be claimed as a business necessity.

These aren't the only moves you may need to make as a gig worker – but they can help provide you with a steady path in a world in which you can't always tell what lies around the corner.



Have a financial plan if you are non-traditional 9 to 5 worker. (Courtesy photo)

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Martes 28 de mayo hasta el sábado 1 de junio de 2019.....8:00 a.m. hasta 6:00 p.m.

Domingo 2 de junio de 2019.....CERRADO

Lunes 3 de junio hasta el martes 4 de junio de 2019.....8:00 a.m. hasta 8:00 p.m.

28 de mayo de 2019 – JUNE 4, 2019

DOM	LU	MA	MI	JU	VI	SAB
	27 CERRADO	28 *****	29 *****	30 *****	31 *****	1 *****
2 CERRADO	3 *****	4 *****	5	6	7	8 DÍA DE ELECCIÓN

Localidad Principal de Votación Adelantada:

BEXAR COUNTY ELECTION DEPARTMENT.....1103 S. Frio

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Sujeto a cambios

***Bexar County Justice Center cierra a las 6:00 p.m. y está cerrado los fines de semana.

Para más información contacte a la oficina del administrador de Elecciones de Condado Bexar, Jacquelyn F. Callanen, al (210) 335-VOTE (8683).

Aplicaciones para votar por correo se pueden solicitar de Jacquelyn F. Callanen, Secretaria de la votación adelantada, 1103 S. Frío, San Antonio, Texas 78207, o llamando al 210-335-VOTE (8683).

Aplicaciones para una boleta por correo deben recibirse no más tarde de 5:00 pm el 28 de mayo de 2019.

CASA SALUD – HELPING THE GENTE

San Antonio's Premier Primary Care for Patients WITHOUT health insurance.

By Isa Fernandez

I recently threatened legal action dealing with two medical entities that were having a difficult time successfully coordinating the delivery of an already physician-approved medical device for a family member. Each entity as shamelessly incompetent as the other, seemingly unconcerned with the lives of patients (in this case, my mother) requiring immediate medical attention. Despite waiting over a month for this device, the medical entities played an embarrassing game of passing the blame to each other, leaving us waiting and waiting. At one point, an insurance inaccuracy was brought up as the reason for a potential delay, which we proved to be not the case. This isn't surprising given that in this society, medical insurance companies write our healthcare bills (see Obamacare) and we as patients are just numbers who pay the price for the greed-fueled medical and pharmaceutical industries responsible for this legislation, whose goal it seems is to deny care.

In January 2019, Dr Ray Altamirano saw a graphic in a business presentation that sickened him: The richest industry in the United States, more than the tech industry, is the health insurance industry. Within that industry, there are CEO's receiving multimillion dollar quarterly bonuses yet actual physicians are scraping for every penny only to be denied by the insurance company and there's no reform insight. "The patients are paying for premiums, but the doctors are NOT collecting it. It's a system tailored to feed the well-fed and screw the little guy and especially the patient." And what about uninsured patients? They are lost in the abyss with limited access that's expensive and not trustworthy. Recently Dr. Altamirano ran into his mechanic, an old patient of his, who told the story of his current doctor making monthly appointments for labs he didn't need and costing him over \$1500 over 6 months. There needs another to be an option people like him.

As a response to this, Casa Salud, a new Direct Primary Care (DPC) per-visit model was instituted by San Antonio Southside-proud and altruistic couple Dr. Ray Altamirano, MD and his RN wife Raquel in order to help the uninsured, undocumented and exhausted, all of whom deserve the dignity of rapid medical care at a fair price and without dangerous, time-consuming red tape. Their website states clearly – "Casa Salud is dedicated to serving America's most vulnerable population: The Sick Uninsured. We can help You! We are not here to take your time. We are not here to take your money. We are here to get you well without the administrative and insurance company limitations."

This wonderful model of service to our community began on the Southside of San Antonio where Dr. Ray Altamirano grew up, along with his three brothers, to parents who were originally from Coahuila in Northern Mexico. His mother worked at the Levi's factory until it closed in 1992 and his father was a carpenter until he started his own business, a meat market called R & A Meat Market. Ray served as valedictorian for his class at Harlandale High School in 1998, the second member of his family to be awarded the distinction.

After graduation, he attended Texas A & M University at College Station as a Pre-Med student, which served as a "culture shock" due to the lack of ethnic diversity in campus and in the city. After being wait-listed for medical school in Texas, Ray decided to partake in a path to becoming a medical doctor as a student at Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico, a US-based program partnered with New York Medical College which began in the 1970s. The program required four years in Guadalajara, Mexico, (where he said he got "plenty of Vitamin T - tacos, tortillas, tequila, tortas" as well as enjoyment from the rich culture - charros, mariachis, "all born in that state") where he lived and studied for four years. After

that, he spent one year in the Fifth Pathway program through New York Medical College in Staten Island, New York.

