

*Solamente El Que Carga El Saco Sabe Lo Que Lleva Adentro*

# La Voz

**Free/Gratis**

**Volume 20 Number 8  
A Bi-cultural Publication  
August, 2025**

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Graduate**





## Bobby Pulido Forms Exploratory Committee to Consider Run for Congress

From the Eagle Pass Leader

EDINBURG, TX — Tejano legend **Bobby Pulido** has launched an exploratory committee for a potential 2026 run for Congress in **Texas's 15th District**, currently held by **Republican Rep. Monica De La Cruz**.

**Pulido**, a Democrat and **Edinburg** native, is retiring from music after his farewell **Por La Puerta Grande Tour** to focus on public service. He plans to host "ranch hall" events across **South Texas** to gauge support before deciding by the end of the year.

If he runs, **Pulido** would join the Democratic primary against **Dr. Ada Cuellar** in a race Democrats are targeting to flip the district back blue.

EDINBURG, TX — La leyenda de la música tejana **Bobby Pulido** ha creado un comité exploratorio para una posible candidatura al Congreso en 2026 por el **Distrito 15 de Texas**, actualmente ocupado por la representante republicana **Mónica De La Cruz**.

**Pulido**, demócrata y originario de **Edinburg**, se retira de la música tras su gira de despedida "**Por La Puerta Grande**" para centrarse en el servicio público. Planea organizar eventos en salones de eventos por todo el sur de Texas para medir el apoyo antes de tomar una decisión a finales de año.

Si se presenta, **Pulido** se uniría a las primarias demócratas contra la **Dra. Ada Cuellar** en una contienda que los demócratas buscan para que el distrito vuelva a ser demócrata.

# People in the News



## Austin Vida Editor Recipient of TAMACC 2025 Award

**Austin Vida** is proud to announce that **Editor & Publisher Nancy Flores** is a recipient of the **Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC) 2025 Women of Distinction Award!** This award is dedicated to "phenomenal Latinas who are transforming industries, breaking barriers, and uplifting communities across **Texas**."



## Travis County Commissioner Announces she Will Not Seek Another Term

Since 1995, **Maragaret Gómez** has been a **Travis County Commissioner**. She recently announced her retirement after having served the people since 1981 as a **Travis County constable** and now as a **Commissioner**.



## Opera Singer Gilda Cruz-Romo Passes Away in San Antonio, Texas

**Gilda Cruz-Romo** was born on February 12, 1940 and passed away on June 28, 2025. She was a Mexican operatic soprano, particularly associated with dramatic roles of the Italian repertory, performed throughout the **United States** and **Europe**.

She first appeared at the **Metropolitan Opera** as **Puccini's Madama Butterfly** where she performed most of **Verdi's** leading ladies. She portrayed his **Aida** for her debuts at both the **Royal Opera House in London** and at **La Scala in Milan**, and at the **Verona Arena**.

Born **Gilda Cruz** in **Guadalajara, Jalisco**, she studied at the **Mexico City Conservatory** with **Ángel Esquivel**. She sang with the choir of the **Ballet Folklórico**, touring to **Central America, Europe** and **Asia**. She performed as a soloist at the **Palacio de Bellas Artes in Villa-Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras**.

**Cruz Romo's** international career took off with her debut at the **New York City Opera** in 1969, as **Margherita in Mefistofele**, alongside **Norman Treigle** in the title role. **Cruz-Romo** also appeared at the opera houses of **Chicago, Houston, Dallas, San Francisco, New Orleans, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore**, and others.

During the 1988–89 season, **Cruz-Romo** added the role of **Cherubini's Médée** to her repertoire and in 1989, sang the role of **Matilde** in the American premiere of **Mascagni's Silvano** with **New Jersey's**

**Ars Musica** conducted by **Italo Marchini**

**Cruz-Romo** was very active in concert and recital as well. She did not make any commercial recordings, but live recordings of her best roles exist. She taught voice at the **University of Texas at Austin**<sup>[14]</sup> and later lived with her husband **Roberto Romo** in **San Antonio**. **Roberto** died in 2018.



## George Morales III Files to Run for Travis County Commissioner in 2026

**Travis County Constable George Morales** announced he's joining the race for **Travis County Commissioner of Precinct 4**. The seat is currently held by **Margaret Gómez**, who plans to retire at the end of her term.

