

Highlights from the 2000 Legislative Awards Gala

# LULAC NEWS

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Congressman Joe Baca**

**Women's Conference**

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**LULAC 2000  
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# President's Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LULAC:



Summer is almost here and it's time to prepare for the most exciting event in the Hispanic community, the LULAC National Convention and Exposition. This year's event will gather us in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., for a week filled with celebrity speakers, important seminars and top-notch entertainment.

Our 71<sup>st</sup> annual convention presents LULAC with the exciting opportunity to address issues of critical importance to our community in the political capital of the world. You can expect to hear from Members of Congress, top officials from the Clinton Administration, and the presidential candidates.

We will form our new policy platform for 2001 and bring LULAC's issues to the forefront, while having the chance to discuss those issues with the politicians who can make our agenda a reality. Seminars and workshops will feature expert panelists addressing the issues that affect our communities the most, from the digital divide to economic empowerment.

One of the highlights of the convention, as always, will be the LULAC elections, as our members gather from all over the fifty states and Puerto Rico to choose our national leaders. The LULAC Youth will conduct their own workshops and also elect their leadership.

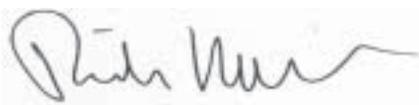
The National Exposition will feature over 160 booths with Fortune 500 companies, government agencies and others displaying their products and services while also recruiting new employees at our Job Fair.

Last but not least, you can expect to be thoroughly entertained throughout the convention as we bring together some of the best entertainment to keep you dancing, laughing and having a great time.

I personally look forward to this year's convention for several reasons. I hope to be elected to another term so that I can continue to represent LULAC nationally and lead the organization to another level. I also look forward to the Washington D.C. convention because it grants us the unique opportunity to thrust LULAC's agenda to the forefront of national issues and present our policy platform to the presidential candidates in an election year where Latinos can make the difference.

I hope to see you all in Washington!

Sincerely,



Rick Dovalina  
LULAC National President

## President Receives LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award

On February 14, 2000, LULAC presented President Bill Clinton with the LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award, becoming the first Hispanic organization to ever honor him inside the White House. The event took place in the East Room, gathering over 200 people to hear the President speak on his past and current Hispanic initiatives.

The President was presented LULAC's highest honor by LULAC National President Rick Dovalina.

"Individuals selected for this award are strong advocates of policies and legislation most beneficial to Hispanics throughout their career," said Dovalina. "This award is recognized throughout the Hispanic community as a symbol of patriotism and commitment to diversity and opportunity for all. William Jefferson Clinton, whose accomplishments for Hispanic Americans have far surpassed those of his predecessors, justly deserves this award."

President Clinton talked about the importance of the census, a raise in the minimum wage and lack of health insurance for Hispanics. He also talked about education and indicated that his budget adds \$800 million to the Hispanic Education Action Plan. He also addressed the LULAC members in the audience.

"I would like to thank all the LULAC members who are here for all you are doing to try to help forge unity among the great diversity within Hispanic America, something many Americans don't know enough about," said Clinton. "For all the differences of ethnicity, national origin, and occasionally a difference in opinion, Hispanics in this nation are united by common values of faith, family, hard work; by a common vision of a unified future."



President Clinton discusses Hispanic initiatives at the White House. (White House photo)



LULAC President Rick Dovalina presents the LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award to President Clinton. (White House photo)

# 71 Years and Going Strong

## 3rd Annual National Legislative Awards Gala Honors National Leaders Serving Hispanics

LULAC celebrated its Third Annual National Legislative Awards Gala on February 15, 2000, paying tribute to nationally recognized leaders that have displayed outstanding service to the Hispanic community throughout their careers. The black-tie event, created to highlight critical issues affecting Hispanic Americans while recognizing key leaders who serve the Hispanic community, was held at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

LULAC presented awards to California Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera. A brief video was also shown of the ceremony where LULAC National President Rick Dovalina presented the LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award to President Bill Clinton the day before (see page 3).

Filled to capacity, the audience included distinguished members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Clinton Administration, corporate executives, foreign ambassadors, and other Hispanic leaders.

### President's Award

LULAC National President Rick Dovalina presented the prestigious LULAC President's Award to California Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard. The special honor was given to Roybal-Allard, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), for her lifelong commitment to improving the lives of her constituency and the Hispanic community as a whole.

In 1992, she became the first-ever Mexican American woman elected to the United States Congress. In 1998, she became the first Latina to chair the CHC and the first Latina ever appointed to the powerful House Appropriations Committee. She has been a constant ally fighting for improved public schools and school safety, lowering the high Hispanic dropout rate, increasing the minimum wage and stimulating economic growth for the Hispanic community.

Roybal-Allard pledged to continue fighting for fair and equitable policies for Latinos and vowed to help the Administration, other Members of Congress, and the

nation to realize that Latino issues are the issues of all Americans.

"While we will always work on the core issues of immigration and bilingual education," she began, "I believe that it is important for the country to understand that Latinos, like every American, care about our children's education, accessible and affordable health care, foreign policy, economic development, social security, job and career opportunities in areas such as the entertainment industry, and we care about a safe and healthy environment for our children."

She asserted that the Latino community must be at the table for all aspects of the policy-making process, and that with LULAC's help, the message was being heard loud and clear. She touted the victories of the CHC, including getting an additional \$20 million for Hispanic Serving Institutions and \$84 million for the HIV/AIDS program.

She also asked the audience to help her with two important causes, confirming Judge Richard Paez to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (which happened on March 9, 2000), and ensuring that the Latino community achieves an accurate census this year.

"As the fastest growing minority in this



**Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) addresses the crowd after receiving the LULAC President's Award.**

country, through the census, Latinos can significantly increase their political representation nationwide, and political representation is critical if we are to continue to make significant gains to the quality of life for Latinos in this country," she added.

### National Legislative Awards

Army Secretary Louis Caldera was awarded the first LULAC National Legislative Award of the evening. Caldera was chosen for his outstanding service to the Hispanic community and for improving diversity throughout the Army. He told the audience that, since his appointment, the Army has



**LULAC National Vice President for the Southwest Hector Flores presents Army Secretary Louis Caldera with the LULAC National Legislative Award.**

doubled the number of Hispanic admissions to Westpoint, increased the number of ROTC scholarships for Hispanic Serving Institutions, expanded the Army's Junior ROTC programs, and initiated efforts for soldiers to take courses through distance learning.

"The Army is committed to being a strong partner with families, a partner that helps communicate the right message to our children, about the importance of education and about the importance of service to our nation," said Caldera.

He also announced that in the upcoming months he would unveil two new pilot programs that would help Hispanic youth get their education while serving in the Army (see page 23). *GED Plus* allows high school drop-outs to attain the equivalent of a high school diploma in exchange for two years of service after getting their GED. *College First* lets high school graduates attend two years of college before entering the Army.

"My vision for the Army is a place of opportunity for young men and women of every background, a place where we will eliminate the under-representation of Hispanic-Americans at every rank from Private to Four-Star General," he added.

Florida Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen was the second recipient of the LULAC National Legislative Award. The first-ever Hispanic woman elected to Congress, Ros-Lehtinen began her political career in 1982, when she was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. She has supported legislation to promote drug-free work environments and tuition assistance programs for Florida college students. She is so popular in her district that she ran unopposed



Miss Puerto Rico Universe 2000, Zoraida Fonalledas, discusses Latina leadership.



Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) receives the LULAC Legislative Award from LULAC Vice President for the Northeast, Regla González.

the last three election cycles.

"I can't believe that God and the voters have given me such a blessing and wonderful opportunity to try to help people that have nowhere else to turn to," said Ros-Lehtinen.

### Highlights

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Millennium Baby. Gabriel Angel Barrientos was the first baby born in the United States in the year 2000. His parents are undocumented immigrants from Mexico who were discriminated against by the hospital that delivered the child. LULAC was honored to present the baby and his family a \$1000 check to go towards his future education.

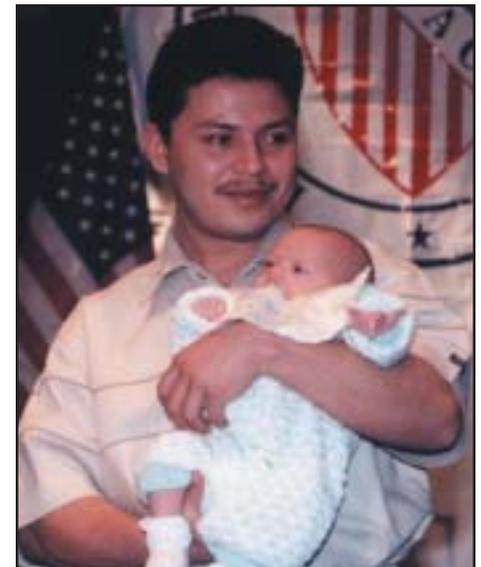
The event was presided over by *Mistress of Ceremonies* Barbara Alvarez, CBS correspondent for the *Early Show*, where she contributes *The Barb Wire*, a segment focused on interesting people and unique news stories. In her introduction, Ms. Alvarez talked about her struggle to succeed as a Cuban exile in the United States. She also highlighted the recent deals signed by the major television networks to increase Latino representation on camera, behind the scenes and on the executive level, while thanking LULAC for helping to make it happen.

LULAC was honored to have Miss Puerto Rico Universe 2000 Zoraida Fonalledas in attendance. Ms. Fonalledas traveled all the way from Puerto Rico to address the gala audience and she discussed the barriers that Latinas have faced in their struggle for equal opportunity and economic success. She praised LULAC for its hard

work to advance the economic, educational and social condition of Hispanics in the United States.

Dr. Carlos Pesquera, President of the New Progressive Party of Puerto Rico and candidate for Governor of Puerto Rico in 2000, was on hand to lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Newly elected California Congressman Joe Baca was also in attendance to provide the invocation.

President Dovalina presented a check of \$1.8 million to 48 non-profit organizations for their efforts toward improving the under-representation of Latinos in the media. The money was a result of a lawsuit filed by LULAC against Trinity Broadcasting for their fraudulent purchase of media outlets reserved for minorities.



Gabriel Angel Barrientos holds his son, Gabriel Jr., the Millennium Baby.

# Congressman Joe Baca

## One-on-One Interview with Former LNEsc Board Member

Congressman Joe Baca (D-CA) is the newest member of Congress. He was elected to serve on November 16, 1999, in a special election to fill the seat of recently deceased and longtime Congressman George Brown. Congressman Baca took time out of his busy schedule on Capitol Hill to talk to LULAC News Editor Scott Gunderson Rosa.

**LN: Please describe your past affiliation with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) or the LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNEsc).**

**CB:** First of all, I used to work for SER-Jobs for Progress, this is back in the 1970s, and I was Counseling Specialist out of the National Office. So I used to go around to all of the SER projects in San Antonio, Brownsville, California, Arizona and New Mexico. I also became a member of the LULAC chapter in San Bernardino and Riverside, and then I served on the Board of Directors for the Pomona LNEsc in trying to get students into higher education through the services provided by LNEsc.