After New York, Dr. Altamirano, MD began a three-year residency in Conroe, Texas at the Lonestar Family Medicine Clinic. Although not as diverse as his hometown, NY or Mexico, he realized, "There are a lot of hard-working people who just need help," and there was no one else helping. The demand on residents was intense and notably required delivering 120 children into the world. In 2008, he met his wife-to-be Raquel Barrera, a native of Ixmiquilpan, Hidalgo in Mexico who moved with her family to Conroe, TX in 1994. Raquel was assigned to be the nurse for one day during work at the Lonestar Family Medicaid Clinic where she was working as a Medical Assistant at the time when she met Ray. They shared a sense of humor and a passion for providing healthcare to the most vulnerable - the uninsured and the undocumented. The pair married in 2010 and after residency, moved to San Antonio, TX in 2011 to pursue work and be near family.

Dr. Altamirano's time at Centro Med as a staff physician was professionally fruitful. He made many mentors, including doctors like Dr. Ernesto Parra and Dr. Norma Parra, who have served decades serving the vulnerable and continue to do so with the same passion as day one. But it's the red tape and operational model of the practice and administrative clicking of buttons resulting in delays in care that bothered him most. "It's why I left primary care. I didn't go to medical school to do that. I went to medical school to help people, these people," says Dr. Altamirano who began realize that the high volume -based business model medical offices use now meant less and less time with patients and more time with the computer. With his growing family, Dr Altamirano changed scope entirely and accepted a new position at Santa Rosa Hospital as a nocturnist. The



Raquel Altamirano, RN and Dr. Ray Altamirano, MD, founders of Casa Salud Family Medicine Clinic. (Courtesy photo)

new job provided a 10-day a month schedule, allowing for 20-days with family. This meant a "higher yield as a dad and as a husband," he says. He then began his career as a Free-Standing ER doctor. Though grateful for the opportunity to work on the Southside, he felt the neediest patients did not have access to him "my people on the Southside, people from Mexico without papers who are just sick and want to work. This is the demographic I run into and can't help through this model of practice, and I want to be THEIR doctor, the uninsured and the undocumented. I want to earn their trust and make medical practice how it should be. Between me and and patient!"... And so, Casa Salud was born. While both Raquel and Ray maintain medical roles at notable hospitals, Trans-

plant Cardiothoracic at University Health System and Emergency Care of Floresville as their medical director, respectively, they work together promoting Casa Salud on off-hours to help fill the gap in services for the uninsured, undocumented and low-income families. "Sadly, today's patient is more afraid of the unknown cost for their care than their actual condition," says Dr. Altamirano. "By being 100% transparent, we eliminate that fear and I am allowed to practice pure medicine."

Casa Salud's primary offering of care set at a flat fee of \$100 includes basic lab screenings, (which I'm told provide 90% of patient medical diagnostic information), risk factor assessments and EKGs answer to the immediate needs of the vulnerable and

CASA SALUD ■■■ continued from page 17

save them money. Services are bilingual and identification is not required by patients to receive care (specifically important to the undocumented, many of whom fear retribution), unless they require a controlled substance prescription. Referrals for non-routine care (colonoscopies, women's wellness exams, cancer treatment or other catastrophic care) are given to like-minded medical professionals utilizing the same model of low-cost, no guesswork cost care. Casa Salud includes a "cash price" directory (for heart, eye, skin, every medical need) for care that any of parent referral clinics, helping to avoid any guesswork for pay. Partnerships with doctors, medical and pharmaceutical businesses have resulted in tailored cost-saving care for patients who otherwise would not be able to afford needed care. This information will be publicly posted as a resource to help "drive the market down for the patient" and "just put it out there and promote them (businesses selling medical equipment)," which is mutually beneficial to all. As an example of going above and beyond for patients, Casa Salud worked closely with a pharmaceutical business to

help lower the price of insulin for an elderly woman.

Other metro cities in Texas have the DPC models such as Austin, Dallas and Houston. "SA is trailing," says Ray, "And I want to encourage others providers to practice this way," He invites nurse practitioner students and PA students wanting some tutelage to contact him, "Especially if I can get them now before they get into the health insurance machine we call our current healthcare system. They can do it this way, and will still to make the money and NOT add to the pockets of the insurer."

Patients can take advantage of weekend hours and after-5 week-end hours. Right now, patients find out about services through social media like Facebook and word of mouth from patients.