*"Precinct 4 is my home," he said. "I was raised here, I've raised my family here, and I've spent my life working to uplift this community. My parents taught me the values of service, dignity and never forgetting where you come from. As a lifelong public servant and your Precinct 4 constable, I've worked hard to live by those values every day."*

**Morales** was elected constable of **Precinct 4** in 2016. Prior to that he was the deputy constable in **Precinct 2**. **Morales** has been honored with the **Presidential Community Service Award** three times. In 2019, the **Austin City Council** voted to name the **Dove Springs Recreation Center** after **Morales**.



# PRODUCTION

## Editor

**Alfredo Santos c/s**  
**Associate Editor**

**Yleana Santos**

## Contributing Writers

**Alicia Perez-Hodge**

**Dr. Emilio Zamora**

**Magdeleno Avila**

## Distribution

**Sergio Porras**

**Arturo Gonzales**

## Marketing

**Peggy Vasquez**

La Voz is published monthly. The business address is P.O. Box 19457 Austin, Texas 78760. Our phone number is 512-944-4123. The use, reproduction or distribution of this newspaper is strongly encouraged.

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llamanos  
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**email:  
lavoztexas@gmail.com**

# Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a **La Voz Newspaper**. In this issue you will find stories and notices that have captured our attention over the month. What you will not find very much commentary on is the “breaking news” of **Donald Trump**. Why? Because by now, most of us know his standard “MO” (Method of Operation). He makes new announcement to crowd out the news cycle, the more outrages, the better. The general public barely has time to absorb the significance of what he says when he comes up with something else equally outrageous.

We believe it is important to keep in mind that **Donald Trump** will not last forever. We believe that those who support him will fade with time. These times, while “dark,” will pass, but will serve to remind us that the participation of the voters is of the upmost importance in a free society. Democracy is not a state or condition, it is an evolving process that requires the constant attention of the people.

## On the Cover

**Cerise Saucedo** is our choice for the cover of this month’s issue. **Saucedo** is one of 26 students who participated in the **Mexican American Studies** graduation ceremony on May 19th, 2025.

**Cerise**, who is from **El Paso, Texas**, was an intern here at **La Voz Newspaper** in 2023. She helped us to organize and execute the first **Austin Hispanic Hall of Fame** project.

**Saucedo** is continuing at **The University of Texas at Austin** where she is finishing up a second degree. We congratulate her wish her well!



# EDITORIAL



**Alfredo Santos c/s**  
**Editor and Publisher**  
**of La Voz Newspapers**

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10:30 a.m. English Mass in the Chapel  
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***¡llámame, puedo ayudarte***



# Texas Democratic State Reps Head Out of the State

**Texas Governor Greg Abbott** deploys the nuclear option for his MAGA cult leader **Donald Trump** and orders the arrest of the **Democrats** who are opposing his shocking gerrymandering scheme.

And it gets so much worse...

*“Texas House Democrats abandoned their duty to Texans,” Abbott stated. “By fleeing the state, Texas House Democrats are holding hostage critical legislation to aid flood victims and advance property tax relief. There are consequences for dereliction of duty.”*

*“Speaker Dustin Burrows just issued a call of the Texas House and issued warrants to compel members to return to the chamber,” he continued. “To ensure compliance, I ordered the Texas Department of Public Safety to locate, arrest, and return to the House chamber any member who has abandoned their duty to Texans. This order will remain in effect until all missing Democrat House members are accounted for and brought to the Texas Capitol.”*

Over the weekend, **Texas House Democrats** left the state to deny Republicans quorum to stop them from holding a vote on a new redistricting map that would dilute the votes of Black and latino Texans and create five new Republican-leaning districts. The scheme was hatched after **Donald Trump** reached out and demanded assistance in holding the **U.S. House** during the upcoming midterm elections.



Abbott has also absurdly ordered the **Texas Rangers** to investigate **Democrats** for “bribery” in relation to donations they are allegedly receiving from donors to help pay for the ludicrous \$500 daily fines that have been leveled against them for holding up the Legislature.

*“Today, I ordered the Texas Rangers to immediately investigate fleeing Texas House Democrats for potential bribery and any other potential legal violations connected to their refusal to appear for a quorum, conduct business, and cast votes,” said Abbott*

said. “That investigation should extend to anyone who aided or abetted such potential crimes.”