**LN: What made you decide to go into politics?**

**CB:** Two professors asked me to run for the Board of Trustees because they knew I was very active with public relations and they knew my educational background and that I was a counselor at a high school and university. So they approached me to run for Board of Trustees for San Bernardino Community College. They thought that I had appeal across the board and they never had a Latino on the board since the institution was first built back in 1925. Being in public relations and working fifteen years with GTE gave me the exposure of getting others to believe in what I was doing, which was the common good of the community and being a governmental liaison. I was already dealing with civic organizations and the community and that was the beginning of me getting involved with politics.

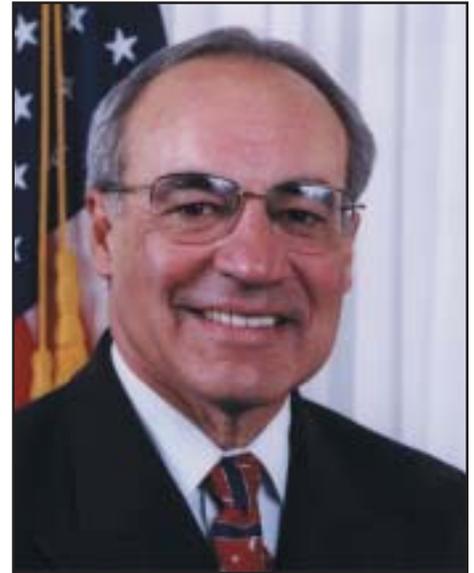
**LN: After successfully winning that race,**

**did you ever see yourself as a Congressman somewhere down the road?**

**CB:** No, at that point I was encouraged to run for the assembly seat in 1988. That was the first time I ran for a political partisan position, because all the positions I had to that point were non-partisan, you just represented the whole district. I ran against an incumbent Democrat and I had a lot of support from the Democratic Party, but in the end I was used as a pawn and I lost. In 1990, I ran again, even though they told me not to. I ran a grassroots campaign and lost, but came closer to winning and I only spent \$15,000. That just shows that I'm a fighter, one that stands up and one not willing to quit. I finally won in 1992 and served in the Assembly for three terms under term limits. Five of those six years I served in leadership positions and in 1998 I ran and successfully won a seat in the California State Senate. On November 16, 1999 I won the special election to fill the Congressional seat vacated by George Brown's death. The actual fight was in the primary and once again I beat the odds. I ran against his widow and everyone said that I couldn't beat a widow because no widow has lost in the last hundred years. I was still able to win the primary and went on to win the general election. I was sworn in on November 18, 1999, and I was the first person ever to vote on the budget on the same day they were sworn in.

**LN: What are the most critical issues facing the Latino community right now?**

**CB:** There are many critical issues that are facing us right now. I think the number of uninsured Hispanics, in terms of health, is a major problem impacting us when you look at nutrition and the effects that it has on our children in school. I think bilingual education is very critical in the effects it has on learning. Many students that don't have bilingual ed programs, like in California where we have English Only, it makes it difficult for the students to make the transitions and they fall further behind. They aren't as competitive because they haven't been able to learn as quickly. Late amnesty is another area



because many individuals applied for citizenship but because of the deadlines, were never processed even though they were eligible. Education in general is important right now because if we look at our *barrios*, the libraries need to have the tools and equipment and the books, to be as competitive, so that our kids can be prepared and progress in the 21st century. We also need more teachers in the classrooms and they need to be more reflective of what the community looks like. That helps to build self-esteem and confidence because the students' role models look like them and they can relate to them. Another issue that's critical is employment in terms of job opportunities and contracting out to minority-owned businesses. We need to assure that we have the same opportunities to be just as successful in our communities.

**LN: What are you doing now or planning to do to address some of these issues?**

**CB:** I'm dealing with the education issues right now by trying to introduce legislation that deals with technology, bilingual education and advancement. I'm looking at safety programs and classroom reduction. I've been working a lot in those areas and will continue to be a strong advocate and a strong voice wherever it needs to be. I'm working on the H1-B immigration program and trying to get labor to come aboard so that we can work together on legislation in that area.

**LN: Most members of the Hispanic Caucus represent majority Latino districts, how does it make your job different representing a 66 percent white district?**

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# Above and Beyond The Call of Duty

## Mexican Immigrant Awarded Nation's Highest Honor for Vietnam Heroics

On March 16, 1966, Alfred Rascon and his platoon were in the Long Khanh Province of Vietnam. In the middle of intense fire, Rascon, a medic, was attending to a fatally wounded machine gunner when he was hit with shrapnel and shot in the hip.

Although the bullet traveled parallel to his spine and came out of his shoulder, he still managed to carry ammo from the dead soldier to another who was running out. That's when several grenades went off in his face, ripping open his mouth. He noticed two more grenades fall close to two of his fellow soldiers.

Despite his wounds, he managed to cover both of their bodies and absorb the blasts himself. Even more, he got up from that, barely able to walk, and covered an unmanned machine gun that the enemy was about to capture, saving his platoon.

All of that is one of the reasons President Bill Clinton honored Alfred Rascon with the nation's highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Rascon, born in Mexico, moved with his family to Oxnard, CA when he was just a young boy. Growing up near three military bases, he was enamored with the Armed Forces. After graduating high school, he enrolled in the Army before even becoming a U.S. citizen.

"On that distant day, in that faraway place, this man gave everything he had, utterly and selflessly, to protect his platoon mates and the nation he was still not yet a citizen of," said President Clinton. "Looking at his lifetime of service to our nation, it would be hard to imagine a better definition of citizenship."

Rascon, when asked why he volunteered to go to Vietnam when not even a citizen, said "I was always an American in my heart."

Earning the nation's highest honor didn't seem to phase Rascon. President

Clinton offered many kind words.

"On behalf of all Americans, and especially on behalf of your platoon members who are here today, I thank you for what you mean to our country," said Clinton. "Thank you for what you gave that day and what you have given every day since."

While accepting his award, he recognized his platoon members and asked them to stand.

"What you see before you is the common valor that was done every day, and those of you who served in the military, and continue to serve in the military, are very much aware of that," said Rascon. "What you do every day, it is duty, honor and country."

Rascon had previously been awarded the Silver Star, but the request for his Medal of Honor was somehow lost in paperwork. After his platoon mates persisted, Defense Secretary William Cohen finally approved the honor after 34 years.

After the horrific battle on that day in



**President Bill Clinton honors Alfred Rascon with the Congressional Medal of Honor. (White House photo)**

March 1966, Rascon was sent to Japan where he recuperated in a hospital and was discharged in May of that same year. In 1967 he became a naturalized citizen and he went on to graduate from the Army's Infantry Officers Candidate School.

In 1970 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry and he returned to Vietnam as an officer in 1972. In 1983 he began working for the Justice Department and he is currently the Inspector General of the Selective Service System.

Rascon is not the first immigrant to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Immigrants were actually awarded one out of five of the 3,427 authorized since the honor was created in 1861. There are currently over 60,000 immigrants serving in the United States Armed Forces.



**Army Secretary Louis Caldera with Congressional Medal of Honor winner Alfred Rascon. (White House photo)**

# LULAC 2000 National Women's Conference

“Communicating with One Voice; *Comunicando un Mensaje Común*,” was the theme for the 2000 LULAC National Women’s Conference, March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1, 2000. On Census Day, Latinas from the United States and Puerto Rico gathered in Dallas to discuss the most important issues facing women in the new millennium.

“The result of the millennial census will serve notice to politicians that Latinas can no longer be ignored,” said Ana Valenzuela Estrada, LULAC National Vice President for Women. “We gathered to celebrate this day, that will forever document the growing clout of Latinas in this nation, and to coordinate our efforts to ensure that we can promote the Latina Family Agenda.”



Ana Valenzuela Estrada, LULAC National VP for Women, welcomes the participants of the 2000 Women’s Conference.

Sponsored by SBC Communications, Soloella.com, LNESc, and Pima County Community College, the event gathered over 190 people that included not only the distinguished women of LULAC, but also youth, young adults and even quite a few men.

“We’re extremely happy that so many people came together to support LULAC women and share in an open dialogue of issues that are critical to the nurturing of our women and community,” said Valenzuela Estrada. “Latinas are stepping out and taking lead roles in all facets of our society.”



(L-R) Keynote speaker Edna Olivo Winnette, Director of Small and Emerging Business at DFW Airport; Ana Valenzuela Estrada, LULAC VP for Women; Rebecca Aguilar, local news anchor; Kate Johnson, Major, U.S. Army; and Mary Palomares get together at the Awards Banquet to close the 2000 Women’s Conference.

The conference featured a full day of fascinating speakers, with morning workshops covering domestic violence, entrepreneurship, financing higher education, and self-esteem and professional development.

The Leadership Luncheon included a brief welcome by LULAC National President Rick Dovalina and also a \$200,000 check presentation by Del Velasquez, Director of Diversity Marketing at the GTE Service Corporation, to the LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNEsc).

Elizabeth “Liz” Montoya, Associate Deputy Administrator at the Small Business Administration (SBA), delivered the keynote speech at the luncheon. She proudly boasted that Latinas were becoming small business owners faster than any other segment of so-

ciety and encouraged the young women and students to strive to keep those numbers growing. She also highlighted the many programs and services that SBA provides to help Latinas take the giant step of owning their own business.

Sally Haenelt Cain from the U.S. Department of Education, Region IV, also addressed the participants, speaking about the importance of education and her commitment to the Hispanic community. She also promoted programs that the Department of Education offers that assist Latinas.

Afternoon workshops discussed issues of leadership and empowerment, teen pregnancy and parenting, and cultural awareness.

(continued on page 25)



Conference participants prepare for a full day of activities.

# Latina on The Rise

## Elvia Morales Overcomes the Odds

Elvia Morales is a very special young lady. On February 14, 2000, she had the privilege of sharing the podium with U.S. President Bill Clinton, LULAC National President Rick Dovalina and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson at a White House ceremony honoring President Clinton with the LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award. This unique opportunity allowed her to not only share her strong educational background with ranking members of the Administration, Members of Congress, LULAC National Board members, and Latino corporate executives, but also to rekindle her responsibility as a role model for young Latinas/Latinos and all young people.

“Standing on the same stage with the President of the United States and the President of LULAC is an experience I’ll never forget,” said Morales. “It was clearly the most special moment of my life and a sign that all of my hard work has paid off.”

A product of sacrifice and perseverance, Elvia Morales’ path to success was by no means an easy one. Although she was born in the United States, Elvia grew up in Mexico. She returned to the United States with her father at the age of thirteen and enrolled in middle school. She was quickly promoted to advanced Math and English courses, but due to constant moving, she developed an inconsistent academic background. Despite those challenges, by the end of her freshman year in high school, Elvia was on course to go to college and prepare herself for higher education.