Hours are by appointment only, Wednesday 6pm -9pm, Friday 6pm-9pm and Sunday 9am-2pm. Please call prior to appointment. For more information, visit <https://casasalud210.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/CasaSalud.9465> or call (210) 343-2500. Casa Salud Family Medicine Clinic - 7127 Somerset Road Ste 104, San Antonio, Texas 78211



Left to Right – Dr. William Elizondo, Dr. Ray Altamirano, Steve Duran, La Prensa Texas CEO/Publisher, Yvette Tello, La Prensa Texas Executive Vice President and Leonard Rodriquez, President/CEO of Westside Development Corporation. (Courtesy photo)

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Día de los Caídos



Steve Walker is a Vietnam Veteran, former Justice of the Peace and Journalist

Por Steve Walker

Mañana celebramos el Memorial Day. Como todos sabemos, es un día festivo federal en los EE. UU. Para los hombres y mujeres que murieron mientras prestaban servicio en las Fuerzas Armadas de los Estados Unidos y son recordados por su servicio a nuestro condado.

Para aquellos que no lo saben, el día festivo, antes conocido como Día de la Decoración, se

celebra todos los años el último lunes de mayo. Se originó después de que la Guerra Civil estadounidense conmemorara a los soldados de la Unión y Confederados que murieron en la Guerra Civil. En el siglo XX, el Día de los Caídos se extendió para honrar a todos los estadounidenses que murieron mientras estaban en el servicio militar.

Aquí, en San Antonio, más conocidos como “Ciudad Militar”, los residentes hacen todo lo posible para honrar a los héroes de guerra fallecidos locales de nuestro país, los sobrevivientes y aquellos que continúan sirviendo en el ejército en todo el mundo.

El Distrito Escolar Independiente de Edgewood y la Escuela Secundaria de Edgewood de 1967 serán co-anfitriones de una de las ceremonias más grandes del Día de los Caídos en San Antonio. La ceremonia anual de conmemoración comienza con un prelude musical a las 9:30 a.m. seguido de ceremonias en el estadio Edgewood Veteran’s Stadium, anteriormente conocido

como Frank Mata Stadium.

El estadio está ubicado en 1650 W. Thompson Place, detrás de Kennedy High School. La semana pasada escribí sobre otra escuela secundaria de Edgewood ISD llamada “La Memorial”, donde tuve la bendición de enseñar allí un año. La clase Edgewood de 1967 tiene la dudosa distinción de perder más graduados como víctimas en la Guerra de Viet Nam que cualquier otra escuela secundaria en San Antonio Metroplex.

Como veterano de Vietnam, (70-71) eso significa algo para mí, personalmente, de aquellos que supe que murieron en combate para incluir a un compañero de clase de 8º grado, Miguel Najjar, de la Escuela Católica de San Gregorio en 1960. Personalmente, he visto a su Nombre grabado en la pared. San Antonio tiene una larga historia de hombres y mujeres jóvenes patriotas de todos los colores y orígenes étnicos dispuestos a servir a los mejores intereses de nuestra nación en tiempos de guerra o paz. Alternativamente asisto a la ceremonia

de Edgewood un año y Fort Sam Houston al siguiente.

El cementerio nacional de Fort Sam Houston presentará simultáneamente su programa del Día de los Caídos en el área de reunión en el lado este del cementerio. Esa ceremonia recibe a congresistas, miembros de la familia VIP, coros estudiantiles, miembros de ROTC, personal en servicio activo, miembros de familias que han perdido a seres queridos en la guerra y muchos otros que conmemoran a nuestros héroes caídos. Ese servicio está bien atendido y está abierto al público.

Históricamente, en el Día de los Caídos, la bandera de los Estados Unidos se eleva enérgicamente a la cima del personal y luego se baja solemnemente a la posición de medio personal, donde permanece hasta el mediodía. La bandera luego se eleva a todo el personal por el resto del día.

La posición de medio personal recuerda a los más de un millón de hombres y mujeres que dieron sus vidas al servicio de su país. Al

mediodía, su memoria es levantada por los vivos que resuelven, no para permitir que su sacrificio sea en vano, sino para levantarse en su lugar y continuar la lucha por la libertad y la justicia para todos.

Nunca olvidemos a nuestros héroes caídos, nos recuerdan las palabras del Himno Nacional.

“Oh, ¿puedes ver a la luz de la madrugada, qué tan orgullosamente saludamos el último destello del crepúsculo?” Cuyas franjas anchas y estrellas brillantes a través de la peligrosa pelea, O’er las murallas que observamos, corrían tan galantemente. Y el resplandor rojo de los cohetes, las bombas que estallaban en el aire, dieron pruebas durante la noche de que nuestra bandera todavía estaba allí; O’er la Bandera de estrellas centelleantes todavía ondea, O’er, la tierra de los libres y la casa de los valientes “.

Y como siempre, escribo “Sólo un pensamiento”.

Steve Walker es un veterano de Vietnam, ex juez y periodista.



Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. (U.S. Army photo by Gregory Ripps) (Photo Credit: U.S. Army)



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