For their part, **Democrats** aren’t running scared. They’re taking a stand. “Frankly, **Democrats** say, ‘Come and take it,’” said **Texas House Minority Leader Gene Wu** during an appearance on **CNN** after Abbott threatened to strip Democrats of their seats.

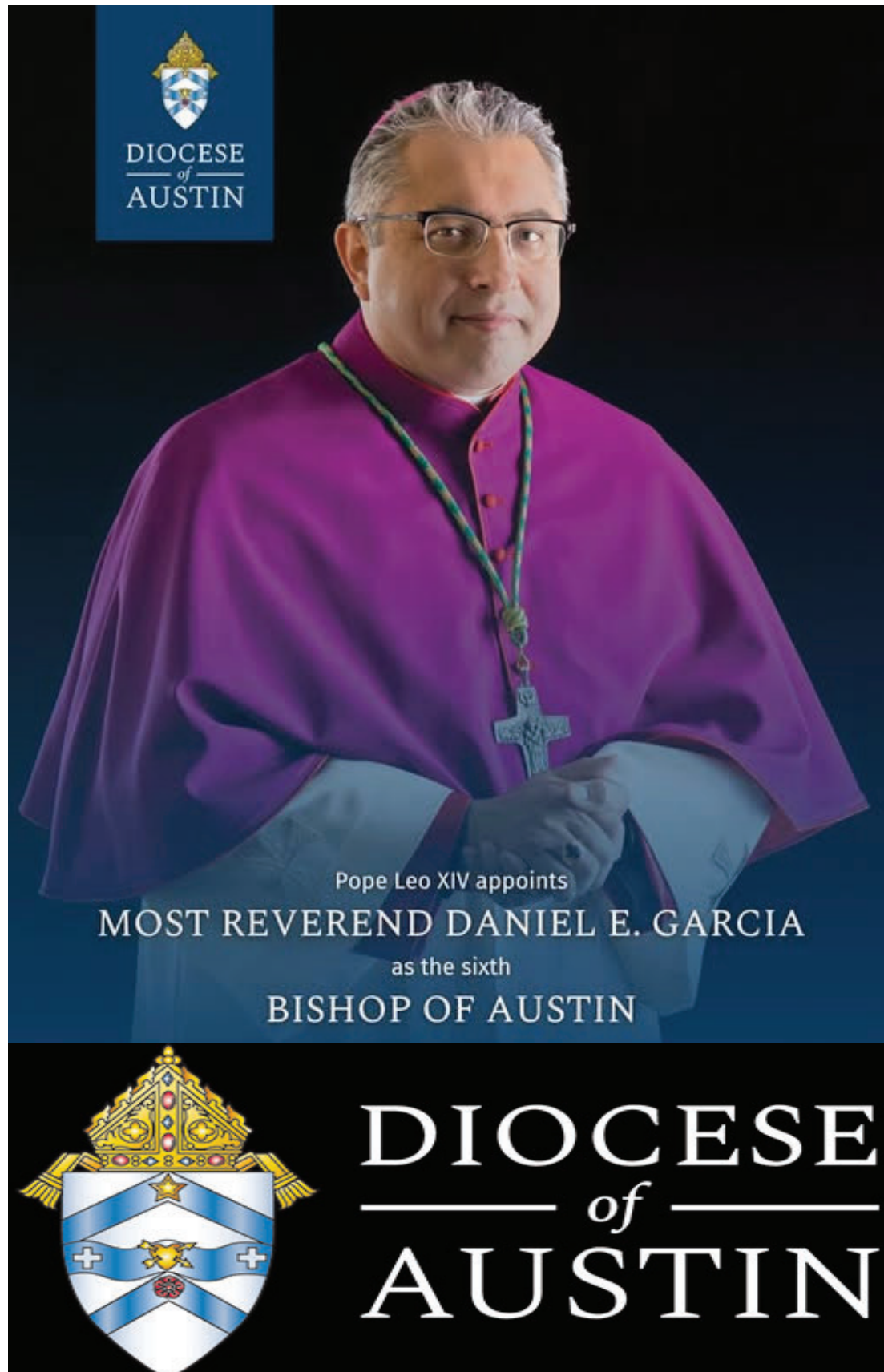
*“This is not a choice that we take lightly,” Wu added. “To be here in Chicago, we really didn’t have a choice. We tried to negotiate [with] Republicans. We tried to talk to them. We tried to reason with them. We tried to tell them that the public is very angry at what they’re doing, and they simply wouldn’t listen.”*