However, the path to college took another left turn when her guardian uncle died and once again interrupted her education. Because of her uncle’s sudden death, Elvia had to return to Mexico and was unable to attend school. It wasn’t until two years later that she moved to Salinas, California and enrolled in Alisal High School. They told her that if she wanted to graduate on time she would need to make up credits by taking additional after school and independent study courses. Elvia took it all in stride and successfully com-

pleted all requirements and graduated with her class.

In addition to her strenuous course work, Elvia found time to get involved in extracurricular activities. As a senior at Alisal High School, she joined the Salinas local LULAC youth council. This experience helped enrich her personal and academic life. “Through the LULAC Youth, I was exposed to different colleges and universities,” said Morales. “I was able to attend conferences and field trips to college campuses. I also enjoyed the moral support from other members and their families.” In retrospect, participating in LULAC was an invaluable asset to her high school experience and a timely graduation.

As is typically the case with first generation college students such as Elvia, she faced systematic and financial obstacles. Once again LULAC was there to help. “The tremendous investment that organizations such as LULAC make in our country’s youth help so many of us make it through college,” she stated. Elvia was the recipient of two consecutive LULAC scholarships—the Salinas local council and the LULAC national award. It was a wise investment and one that without doubt assisted her enormously. “The first year of college is such a critical transition year,” she continued. “Luckily, LULAC was there to help me through it.”

Elvia stayed on course with the end result culminating in a B.A. in Government from California State University in Sacramento in May 1999. She is currently working for MCA Enterprises, where she is a consultant for education policy, bilingual education, migrant



**Elvia Morales tells her personal success story at the ceremony honoring President Clinton with the LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award. (White House photo)**

education, and student financial aid services. She is also preparing to attend graduate school at the John Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University.

These accomplishments have not come easy, and she is aware of the many students that don’t always get the same opportunities that she did.

“I believe it is not only a social responsibility, but also a commitment to ensure the educational opportunities we enjoy today are available for future generations,” said Morales. “I am the first in my family to earn a college degree, but I can guarantee I won’t be the last.”



**Elvia Morales shakes LULAC President Rick Dovalina’s hand as President Bill Clinton and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson applaud. (White House photo)**

# Texas LULAC Holds First Legislative Awards Gala

On March 18, 2000, Texas LULAC held its first Legislative Awards Gala. The event honored those individuals who have made significant contributions to the political empowerment of Latinos in Texas. In addition, Texas LULAC recognized two corporations whose support has been invaluable to the growth and sustenance of the organization.

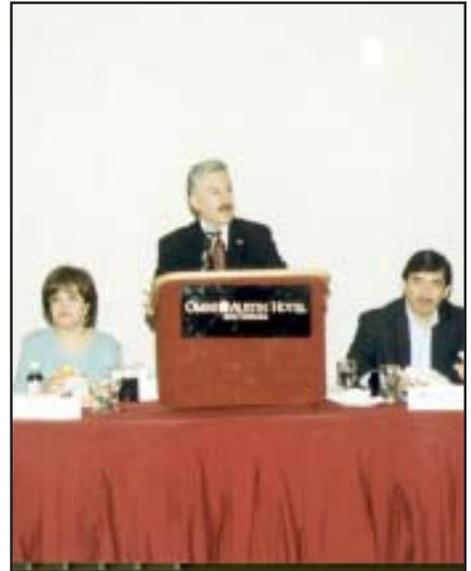
Honored at the Saturday evening Legislative Awards Gala were the Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos, the Honorable Irma Rangel, the Honorable Al González, and lobbyist Helen Soto Knaggs. The Honorable Carlos Truan received the Texas LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award. Corporate Friendship Awards were presented to Southwestern Bell and Chase Bank.

A life-long advocate for the Hispanic community, State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos has made public education a major priority. He has successfully passed more than two dozen pieces of legislation which have led to a reduction of the school dropout rate across Texas. He has also sponsored significant legislation to eliminate abuse and protect the rights of our most vulnerable citizens: the children, elderly, disabled and poor. In addition, he has worked tirelessly to register Latino voters, champion Latino issues, and

support Latino candidates for elected and appointed offices.

State Representative Irma Rangel is the first Mexican American woman ever elected to the Texas House of Representatives and the first woman elected to serve as Chair of the Mexican American Legislative Caucus. A great champion of Higher Education, she chairs the House Standing Committee on Higher Education and, in 1997 following the *Hopwood* decision, she opened the doors of opportunity for all students who want to go to college by passing a law which mandates that all students in the top 10% of their high school graduating class be automatically admitted to any Texas college or university. This legislation has led to similar legislation being passed in state legislatures across the country, notably in California.

Justice Al Gonzales is the second Latino and the first Republican Latino to serve on the Texas Supreme Court. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Justice Gonzales served as the legal advisor to Texas Governor George W. Bush and as Texas' 100th Secretary of State. Justice Gonzales has also served as a board director for the State Bar Association of Texas, as President of the Houston Hispanic Bar As-



**Texas State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos, Legislative Award winner, speaks at the Texas Quarterly State Board Meeting.**

sociation, and as the President of Leadership Houston.

Mrs. Helen Soto Knaggs, Director of Governmental Affairs at GTE, is the third woman and the first Latina lobbyist in Texas. Deeply committed to the advancement of Latinas, she is the past chair of Women's Issues for the Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce. An exemplary role model, she has overcome tradition, bias, naivete, and a multitude of other obstacles to achieve corporate success and a place in history for her accomplishments as an Hispanic woman.

A 32-year veteran of the Texas Legislature, State Senator Carlos Truan has served longer than any other member of the Texas Senate and became the first Hispanic Dean of the Texas Senate in 1995. Throughout his service, Senator Truan has remained focused on education, health and the environment.

As a State Representative, he authored both the Texas Bilingual Education Act and the Texas Adult Education Act. He also authored the Texas Public Housing Authority Act, the Texas Child Care Licensing Act, and the Interstate Placement of Children Act.

In the Senate, he led the South Texas Higher Education Initiative, aggressively seeking the development of more professional programs. He created the Childhood Lead Registry, the Birth Defects Registry, and the Diabetes Registry. He established an international trade and technology center, successfully stopped several anti-environment bills to protect Texas air and water, sponsored the vast majority of major legislation seeking to



**Texas State Director Roman Palomares (left) and Texas Chief of Staff Denise Nuño (right) pose with award winners Hon. Al González, Texas Supreme Court Justice; Helen Soto Knaggs, lobbyist; Hon. Carlos Truan, Texas State Senator; and his wife Elvira Truan.**



**Texas State Director Roman Palomares with Corporate Friendship Award winner Dave López, President of Southwestern Bell Texas.**

improve the lives of Texas residents living in *colonias*, and fine-tuned the Economically Distressed Areas Program in every session since its initial passage in 1989. He also authored the bill making Cesar Chavez Day an official state holiday.

But LULAC has always played a key role in the lives of Senator Truan and his wife, Elvira, who have been members of LULAC for more than 40 years. Elvira Truan was First Runner-up in the very first Feria de las Flores pageant in Corpus Christi, where Senator Truan was then serving as the President of LULAC Council #1. Their first date was to a LULAC banquet where he was the Master of

Ceremonies. And LULAC Charter members Luis Wilmot and Joe Garza represented Senator Truan with Elvira's parents, as was the custom then when requesting a woman's hand in marriage. Several LULAC members participated in their wedding, including Past National LULAC President William Bonilla and his wife, Sue. Since then Senator Truan has served LULAC as District Director, Deputy State Director, State Executive Director, and National Executive Director.

For his tireless service to the Hispanic community and the State of Texas, for his outstanding achievements, and for his lifelong commitment to our beloved organization, it was fitting that Texas LULAC presented him with the very first Texas LULAC Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The civil rights movement would have amounted to nothing without those dedicated individuals - legislators, lobbyists, judges and others- who have worked to preserve, protect and enforce our civil liberties," said Roman Palomares, Texas LULAC State Director. "We are very proud and grateful to those individuals that we honored this year for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the political empowerment of Latinos in Texas."

Texas LULAC also presented Corporate Friendship Awards to Southwestern Bell and Chase Bank. Southwestern Bell recently presented Texas LULAC with a grant for \$200,000 for the administration of the Texas LULAC State Office over the next 3 years. Chase Bank has provided the office space for the Texas LULAC State Office.



**LULAC President Rick Dovalina with Corporate Friendship Award winner Bobbie Salgado, Vice President for Community Development at Chase Bank of Texas.**

## Texas LULAC Opens First State Office

The legislative gala festivities kicked off Friday with an evening reception celebrating the grand opening of the Texas LULAC State Office in Austin, Texas. The Texas LULAC State Office is the first in the nation and is the pilot for LULAC's plan to establish state offices across the U.S. LULAC National President Rick Dovalina, as well as past National Presidents Oscar Moran and Belen Robles, both Texans, were present for the event. The keynote speaker was State Senator Frank Madla, Jr., immediate past chair of the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus.

"This is an important milestone for Texas LULAC," said Roman Palomares, Texas LULAC State Director. "Our new LULAC State Office will serve as a central point of contact for gathering and disseminating information for our growing and increasingly active membership. In addition, this office will allow us to develop stronger relationships with our State Legislators and to keep closer tabs on legislative issues and committee hearings."

The Texas LULAC State Office is located in the Chase Bank at 700 La Vaca, Suite 130, Austin, Texas 78701. The telephone number is (512) 477-7910. Dario Chapa is the Texas LULAC Executive Director.



**LULAC National President Rick Dovalina (left) and Texas State Director Roman Palomares (right) pose with Denise Nuño, who was appointed Texas LULAC Chief of Staff.**

# Puerto Rico Celebrates its U.S. Citizenship

On March 5, 2000, the people of Puerto Rico gathered at the island's capitol in San Juan to celebrate their United States Citizenship. Over 90,000 people attended the event, complete with their Puerto Rican and American flags. Attendees included not only native Puerto Ricans, but also Cubans, Dominicans and other Latino residents of the island. Not even the organizers expected such an outpour of patriotism running through the streets of Old San Juan.

"We are proud of our citizenship and this celebration symbolizes the deep patriotic emotions that we feel toward the United States," said Elsie Valdes, LULAC Puerto Rico State Director. "There are thousands of people here today reaffirming our loyalty and commitment to America. The time has come for the U.S. Congress to allow us the opportunity to exercise our right of self-determination."

U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO) and Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) were keynote speakers for the event. Gephardt said that if he becomes Speaker of the House next year he will introduce a bill promoting self determination in order to solve, once and for all, the island's 500-year-old predicament.

"What Puerto Rico wants is what America wants," said Gephardt.



**Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Puerto Rico State Senator Lucy Arce, U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt (D-MO) and LULAC Vice President for the Southwest Hector Flores help Puerto Rico celebrate its U.S. citizenship.**

Cong. Kennedy praised Puerto Ricans for their patriotism and said that he was proud to participate in such an exciting celebration.