*“This was the only way we could protect our constituents and protect the state. What they’re doing is not just politics. It’s not just affecting lives. This is going to destroy lives,” he said. Republicans have now removed their masks completely. They don’t believe in democracy on a fundamental level and will gladly strip away our right to vote if it means they can remain in power a little bit longer. These Dem-*





# The Installation of the Most Rev. Daniel E. Garcia as the sixth Bishop of Austin will take place on September 18th, 2025



## Biography

**Bishop Daniel E. Garcia** was born on August 30, 1960, and grew up in **Waco** and **Cameron, Texas**. He is bilingual in English and Spanish and has three younger sisters.

He earned an **Associate of Arts** degree from **Tyler Junior College** in 1982, followed by a **Bachelor of Arts** in Liberal Arts from the **University of St. Thomas** in **Houston** in 1984, while attending **St. Mary Seminary**. He went on to receive a **Master of Divinity** in 1988. **Bishop Garcia** was ordained a priest for the **Diocese of Austin** on May 28, 1988, by **Bishop John E. McCarthy**. In 2007, he earned a **Master of Arts** in **Liturgical Studies** from **St. John's University** in **Collegeville, Minnesota**.

Throughout his ministry, **Bishop Garcia** served in numerous parishes and leadership roles. His first assignments were as associate pastor at **St. Catherine of Siena Parish**, **Cristo Rey Parish**, and **St. Louis King of France Parish**, all in **Austin**. From 1992 to 1995, he served in the **Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston** at **St. Mary Magdalene Parish** in **Humble, Texas**. In 1995, he was named the founding pastor of **St. Vincent de Paul Parish** in **Austin**, where he guided the community through its formation and multiple building projects, including the construction of a permanent church and sanctuary.

Beyond parish ministry, **Bishop Garcia** held several diocesan roles, including service in the **Vocation Office**, **Priests' Personnel Board**, **College of Consultors**, and the **Presbyteral Council**, where he also served as chair. He was **Dean of the Austin North Deanery** and contributed to the **Liturgical Commission**, **Diaconal Advisory Committee**, and served as **Master of Ceremonies** for the **Bishop's Office**.

In 2014, he was appointed **Vicar General** and **Moderator of the Curia** for the **Diocese of Austin** by **Archbishop Joe S. Vásquez**. The following year, **Pope Francis** appointed him **Auxiliary Bishop of Austin**.

In 2018, **Pope Francis** named **Bishop Garcia** the **Bishop of the Diocese of Monterey, California**.

**Bishop Garcia** has served on the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Communications** and the **Committee on Divine Worship**. He also chaired the **Subcommittee on Divine Worship** in Spanish and currently continues to serve on that subcommittee. He is also a member of the **Board of Directors for Catholic Relief Services**.



# LULAC Awards 21,000 dollars in Scholarships

by Alicia Perez-Hodge

On Monday July 21,2025, students, parents, elected officials and members of LULAC gathered to celebrate educational attainment and advance opportunities for worthy student in **Central Texas**. Twenty-one, one thousand dollar scholarships were awarded to students headed to college or already in college. Under the leadership of **Stacy Lopez**,

**President of LULAC Council 4221**, over the last ten years, a total of \$150,000.00 has been awarded in scholarships to students in Austin and the surrounding communities. The scholarships are made possible through community donations and a match

from the **LULAC Educational Service Centers (LNESE)**.

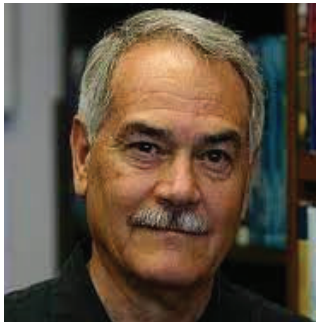
*"We have been very fortunate in partnership with LNESE to help students attain educational goals. They are our future."* said **Stacy Lopez, President, LULAC Council 4221**. Guest speaker was **State Representative Lulu Flores** and Keynote speaker **Mayor Pro Tem Vanessa Fuentes**. Along with families and students other LULAC aficionados in attendance were were: **Scholarship Committee Chairwoman , Joy Muela, District VII Direc-**