"Me siento parte de esta gran comunidad puertorriqueña," said Kennedy, addressing the crowd in Spanish.

LULAC National VP for the Southwest Hector Flores also took part in the march, flying in from Dallas to show the overall support of the Latino community for Puerto Rico. He joined over 2,000 local LULAC participants.

"This is a magnificent display of feeling connecting to the American experience, the American flag, citizenship and everything it represents in this world," said Flores. "If you look to the sky, the sun of democracy is

shining on this event and the thousands of people here to celebrate."

For many in attendance, the celebration represented more than just a demonstration. Puerto Ricans have waited more than 100 years to express their free will in a federally mandated plebiscite. This was an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to show that they treasure their relationship with America and ask the Congress and the Administration to work on their behalf.

"We have always supported America and we have been there to support the fifty states when the country was at war," said Valdes. "Now we would like the chance to fully participate in the American political system and not be regarded as lesser citizens."



Over 90,000 people, including many members of LULAC, poured into the streets of San Juan to show their American patriotism.



**Building Unity For The New Millennium**  
**71st LULAC National Convention**  
**Washington, DC • June 25–July 1, 2000**

7000 Participants  
125 Exhibitors  
100 Panelists & Speakers  
Presidential Candidates  
National Training Institute  
Media Training  
Youth Conference  
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Job Fair  
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**LULAC 2000**

# Convention Program

## Sunday, June 25

1 to 5 pm	LULAC National Convention Registration
1 to 5 pm	National Training Institute Registration
6 to 9 pm	Opening Reception

## Monday, June 26

### Theme: Getting to Parity --

### Hispanic Employment in the Federal Government

7 am to noon	LULAC National Convention Registration
8 to 8:30am	LULAC National Training Institute Opening Ceremonies
8:30 to 9:15	<i>Empowerment Through Education</i>
9:20 to 10:00	<i>Taking Advantage of the Census 2000</i>
10:15 to 11:30	<i>Your Personal Development Plan</i>
Noon to 2 pm	Friends of LULAC-Federal Recognition Luncheon
2 pm to 5 pm	Registration continues
2 pm to 5 pm	<i>Hispanic Employment Initiatives Forum</i>

## Tuesday, June 27

### Theme: Government/Grassroots Partnerships - A Formula for Success

7 am to noon	LULAC National Convention Registration
7:30 to 9 am	Law Enforcement Awards Breakfast
9 am to 10:30	<i>Principle-Centered Leadership</i>
10:30 to 11:45	<i>Mediation and Arbitration: "The Cost of Compromise"</i>
Noon to 2 pm	<i>Salute to Corporate America</i> Luncheon
2 pm to 5 pm	Registration continues
2 pm to 3:30	<i>Pathways to One America in the 21st Century</i>
3:30 to 5 pm	<i>Rising Above the Millennium Challenge: "The Equality Equation"</i>
7 pm to 12 pm	Ambassadors Reception at Mexican Cultural Institute

## Wednesday, June 28

### Theme: Economic Empowerment-The New Civil Rights Agenda

7 am to noon	LULAC National Convention Registration
9 am to 11:30	<i>The Digital Divide: "The Haves and Have Nots"</i>
10am to noon	Exhibit Opening Ceremony
Noon to 2 pm	Millennium Luncheon
2 pm to 5 pm	Registration continues
2 pm to 5 pm	Exhibit Area Open
2 to 2:30 pm	National Assembly—Committee Assignments

2:30 to 3:50	<i>Empowering the Hispanic Community in the New Economy</i>
4 pm to 5:20	<i>Smart Money Management: Expert Advice on Purchasing and Investing</i>
4 pm to 5:20	<i>Latino Maturity: Aging in the New Millennium</i>
4 pm to 5:20	<i>Latinos: The Future of Organized Labor</i>
7 pm to 1 pm	Washington Banquet and Casino Night

## Thursday, June 29

### Theme: Redefining the Latino Image

7 am to noon	LULAC National Convention Registration
9 am to noon	Exhibit Area Open
9 am to 10:20	<i>New Trends in Civil Rights and Social Justice</i>
9 am to 10:20	<i>Puerto Rico - USA in the 21st Century: An Integrated Social Economy</i>
10:30 to 11:50	<i>Advancing Latinos in the Media and Entertainment Industry</i>
Noon to 2 pm	Unity Luncheon
2 pm to 5 pm	Registration Continues
2 pm to 5 pm	Exhibit Area Open
2:30 to 3:50	<i>Bridging the Digital Divide</i>
2:30 to 3:50	<i>Media Training</i>
4 pm to 5:20	<i>Immigration: Time for a New Amnesty?</i>
4 pm to 5:20	<i>Latino Diversity and Multiculturalism: Creating a Cross-Cutting Agenda</i>
4 pm to 5:20	<i>Reshaping Latino Image in the U.S. Armed Forces</i>
7 pm	Youth & Young Adult Awards Banquet

## Friday, June 30

### Theme: Ending the Crisis in Hispanic Education

7 am to noon	LULAC National Convention Registration
7:30 to 9 am	Scholarship Breakfast
9 am to noon	Exhibit Area Open
9 am to 10:20	<i>Latinas: The Challenges Ahead</i>
9 am to 10:20	<i>Leadership Development: Emerging Strategies for the New Millennium</i>
10:30 to 11:40	<i>Community-Based Solutions to Lowering the Hispanic Dropout Rate</i>
Noon to 2 pm	Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon
2 pm to 5 pm	Registration continues
2 pm to 4 pm	LULAC Policy Summit
2 pm to 4 pm	Exhibit Area Open
5 pm to 7 pm	Presidential Reception
7 pm to 1 am	Presidential Awards Banquet & Ball

## Saturday, July 1

8 am to 3 pm	National Assembly & Election of Officers
8 pm to 12 am	Noche de Puerto Rico

## Convention Location

Omni Shoreham Hotel  
 2500 Calvert St., NW  
 Washington, D.C. 20008  
 Reservations (800) 843-6664  
 Main Number (202) 234-0700  
 Guest FAX (202) 265-7972  
 Rates \$119/Single, Double, Triple or Quad Occupancy

## Air Transportation

American Airlines is the official airline for the 2000 LULAC National Convention. American Airlines will offer special discounts to our attendees. Please contact American Airlines or your travel agent and mention the LULAC Starfile number to receive your discount.

American Airlines (800) 433-1790

**Star File # 7460UJ**

# The 2000 LULAC National Convention & Expo

## 2000 Highlights

- Celebrity Speakers
- Presidential Candidates
- Top Notch Entertainment
- Washington Casino Night
- Hispanic Unity Luncheon
- Youth/Young Adults Awards
- Women's Luncheon
- Presidential Banquet
- 2000 LULAC Elections

## LULAC Expo

A three-day expo showcasing products and services of major corporations, organizations, and government agencies.

## Youth Conference

A three-day conference for Hispanic youth featuring workshops and panel discussions with national leaders.

**Come Join LULAC in the Nation's Capital for the M**



# osition • Washington, D.C. • June 25– July 1

## Seminars

Three days of seminars will focus on key issues facing Hispanics:

- Digital Divide
- Immigration
- Civil Rights
- Economic Empowerment
- Education
- Money Management
- Latinos in Media
- Puerto Rico
- Diversity & Multiculturalism
- Women's Issues
- Leadership Development

## National Training Institute

An intensive training program for government and private-sector employees to enhance career development, employee relations, and manage change. Topics include:

- Human Resource Initiatives
- Career Enhancement
- Strengthening Diversity
- Principle-Centered Leadership

## Young Adult Conference

An intensive leadership training program for college-age young adults in collaboration with the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute.

## Job Fair

In conjunction with the National Expo, many Fortune 500 companies & government agencies will be recruiting minority professionals.

Most Exciting Conference in the Latino Community



## Blanca Vargas Sets the Pace in Illinois

Illinois State Director Blanca Vargas is doing her part to expand LULAC's membership. In the past year she has led a campaign to start seven new councils across the state. This marks a 64 percent increase in councils and a 40 percent overall increase in Illinois membership.

"We are reaching out to all the Latinos throughout the state," said Vargas. "We hope to keep increasing in numbers, so that Latinos in the state of Illinois can grow stronger politically and economically."

New councils have been started in the state capital of Springfield, McHenry County, Little Village, West Chicago, South Chicago, Logan Square and Northlake.

Vargas is also a strong presence in her community. She recently was heavily involved in recruiting local students as bilingual census enumerators to help ensure an accurate count in her area.

She also was invited by Rev. Jesse Jackson to participate in a march honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4. The march included several members of LULAC, where they rallied outside an elementary school in need of repairs and toured the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.



Illinois State Director Blanca Vargas with Rev. Jesse Jackson at march honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## LULAC Fights for Rights in Massachusetts

LULAC National Vice President of the Northeast Regla González expressed her support for over 100 Department of Transitional Assistance employees of Latino descent who filed a racial discrimination lawsuit against the department over five years ago.

Workers allege that the department requires them to carry a higher workload because they are bilingual and must serve their own clients and also translate for non-Spanish speaking co-workers. The tasks per-

formed are not recognized as formal duties and the workers are seeking back pay and proper compensation for the higher expectations and greater workload performed. The case is expected to go to trial later this year.

"This case is just another example of how decent and honest people are being deprived of receiving their just compensation," said González. "They are seeking justice for their hard work and the only thing that makes them different is their heritage."

LULAC Massachusetts State Director Sara Barrientos is involved in the case, which was certified as a class-action by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. The Department of Transitional Assistance continues to deny any wrongdoing.

## Topeka LULAC Senior Center Gets a Partner

The LULAC Senior Center in Topeka, KS recently joined forces with Lupita's Mexican Restaurant and Cantina. Lupita's, in giving back to the community, will make a donation to the senior center for each combination plate sold April 12 thru July 12, 2000.

"LULAC helps those that need assistance in their daily lives, including the elderly," said Mr. Muñoz, owner of Lupita's. "They are the ones who have sacrificed so that all of us could have it better."

denominations \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 or the revolutionary inflation indexed Series I bond which sells at face value and are also available through EasySaver in \$50, \$75, \$100, \$200, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations. Series I gives you a guaranteed real rate of return over and above inflation.

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as a child or a grandchild. It allows you to buy savings bonds in the amounts they want and on the schedule you choose and is free of charge.

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# Arizona Council Holds 11th Annual Youth Leadership Conference

LULAC Council 1057 hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Leadership Conference on the campus of Pima County Community College in Tucson, AZ on March 15-16, 2000. Under the theme “Leadership, Unity, and Teamwork; Building for a Better Future,” this year’s event drew over 5,000 students grade 6 thru 12 from Tucson, Phoenix, Globe and Nogales.

“The goal behind the conference is to keep our youth excited and motivated about school,” said Ana Valenzuela Estrada, LULAC National VP for Women and Youth Leadership Conference Chair. “We purposely do the conference on a college campus so that we can expose our youth to the college environment and show them that this is where we want them to continue their education.”

Army Brigadier General Billy Cooper, one of the highest ranking officers, opened the conference. Ret. LTC Consuelo Castillo Kickbush gave an emotional speech about her upbringing and she urged the students to take hold of their own destiny.

The conference included twenty different workshops ranging from topics like substance abuse and AIDS, to the Internet and technology, to career opportunities and health care.

Speakers included distinguished professors from local colleges and universities,



U.S. Army Brigadier General Billy Cooper and LULAC VP for the Far West Richard Fimbres pose with conference participants.

top ranking members of the local police department, and decorated individuals from the U.S. Army and West Point Academy.

The day of activities prompted the mayors of Tucson and South Tucson to proclaim the week as “Youth Leadership Week.” On August 2, 1999, First Lady Hillary Clinton recognized the Youth Leadership Conference as one of the programs in this country that are working for Latino youth. The conference has also received national recognition from President Bill Clinton, former First Lady Barbara Bush, and former Secretaries of Education Lamar Alexander and Lauro Cavazos.

The event was proudly sponsored by U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Tucson Police Department, Pima County Attorney’s Office, Marshall Foundation, Walgreens, Pepsi-Cola, Pizza Hut of Arizona, Tucson

Citizen, University of Arizona, City of Tucson, Pima County Government, TUSD Bilingual Education Department, AVIN Printing and Raytheon Missile Systems.

In the past eleven years, over 39,000 students have participated in Council 1057’s Youth Leadership Conference.

## Youth Leadership Conference Wins La Promesa Award

Arizona Council 1057’s Youth Leadership Conference was one of twenty-one programs selected by the National Latino Children’s Institute (NLCI) for this year’s *La Promesa de un Futuro Brillante* Award. NLCI awards programs that have emerged as leaders in their communities and have stepped up to provide services to young Latinos in a variety of areas including the arts, science, health, business, leadership and education.

The gala event honoring the winners will take place at Epcot Center in Orlando, FL on April 29, 2000. The weekend celebration will bring together leaders of community-based organizations from across the country and include private tours for youth on technology and communication, conservation and environment, world cultures, and leadership and advocacy training. On Sunday, April 30, a parade proclaiming “*El día de los niños*, Celebrating Young Americans” will include the participation of all children and youth at Epcot.



Conference participants get hands-on pilot training from the U.S Army.

## Book Review

### Life of Noted Historian Captured In New Biography

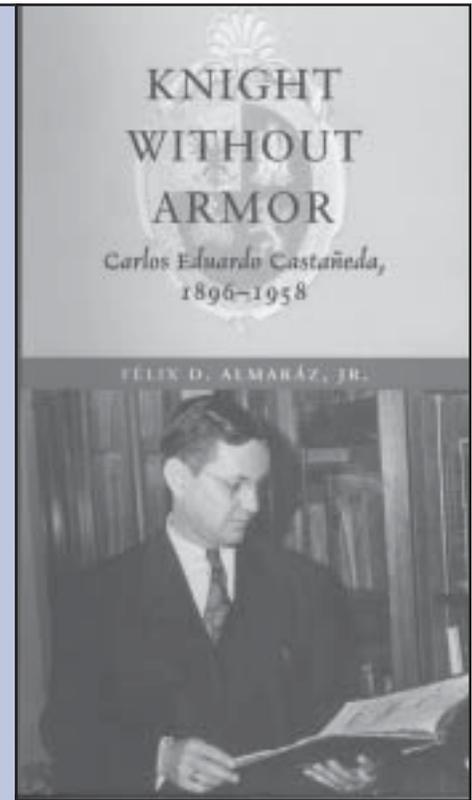
*Knight Without Armor* is the definitive biography of one of the most substantial yet unknown historians of the twentieth century, Carlos Eduardo Castañeda. No historian of Hispanic descent has matched Castañeda's success, with eighteen books and nearly fifty articles published in three decades. He was also one of the most distinguished historians of his time, having earned accolades such as knighthood in the Vatican's Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and in Spain's Order of Isabel la Católica for contributing to the study of Catholicism and the history of the Spanish borderlands in North America.

In his rise to prominence, Castañeda had to overcome financial burdens and ethnic discrimination. Rising from humble origins in South Texas, he fought to improve school conditions in the barrios of San Antonio and Del Rio and was peripherally in-

involved with the creation of LULAC in 1929, attending the first ever LULAC National Convention in Corpus Christi. He served on Franklin D. Roosevelt's Committee on Fair Employment Practice during World War II and in 1939 he became a professor and historian at the University of Texas, where he taught Latin American and Catholic history. His seven-volume study, *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519-1950*, has been called the best work ever written on the Spanish colonial era in Texas.

Until his death in 1958, Castañeda educated others on the history and culture of Hispanic Americans and courageously sought equality for his people. Author Félix D. Almaráz, Jr. has drawn on numerous writings, interviews, and photographs from private collections as well as extensive data from state and national archives in this worthy tribute to an important historian.

Félix Almaráz, Jr. is former president of the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Catholic Historical Society. An alumnus of Saint Mary's University and the University of New Mexico, he is author of several books, including *Tragic Cavalier: Governor Manuel Salcedo of Texas, 1808-*



1813, reissued by Texas A&M University Press in 1991. He teaches at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

### North Carolina Starts First LULAC Council in State Guest Article by José Bernal

Hispanic organizations don't work in Fayetteville. Hispanics here don't care nor are they interested in actively participating in the community. This is a military community where the revolving door doesn't allow anything to last more than two years. Hispanics don't have time to dedicate to the community. Latinos aren't used to participating in organizations. These are the most common excuses we experienced in the first months of forming a LULAC council in Fayetteville, NC.

In September 1999, we gathered a group of friends in Fort Bragg and decided to begin the process of forming an organization that represents and protects the rights of the Hispanic community. In this exploratory meeting we agreed on the basic guidelines we were looking for in an organization: 1) Based on principles and not personalities; 2) Inclusive to all Latinos (Mexican, Puerto Rican, Peruvian, etc.); 3) Inclusive to anyone regardless of education or social status; 4) That conducts organized meetings following parliamentary procedure; 5) Whose board is comprised of representatives from all His-

panic ethnicities; 6) Where decisions are made based on open discussion and voting; 7) Whose structure takes into account the high mobility of Hispanics in the county; 8) That is maintained outside of political parties; and 9) That responds to the interests of the group and Hispanic community in general, not personal agendas. In addition, we declared that the organization is not to be a social group that only organizes parties and galas, but one that actively participates on the issues that affect the Hispanic community.

With these requisites in mind, the group decided to form the first LULAC council in North Carolina, which was certified and recognized by the national organization on September 10, 1999. The affiliation with LULAC, the largest Hispanic organization in the United States, offered strategic advantages. LULAC has over 700 councils and 115,000 members nationwide and in Puerto Rico.

This permits LULAC members to move across the country remaining under the same organization with the same structure, philosophy and objectives. LULAC has a National Office in Washington, D.C. that closely follows the legislative process to help assure the advancement of the Hispanic community's agenda.

LULAC was founded in Corpus Christi, TX, 70 years ago by Mexican immigrants without formal education but with sufficient common sentiments to know that the only way to progress is to take action together. The same way that you would not try to travel through Mexico City with a map of Lima, local Hispanics can't pretend to understand local politics without first getting a "social map" of Fayetteville, Cumberland and North Carolina.

We Hispanics have to understand that here things are very clear. We can't apply the "social map" of our native lands. Do you know who your Congressional representative is? What is the telephone number of the representative in your district? How many districts does your county have? Do you know that according to the 1990 Census, the largest number of Hispanics in North Carolina reside in Cumberland County? Here the citizens resolve their problems through politics. Don't continue to be a victim. Take your future in your hands. Remember that luck is what happens to you when your opportunity comes and you are ready for it. Community activism and participation is vital, since it offers the chance to speed up the process of integrating the community.

## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR YOUNG ADULTS

by Maria De Lourdes Pizana

We, the Young Adult members in LULAC, are the present and future of our organization. Now is the time to develop and assume our roles to formulate, participate and influence policy and decision making. We can actively participate in the process by voting and getting involved in our district, state and national levels.

### YOUNG ADULT ACTION TEAM

This year, a Young Adult Action Team was created to formulate a Plan of Action for our membership. The Team, composed of representatives from every region, met October 8-10, 1999 in Chicago, Illinois.

Representatives selected by their Regional Vice Presidents included: Daniel Pina, Texas Deputy State Director for Young Adults; Albert Soto, Arizona Deputy State Director for Young Adults; Haydee Rivera, District Director, Puerto Rico; Janette Bahena, Youth VP for Midwest; Victoria Neave, National Youth President; Iris Sanchez, Immediate Past Acting Youth President; and Mauricio Feinholz, President Young Adult Council, MA.

All Team Members were asked to help initiate new councils within their respective regions and were all given new council packets.

In addition to the Team meetings scheduled, they actively participated in the 17th Annual United States Leadership Conference held at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago, IL. They attended workshops, forums and meal func-

tions and had the opportunity to network with other conference participants.

They had the opportunity to listen to President Bill Clinton address the conference participants and also heard from notable Hispanic leaders like: Hon. Bill Richardson, Secretary of Energy; Henry Cisneros, President & CEO, Univision; Fred Soto, Motivational Speaker; Lt. Col. Consuelo Kickbush, US Army; as well as our very own LULAC National President, Rick Dovalina.

### RESULTS OF THE ACTION TEAM MEETINGS

1. Initiate Communications/Media for Young Adults; Create Young Adults Website; Place Articles in the LULAC News; Give Young Adult Packets to all LNESc offices; Print brochures targeting Young Adult/Collegiate Audience; Promote LULAC at Colleges & Universities; Promote LULAC at Conferences; Be a resource for internships/job opportunities/financial aid information.

2. Promote Youth Councils & Focus on building Collegiate Councils.

3. Invite United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) to set up Leadership Development Workshops for existing Young Adult Councils.

4. Take partnership role with USHLI to follow up on campuses that participate with the Collegiate Development Leadership Program and introduce LULAC to the campuses.

5. Promote Young Adult Conference to take place during the LULAC National Convention; Have a Young Adult Caucus; Have Leadership Development Training Workshops; Have workshops that will teach LULAC fundamentals to Young Adult Councils; Have workshops geared towards Young Adults; Together with the Youth, feature the

Young Adults at a meal function; Have job fair/career development access.

### YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

This year, the Young Adult Conference will take place during the LULAC National Convention in Washington D.C. Mark your dates!! The National Convention will run from June 25-July 1, 2000.

Our conference begins on June 28 and concludes July 1 after the National Assembly. You'll have the opportunity to discuss issues, set policies, and determine national LULAC positions; actively participate in Leadership Development Training Workshops; and network with other LULAC members, community leaders and professionals from around the country.

Don't forget to bring your resume! Our exhibit area will include several major companies who are currently recruiting.

We would like to set up a presentation on Young Adult Councils and activities for our National Convention this year. Please send us stories, pictures or news articles from your council. Please mail or email all information as soon as possible to:

Maria De Lourdes Pizana  
LULAC VP for Young Adults  
POB 143  
East Chicago, IN 46312  
E-Mail: MDPIZANA@aol.com

If you are interested in organizing a Council, do not hesitate to contact me or any one of the Action Team Members located within your region. I will be posting more information on our LULAC web site as it becomes available. I look forward to seeing you at our National Convention this year!

(Women's Conf. continued from page 8 )

The event wrapped up in the evening with an awards Banquet honoring the women of LULAC. The keynote address was given by Edna Olivo Winnette, Director of Small and Emerging Business at DFW Airport. In her speech, she challenged the women of LULAC to step out of the normal boundaries that guide their lives. While recognizing the great accomplishments that have taken place, she said there is more work to be done before Latinas can become a true political and economic force in this country.

"This year's conference proved that Latinas are a force to be reckoned with," continued Valenzuela Estrada.



GTE representative Del Velasquez (center) presents a \$200,000 check to LNESc.

# Youth Council Holds March Against Violence

LULAC Youth Council 2000 in Corpus Christi, TX held its First Annual March for Youth Against Violence on February 15, 2000. The event gathered over 200 people from all over the area to protest and draw awareness to violence and crime in the city. Participants ranged from law enforcement officials to non-profit and government workers.

“We wanted to do something big to let everyone in Corpus Christi know that we’re not going to tolerate violence in our communities,” said Brandy Garcia, Youth Council 2000 President. “We are really excited about the outcome and we plan to do an even bigger event next year.”

The March garnered extensive media attention with reports appearing on the local news at 6 and 10 pm and on local radio. Participants walked over five miles through downtown Corpus Christi.

“Most people don’t come out to protest until after something bad has already happened,” said Arthur Odoms, Youth VP for Council 4444. “We want to take action before violence occurs and prevent the problems that have plagued our communities from continuing.”

Youth Council 2000, sponsored by LULAC Council 4444, was founded only this past January. They already have 28 members and plan to continue their efforts to stem vio-



Marchers for Youth Against Violence parade along the shore on their way to downtown Corpus Christi.

lence. They have applied for federal funding through the U.S. Department of Justice’s *Weed and Seed* program, where Brandy Garcia was recently elected to their National Youth Board. *Weed and Seed* is a program

that “weeds” out criminals from the community. It then gets involved with local youth programs, like LULAC, to plant the “seeds” that will prevent violence from reoccurring through education.

## Calendar of Events

Florida State Convention, May 20-21 at the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center in Miami, FL. For information, call Armando Pomar (305) 227-6252.

California LULAC State Convention, May 19-21 at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose, CA. For more information, call Mickie Luna (831) 637-1342.

Illinois State Convention, May 27 at Morton East High School in Cicero, IL. For more information, call Blanca Vargas (312) 814-4311.

Puerto Rico State Convention, May 26-27 at the San Juan Hotel and Casino. For more information, call Elsie Valdes (787) 754-4347.

Arizona State Convention, May 26-28 at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe, AZ. For more information, call Frank Q. Carillo (480) 838-1849.

Texas State Convention, June 1-4 at the Holiday Inn Suites/Towers-Civic Center in Lubbock, TX. For information, call Roman Palomares (972) 530-6126



Members of Youth Council #2000 prepare for their march through Corpus Christi.

# Word From the Youth

by Victoria Neave, Youth President

On behalf of the LULAC Youth Organization, I challenge you to stimulate the minds of Latino youth by creating a LULAC Youth Council. For decades, the LULAC Youth Organization has empowered thousands upon thousands of Latino youth and molded them into better thinkers, stronger leaders, and smarter activists. Many Junior LULACers, as they were called back then, are now mayors, judges, doctors, attorneys, and the list goes on. (If you were a Junior LULACer, please contact us.)

This year, the LULAC youth organization has taken a step further from the already wonderful community service projects that each youth council implements in its respective community across the nation. LULAC Youth actively worked to spread the word about Census 2000 and we continue to register Hispanics to exert our citizenship powers as voters. LULAC Youth across the nation continue to bravely pave the path that our forefathers of LULAC started seventy-one years ago.

The LULAC Youth Organization is a

driving force that attacks issues that affect our fellow Hispanic children and teens. By empowering ourselves with a strong education and realizing that we must share what we learn, we have changed the lives of many. From mentoring our little Latinas y Latinos in elementary school to working with high school dropouts to holding the hands of our elderly, we spread encouragement where before it was dwindling.

There are a few things that we would like to say to other Latino youth: Remember that you have the POWER in your mind to become even more successful than you already are. You have the STRENGTH to attend college or return to college and get that very attainable degree. You have the COURAGE to face and overcome any obstacle that may try to stop you on your journey to success. You have everything you need inside of you to become the next great doctor, lawyer, congresswoman, CEO, or owner of your own business. Something my father always told me is, "Victoria, you have your future in your hands. (He'd cup his hands as he said this.) Only YOU have control over it."

My dear fellow Latino youth, show yourself and everyone around you your capabilities and talents. However, never forget to give back to your community. One of the great things about the LULAC family is that we youth are constantly surrounded by His-

panic professionals. This encourages us and drives us to be stronger leaders. We love LULAC!

The LULAC Youth Organization has several incredible national projects that we need your help to implement. A summer weeklong cultural exchange between LULAC youth from the mainland and Puerto Rico can occur with your financial help. A 7-year-old Hispanic child can develop her leadership talents through a mentorship with a LULAC Youth member. LULAC Youth can see inside the walls of the White House or the Pentagon at the LULAC National Convention in Washington, DC (June 28 - July 1, 2000) with a donation from you. We ask that you support the local youth councils in your area. We also ask that you contribute to the LULAC National Youth so that we may be able to reach out into communities where LULAC youth are not present.

The LULAC Youth organization is composed of strong and ambitious Hispanic young people. Help us spread the work of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Any size donation will undoubtedly be appreciated. Again, we invite you to take advantage of what the LULAC Youth Organization has to offer.

Please send donations to the LULAC National Youth Office, 345 S. Edgewood, Dallas, Texas 75208.

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**CB:** Well it makes it very difficult, but I think that people are realizing that Latinos can represent everybody fairly and equally. People are adapting to the changes going on and they see that we have the same dreams that every American has. It is more difficult in getting that message out because I have to convince others that I'm just like them and have the same American dream. With Latinos, I know they understand, but for others, I have to sell my bill of goods and I have to work a lot harder to convey my message and get them to believe in me. I have to work twice as hard as a non-Hispanic to be accepted, even though I may be doing more to help the people.

**LN: What do you feel about the lack of Latino representation in corporate America, politics and the media and what steps can we start taking to change this?**

**CB:** We need to do a better job of marketing ourselves and take pride and advertise ourselves more. People don't even know how many Latinos are in Congress. When you

look at corporate America and see how many Latinos are CEO's, we just don't have them there. When you look at the movie industry you don't see Latinos or Latinas as the producers or directors. But we also have to do what it takes by going out to see our movies the first two weeks. Our community is not even aware that there are positive role models and all they see are the negative stereotypes. We have to portray more of the positives and show positive role models. One of the major ways we can change some of this is through the census. We have to make sure that everyone is accurately counted and pass on the message. LULAC and every organization, every church and every business has to play a part in ensuring that we count every single individual in our communities. If we don't have the appropriate count, then we don't have the proper representation, whether it's in politics, or funding for education, parks and recreation, law enforcement, senior citizens, transportation and everything else. We have to overcome that fear of thinking *la migra* or someone else is coming after us. We

have to convey the message that they cannot use that information. It's against the law and we can't fear that. We need to educate our communities to see the importance of politics and what it means to have Latino movies. And it does mean something because it provides our community with a sense of pride.

**LN: What are your future goals and where do you see yourself in ten years?**

**CB:** I see myself here in Congress getting into a leadership position because I have always been aggressive. I want to be in a position to help more. There's also the possibility of the Senate. We've never had a Latino Senator from California, and I'd like to pursue that. I like breaking barriers but it has to be for the right reasons. Maybe I'll go back to California and look at possible statewide positions like Governor or Lieutenant Governor. Whatever I do, I want to pave a path for others to follow behind me. Every position that I have left, there has been a Latino or Latina who pursued that position after me and I want that to continue.

# Texas LULAC Meets in San Antonio To Address Civil Rights

Employment, education, housing and voting rights were the hot topics at the Texas LULAC Civil Rights Symposium, held at the University of Texas-San Antonio Downtown Campus on February 12, 2000. The event drew approximately 150 state leaders to hear national, state, and local civil rights experts discuss issues of concern to the Hispanic community in Texas.

“LULAC was founded on the principle of obtaining the rights guaranteed every individual, to seek justice and equality and treatment in accordance with the law of the land,” said Roman Palomares, Texas LULAC State Director, in his opening address. “This symposium is evidence of LULAC’s continued effort and commitment to focus on the protection of our civil liberties.”

“As the fastest growing minority population in the U.S., we must ensure that we are included in the civil rights equation, and we must be sure that we are armed with the knowledge to have a meaningful impact on that equation,” added Hector Flores, National LULAC VP for the Southwest. Mr. Flores served as the moderator for the panel on employment issues, where two primary issues of concern emerged in the areas of English only in the workplace and pay inequity.

Fielding questions on the constitutionality of English-only in the workplace, William Hale, Director of the Texas Human Rights Commission said, “An employer can require a specific language in the workplace only when that language is essential to perform the essential job function or is essential to the safety of the employee or other employees.”

Sheila Ward Reyes of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) addressed pay inequity. “Sadly, equal pay complaints are rarely filed,” she said, “primarily because many employment contracts prohibit employees from discussing their salary with co-workers as grounds for immediate dismissal.” According to Ms. Reyes, if an employee has any reason to believe that they may not be receiving equal pay for performing work that is substantially equal in the same establishment, they can file a complaint with the EEOC and the Commission can investigate and file charges without risk to the employee.

A panel on housing issues, moderated

by Linda Chávez, Texas LULAC Housing Chair, followed employment concerns. “We are very concerned that Latinos are red-lined by the mortgage and financial institutions,” said Ms. Chávez. Panelists included Graciela Aleman, President of the Hispanic Association of Real Estate Professionals, and Ninfa Moncada with the Federal National Mortgage Association.

U.S. Congressman Charles González, Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Task Force on the Census and Civil Rights, addressed attendees on the importance of the census in ensuring that Latinos have a voice in the future and that Latino communities receive much needed funds for our schools and neighborhoods. He also emphasized the role the census will play in redistricting and assuring that every American is represented at all levels of government.

“If we believe that every American counts, we must ensure that every American is counted,” said Congressman González. Also in attendance were State Senator Frank Madla, Jr., Chair of the Hispanic Senate Caucus, and Texas State Representatives Arthur Reyna and Juan Solis III.

An impassioned discussion on education followed. “Our children are as smart or smarter than other children in this nation but they are shortchanged by uncertified and unqualified teachers,” said Robert Gamboa,

Texas LULAC Education Chair, adding that LULAC’s inquiries into teacher certification have lead to the exposure of unqualified teachers across the state.

The issue of state tests as a graduation requirement was the other hot topic in the education debate. Albert Kaufman, Regional Director for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and lead attorney in the recent American GI Forum et al v. the Texas Education Agency et al law suit, said that high-stakes educational assessment tests, such as the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS), are a double edged sword. While Latinos unquestionably want assurance that their children are learning essential academic skills, we certainly do not want assessment tests to become a barrier to educational opportunity for our children.

“We would also like an explanation as to why certain schools have not raised Hispanic students’ TAAS scores above average when we know some schools are teaching the same type of kids and raising them to exemplary levels,” added René Lara, President of the Texas Federation of Teachers.

According to Kaufman, 25 percent of today’s ninth graders are held back, an increase of ten percent since the TAAS was initiated. Latino children are disproportionately among that 25 percent.

Dr. Gloria González, LULAC National Education Chair discussed the rights of students and parents and how to access the

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(L-R) Texas State Rep. Juan Solis III; LULAC VP for Southwest Hector Flores; U.S. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez; LULAC Texas Dist. Director Henry Rodriguez; LULAC Texas Chief of Staff Denise Nuño; Texas State Sen. Frank Madla, Jr.; LULAC Texas State Director Roman Palomares; and Texas State Rep. Art Reyna.

## News Briefs

### Latino Breaks the Ice in Hockey

When Latinos decide to do something, they do it all the way. That's the case with Scott Gomez, the first Latino to play in the National Hockey League (NHL). In only his first year in the league, Gomez is the leading scorer on his team, played in the All-Star game, and is a strong possibility for Rookie of the Year.

The son of a Mexican-Californian father and Colombian mother, Gomez grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. He currently plays Center for the New Jersey Devils

"I guess if you look at it, it's pretty neat," said Gomez. "But that's not the big thing for me now. Maybe later on if there are more Hispanic kids who see me and end up in the NHL, I'll look back with a sense of satisfaction."



NHL star Scott Gomez. (AP)

### CPB Looks to Hire More Minorities

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) plans to increase Hispanic and minority participation in U.S. television. Recently elected Chairman Frank Cruz, the first Latino ever elected Chair, has expressed concerns about the lack of Latinos and other minorities involved in public radio and television programs.

Edward James Olmos was recently selected to direct the Latino Public Broadcasting Project. Cruz also plans to increase the number of prime time radio and television

### Army Pilots Two New Programs, Latinos Could Benefit

Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera recently unveiled two new programs that could dramatically increase opportunities for young Latinos.

*GED Plus* – the Army's high school completion program – offers high school dropouts the chance to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma in exchange for a minimum of two years of service after obtaining a GED.

The second program, *College First*, provides the opportunity for high school graduates to attend two years of college before entering the Army. This program is geared toward students interested in vocational school or junior college.

"With the Hispanic high school dropout rate so high, the GED Plus program will be extremely beneficial to the Latino community," said Rick Dovalina, LULAC National President. "It will give many of our young people a second chance to get their educations and become contributing members of the community."

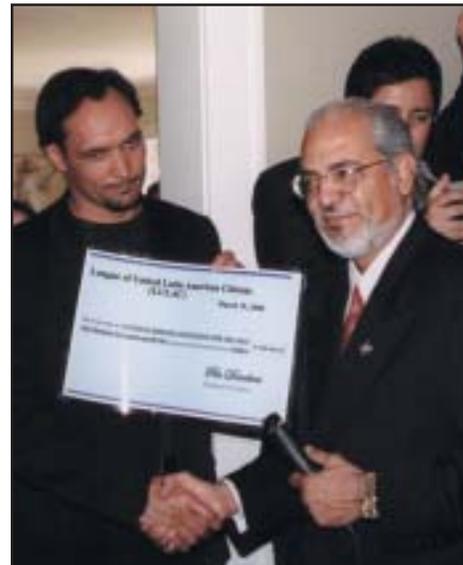
The programs come in response to failing recruitment efforts, possibly due to the booming economy that is providing a wide-array of entry-level jobs to high school grads who otherwise might opt for the Army.

"Our traditional recruiting market of non-college bound high school graduates is disappearing," said Caldera. "These initiatives are going to expand the market of young people that we are trying to recruit by offering something for those who are headed to college and those who did not finish high school the traditional way, but who have the desire and the ability to serve as soldiers."

shows aimed towards Hispanics and minorities.

"I want to be sure that these programs are part of our stations' regular programming, and that they are not only seen and heard during African-American and Hispanic heritage weeks," said Cruz.

He said that the growing minority population in the United States calls for their increased participation in the mass media. Cruz also said that, contrary to private companies, CPB receives federal funds and its purpose is to broadcast alternative programs.



LULAC National President Rick Dovalina with actor Jimmy Smits.

LULAC presented a check for \$100,000 to the National Hispanic Foundation of the Arts (NHFA) in San Antonio, a group co-founded by actor Jimmy Smits. NHFA was one of the 48 groups chosen by LULAC as benefactors of the Trinity Broadcasting Lawsuit. The groups chosen were donated money by LULAC to help fight the lack of Latino representation in the media.

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records and assessment scores that determine a child's educational placement. "We need to be involved in every aspect of our children's education," said Dr. González.

The final panel focused on voting rights. The issue of greatest concern was voter turnout and how to increase the Hispanic voice at the polls. "We have done a good job in registering our voters, but we have not educated them in how and why to vote, or what to expect at the polls," said Sam Alvarado, LULAC Civil Rights Director. Panelists included civil rights attorney Rolando Rios and MALDEF attorney Nina Perales.

"We are extremely pleased with the success of the symposium and plan to hold more Civil Rights Symposiums this year in other areas of Texas," said Mr. Palomares. "We have also opened our Civil Rights Office in San Antonio to manage and direct the mountain of calls we receive each week."

The Texas LULAC Civil Rights Office is located at 1121 W. Hildebrand, San Antonio, Texas 78201. The telephone number is 210-735-1488.

# Policy Briefs

By Gabriela D. Lemus, LULAC Director of Policy and Legislation

## Strong Economy Creates Shift in Immigration Attitudes

On Friday March 30, 2000, the Clinton Administration sent to Congress legislation that amends section 249 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) to qualified long-term migrants who have resided in the United States since 1986 to become lawful permanent residents.

On April 13, Senators Harry Reid (D-NV) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) introduced a bill that would grant permanent residency to immigrants who have been in the US since before 1986. A similar version of the bill was introduced in the House by the Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee and the Hon. Luis Gutierrez to allow hundreds of thousands of Late Amnesty Class members and their families to apply for a permanent status after more than 12 years of legal battles.

In an unprecedented effort, labor, business, and government have joined together in an effort to undo provisions of a 1996 bill that took jurisdiction from federal courts in certain immigration appeals.

The late amnesty cases cover approximately 250,000 class members throughout the United States. An unknown number of these class members were "front-desked" during the one-year legalization application period that occurred after the passage of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act. The term refers to a procedure whereby the applicant went to an Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) office with a legalization application and fee, but the INS refused to accept the application.

LULAC filed a federal class action suit [Newman (LULAC) v. Reno] for late amnesty applicants. In September of 1996, Congress passed Section 377 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act that purports to strip the federal courts of jurisdiction to entertain claims relating to legalization under Section 245a of the INA unless the litigant attempted to present a "complete" legalization application and fee to an INS representative during the 1 year legalization-application period that lasted from May 1987 – May 1988. If Congress fails to

repeal Section 377, many late legalization applicants will not get permanent residence through the late amnesty cases.

These new efforts by the Administration and Congress represent attempts to mitigate the unfortunate effects of the 1996 law. The move would more than likely benefit more than 30,000 people in Texas, 20,000 in Nevada and 50,000 in California, and about 350,000 people across the nation. Many of these individuals have been residing in the United States for over two decades and would be eligible for citizenship had their late amnesty applications been processed by the INS.

## White House Latino Education Summit

In recognition that if Latino youth are to fully benefit from and contribute to the wealth of this nation they must be given the chance to succeed throughout the educational system, the Clinton Administration will hold a Latino Education Strategy Summit with leading experts in the field to be held on June 15, 2000 in Washington, DC.

The meeting's focus will concentrate on the following five areas: Access to early childhood education; closing the achievement gap on educational assessments; the Latino dropout rate; language proficiency; and higher education.

The purpose of the meeting is to articulate some national benchmarks and develop strategies to address them. In so doing, clear goals are to be delineated for the nation's schools to follow as they make efforts to close the gap on educational attainment.

Following are some of the ideas being currently discussed by Latino education specialists for the meeting:

**Goal 1:** Ensure that all Hispanic American children have access to high quality early childhood education and development programs, and enter school prepared to succeed by eliminating the gap between the Hispanic participation rate and the national participation rate in high quality programs by 2010.

**Goal 2:** By 2010, states and school districts will ensure that all students graduate from high school having demonstrated proficiency in academic English.

**Goal 3:** Eliminate the achievement gap between Hispanic students and other students on educational assessments by 2010 by providing a high quality education with the resources and systems that ensure equal opportunities for all.

**Goal 4:** Eliminate the gap in the high school completion rate between Hispanic students and the national average by 2010.

**Goal 5:** Make progress toward eliminating the gap between the average rate of college completion for Hispanic Americans and the national average by 2010 by at least doubling both the percentage of Hispanic Americans who earn Associate's and the percentage of Hispanic Americans who earn Bachelor's degrees.

The Clinton Administration has sought to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for all students in the United States. Despite these efforts towards higher general academic standards, the reality remains that Hispanic students lag behind in academic achievement.

What factors contribute to this terrible problem?

- **Hispanic children consistently rank lower in enrollment for pre-primary schooling.**

Research has shown that a quality pre-school experience is an important indicator of student success. Pre-primary schooling prepares children for a solid elementary education by providing skills for learning and socialization. Proactive programs such as Early Head Start, Parent-Child Development Centers, and Head Start contribute to the reduction of high school dropout rates, grade retention, delinquency, and teen pregnancy later in life.

In general, Latino children are under-represented in these programs, but more specifically, in quality preschool programs. A study by the U.S. Department of Education demonstrated that between 1973 and 1993, preschool enrollment for Latino children remained at about 15 percent, in comparison to white preschool children, which rose steadily from 18 to 35 percent. In 1995, similar percentages of white and black children, ages three and four, were enrolled in nursery, pre-kindergarten, Head Start and Kindergarten programs.

The net result, Hispanic children by age four were less able to identify basic colors (61 percent compared to 91 percent), recognize all letters of the alphabet (12 percent compared to 31 percent), count up to 50 or more (11 percent compared to 22 percent), and write their first name (59 percent compared to 74 percent).

- **Hispanic children trail behind other children in Elementary and Middle School.**

By age nine, Latino students lag behind in reading, mathematics, and science proficiency. Latino students are more likely to be “held over” in the elementary grades or experience “delayed schooling.” The likelihood that Hispanic children might experience either of these possibilities increases the proportionate likelihood that they will drop out by high school.

• **Latino students are more likely to walk away from formal education than face continuous humiliation of being “held over” or “retained.”**

Once a student has fallen behind because a building block in the educational system has been missed, the results often lead to poor performance, grade retention, and dropping out. A 1992 Department of Education report indicated that at age 13, Latino students were on average two years behind in math and reading, and about four years behind in science. Moreover, forty percent of 15- to 24-year-old Latino dropouts left school with less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade education, compared with 13 percent of white dropouts and 11 percent of black dropouts. In 1994, the dropout rate for Latino 16 to 24-year olds was 28 percent, double the rate for blacks (14 percent) and more than three times the rate for whites (8 percent) in the same group.

However, the indication is that deficiencies are found primarily in the educational system, not in the students. Inadequate intervention measures at early stages of educational attainment, “tracking” into general courses that satisfy only basic high school requirements, and grade retention all contribute to the Latino dropout rate.

## And Justice for Some...Minority Youth and the Justice System

On April 25, 2000, “And Justice for Some...” the second in a series of reports to address racial unfairness in the juvenile justice system was released at a briefing held at the National Press Club. The study was prepared by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the nation’s oldest “think-tank” regarding criminal justice issues in conjunction with the Building Blocks for Youth initiative.

It compares the manner in which youth of color and white youth are treated at every stage of the state and federal justice systems, from arrest to incarceration, creating a ‘cu-

mulative disadvantage’ whereby they face more severe treatment overall leading to over-representation of minority youth in the prison system.

In essence, minority youth are significantly more likely to be detained, formally charged, tried as adults, and locked up in state and federal facilities than White youth who commit comparable crimes. In 1997, three out of four minority children under the age of 18 were admitted to adult prisons. Although they represented 34 percent of the U.S. population, they represent 67 percent of the youth committed to public facilities. The net result is that in almost every state, minority youth are over-represented in the detained population. Lastly, data on Latino youth specifically are scarce due to an inconsistency in reporting. However, despite these inconsistencies, the data that is available suggests that Latino youth are three times more likely than White youth to be incarcerated for comparable offenses.

“We’re joining today in the demand for immediate action in response to this latest report of bias in the juvenile justice system,” said Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). “We also call on the states and federal government to immediately take steps to gather more accurate data on Latino youth and make it a priority to address these issues now.”

To address these pervasive racial disparities in the justice system, leaders at every level of society should take immediate action by holding hearings in key Congressional districts on this issue. Congress should strengthen the Disproportionate Minority Confinement protections in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act by enacting legislation to address disproportionate involvement of minority youth at all points in the justice system, from first contact with police to incarceration. For additional information, contact Gabriela Lemus at the LULAC National Office: 202/833-6130.

## Census Bureau Surpasses Goal

The Census Bureau announced on April 19, 2000 that the “initial response rate” – the number of those who either mailed back, transmitted via the Internet or had a telephone assistance operator take their answers over the phone – stood at 65 percent, matching the 1990 rate and exceeding bureau projec-

tions for planning and budgetary purposes.

About 120 million census questionnaires were mailed or hand-delivered to homes across the country in March. As the questionnaires were returned, the Census Bureau posted on its Internet site the rates of return for the country and about 38,000 and local tribal governments.

In the next phase of the census, called “non-response follow-up,” as many as 500,000 temporary workers, with address lists and maps, will visit housing units the Census Bureau did not hear from. They will make up to six attempts to contact non-responding households – three personal visits and three phone calls. The operation will extend through July 7.

## Hispanic Judges Finally Confirmed by Senate

After months of dialogue between LULAC, other leading Hispanic organizations and Republican Senators, Judges Richard Paez (9th Circuit) and Julio Fuentes (3rd Circuit) were finally confirmed to their respective circuit courts of appeals. The log-jam was broken when Fuentes was confirmed by a unanimous vote of 93-0 on March 7.

Later that week on March 9, Paez was confirmed by a vote of 59-39 ending his historic four and a half year wait.

“The confirmation of these two Latino judges to the United States Court of Appeals is a profound victory for our nation and Hispanic Americans,” said LULAC National President Rick Dovalina.

## One More to Go

Leading Hispanic lawyer Enrique Moreno awaits confirmation to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Moreno was nominated on September 16, 1999 by President Clinton and has received strong bipartisan and independent support and is solidly backed by the legal community, law enforcement organizations, and prominent business leaders.

He graduated from Harvard and would be the first El Pasoan to sit on the circuit court of appeals and the highest-ranking federal judge ever appointed from El Paso. LULAC support was critical in the confirmation of Judges Paez and Fuentes and members are urged to contact their Senators to endorse Enrique Moreno. You can call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

# 2000 LULAC Convention Rules

## **2000 LULAC National Convention**

Al Maldonado, Convention Rules Chairperson

*These 2000 Convention rules were approved by the National Board of Directors during its February meeting.*

1. Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.
2. A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.
3. An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections.
4. The Election Judge shall appoint a Time Keeper and three Official Counters for all elections.
5. Elections shall be by roll call standup vote. The head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor.
6. No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in any one election.
7. Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.
8. A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for the office in question.
9. Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be that recorded by the three Official Counters.
10. Each candidate shall have five minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.
11. In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.
12. Challenges to any election must be issued to the National Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take, as per Robert's Rules of Order (revised), a two-thirds vote to overturn any ruling made by the National Legal Advisor.
13. The order of elections shall be,
  - National President
  - Southwest Vice President
  - Southeast Vice President
  - Northeast Vice President
  - Farwest Vice President
  - Midwest Vice President
  - Vice President for the Elderly
  - Vice President for Women
  - Vice President for Young Adults
  - Vice President for Youth
  - Treasurer
  - 2003 Convention Site
14. The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitutional Amendments shall be limited to ten minutes for each amendment with three speakers for and three speakers against.
15. All resolutions must be in written form and submitted by a local council in good standing. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to ten minutes with two speakers for and two speakers against. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question.
16. Resolutions from the floor shall be accepted. The resolution from the floor must be in written form and signed by the total delegation of the offering council. The written resolution from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolution in its entirety and call for a vote. The same time limit, number of speakers, and announcement as in rule 15 shall apply to this rule.
17. Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws and Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order.
18. These adopted 2000 Convention Rules may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.

# **LULAC National Awards**

LULAC within its membership will bestow seven national awards to be presented during the Presidential Banquet at the LULAC Convention. These awards are the highest honor bestowed by LULAC and are given to those individuals whose achievements and community service most exemplify the ideals of the League. The recipients of these prestigious awards are selected by an awards committee which is appointed by the national president. The awards committee reviews the nominations of LULAC Councils and selects the recipients based upon established criteria.

## **The Awards**

The following awards have been established by the awards committee and will be presented at the convention:

- Man of the Year
- Woman of the Year
- Council of the Year
- Raymond Telles Award for Education
- Felix Tijerina Award for Service to the League
- Aztec Award for Civil Rights
- J.C. Martinez Award for Membership and Expansion

## **Criteria for Council of the Year Award**

1. Council must be chartered and in good standing in the League.
2. Council must have been awarded Council of the Year at the District and State levels.
3. Council must have sponsored a LULAC Youth Council in the past year.
4. Council will receive special consideration for participation in the LNESc scholarship program.
5. Council must have participated in humanitarian and civic causes that have made an impact on LULAC and the community.
6. Council must have proof of all LULAC - and community-related awards and recognition it claims, i.e., newspaper clippings, scrapbook, award letters, etc.
7. Council must have letters from its District and State Directors certifying that it was selected at the respective conventions.
8. The period of consideration for Council of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

## **Criteria for Man of the Year Award**

1. Nominee must be a member of a chartered LULAC Council in good standing in the League.
2. Nominee must be in good standing in the League.
3. Nominee must have been selected as Man of the Year at the Council, District, and State levels.
4. Nominee must have contributed talent, skills, and time to the betterment of LULAC and the community.

5. Nominee must provide proof of involvement in LULAC and the community, including newspaper clippings, award letters, etc.
6. Nominee must have letters from his Council President, District, and State Directors, certifying that he was selected at their respective conventions.
7. The period of consideration for Man of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

## **Criteria for Woman of the Year Award**

1. Nominee must be a member of a chartered LULAC Council in good standing in the League.
2. Nominee must be in good standing in the League.
3. Nominee must have been selected as Woman of the Year at the Council, District, and State levels.
4. Nominee must have contributed talents, skills and time to the betterment of LULAC and the community.
5. Nominee must provide proof of involvement in LULAC and the community and include newspaper clippings, scrapbook, award letters, etc.
6. Nominee must have letters from her Council President, District and State Directors certifying that she was selected at their respective conventions.
7. The period of consideration for Woman of the Year shall be one year prior to the National Convention. Achievements and activities prior to the period for which the nomination is made will not be considered.

## **Criteria for LULAC Special Awards**

- Membership
  - Loyalty
  - Service
  - Achievements
  - Awards
  - Contributions
  - Leadership
  - Recognition
  - Actions
  - Projects
  - Accomplishments
  - Volunteerism
1. Any LULAC member in good standing is eligible to be nominated for a LULAC Special Award.
  2. Any member of LULAC can nominate a LULAC member for a LULAC Special Award.
  3. Nomination and questionnaire forms must be submitted to the LULAC National Office prior to the National Convention.



## National Staff

**Washington, D.C.** (L-R) Brent Wilkes, National Executive Director; Marisela Lopez (LNESEC); Lupe Morales, Membership Director (El Paso Office); Javier Cuebas, Special Events Coordinator; Karina Castillo, Secretary to the President (Houston Office); Gabriela Lemus, Director of Policy and Legislation; and Scott Gunderson Rosa, *LULAC News* Editor.

**Not Pictured:** Desi Pesina, Administrative Assistant (Houston Office).

### New Membership Director

Lupe Morales is the new Membership Director. She is based out of LULAC's El Paso, TX office. All membership correspondence should now be directed to Lupe Morales at 221 N. Kansas, Suite 1200, El Paso, TX 79901; (915) 577-0726 \* Fax (915) 577-0914

## Yes! I want to be a LULAC member!

All persons who are residents of the United States or are U.S. citizens residing abroad, are 18 years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in LULAC. LULAC members receive a copy of the LULAC Constitution, a membership card, a membership pin, and a complimentary subscription to the *LULAC NEWS*.

- I want to join LULAC as an active member. Please send me information on councils in my home area.
- I want to join LULAC as an associate member. Please find a check of \$25 enclosed.
- I want to become a lifetime member of LULAC. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.
- My company would like to join LULAC as a corporate associate. Enclosed is a contribution of \$1,000.
- Please send me information on how I can start a LULAC council in my hometown.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



*League of United Latin American Citizens*

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