**Emilio Zamora** is a professor in the Department of History at The University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in Mexican American history, Texas history, oral history, and transnational (U.S./Mexico) working class history. His latest publications are *Claiming Rights and Righting Wrongs in Texas*, *Mexican Job Politics during World War II* and *Beyond the Latino World War II Hero: The Social and Political Legacy of a Generation* (co-edited with Dr. Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez). Zamora has served as the Vice Chair of the advisory board of the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC, Austin), and a member of the advisory board of the Hispanic



**Dr. Andrés Tijerina**, a native of Ozona, earned his Bachelor's degree from Texas A & M University, Master's from Texas Tech, and Doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin. Following teaching stints at Tech, UT Austin, UT San Antonio, and Texas A & M - Kingsville, Dr. Tijerina joined the faculty of ACC and serves with distinction as Professor of History at the Pinnacle Campus. Dr. Tijerina is the author of *Tejanos and Texas Under the Mexican Flag* and *Tejano Empire: Life on the South Texas Ranchos*.



**Sonia Hernández** is Professor of History at Texas A&M University. She is a former UT Board of Regents Scholar, former Fulbright scholar, and currently a Chancellor EDGES Fellow. Hernández earned a PhD in Latin American History from the University of Houston in 2006 and specializes in the intersections of gender and labor in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands, Chicana/o history, and Modern Mexico. She is the author of *Working Women into the Borderlands* (Texas A&M University Press, 2014) which won the Sara A. Whaley Book Prize (NWSA) and the Liz Car-



**Dr. Amy M. Porter** is a Professor of History at Texas A&M University-San Antonio where she teaches classes on early America and Texas. She received her Ph.D. in History from Southern Methodist University. Dr. Porter's research focuses on women in the Spanish borderlands, and her 2015 book is entitled *Their Lives, Their Wills: Women in the Borderlands, 1750-1846*. This book was the recipient of the Lou Halsell Rodenberger Book Prize in History, Culture, and Literature from Texas Tech University Press and a co-recipient of the Fabiola Cabeza de Baca prize from the Historical Society of New Mexico.



**Dr. San Miguel** is a scholar of U.S. history who specializes in Mexican American Education and culture. Professor San Miguel received his M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University. Much of San Miguel's research has focused on the impact of politics, culture, and language on the education of Mexican Americans. He also has served on the History Department's Executive and Graduate committees. He was President of the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies and has served on the Board of Directors for the Institute for the History of Texas Music at Southwestern Texas State University and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Latinos and Education*.

## Mexican Americans of Texas, A History of Tradition and Struggle

Five recognized professional historians in **Mexican American and Texas History**—**Drs. Andrés Tijerina, Emilio Zamora, Amy Porter, Sonia Hernández, and Guadalupe San Miguel Jr.**—have prepared the first book of its kind, a history of Mexican-origin people from pre-Colombian Times to the present. Its purpose is to introduce public school students and the public to a history that is informative, interesting, and striking in its comprehensiveness and depth.

The book follows a chronological trajectory that parallels the larger history of the **United States** and addresses large themes such as, 1) the formative Indigenous experience; 2) the momentous contact between European and Indigenous peoples, 3) the integration of the northern Mexican region secured through the **Texas War of Secession/Independence** and a U.S. war of aggression; 4) the initial integration of the Mexican inhabitants as a segment of the American working class and an ethnic group into the American Southwest; and 5) and the incorporation experience of a growing community with self-worth that seeks and expects opportunity and equality as morally and constitutionally guaranteed rights.

A beautifully designed and an elaborate learning system of maps, photographs, tables, objectives, a glossary, key words and concepts, and glossary, the book also incorporates important historical figures, events, and organizations. Throughout the fifteen chapters, the authors follow the standards offered by the **Texas State Board of Education** and draw on published books and articles, as well as on primary sources like oral histories, archival materials, and public statements.

The following Book Sections and Chapters provide what one reader described as “a book that offers everything that you would want to know about **Mexican Americans**:

- Chapter 1, The First People: Migration and the Americas, 30,000 Years Ago – 1500
- Chapter 2, Contact and Conquest: Indigenous and European Encounters in the Americas, 1492-1689
- Chapter 3, Early Spanish Settlement in Texas, 1690-1800
- Chapter 4, The Tejanos: Building a Democratic Texas, 1800-1821
- Chapter 5, The Tejano Struggle for a Democratic Government, 1821-1836
- Chapter 6, Tejanos in the Republic of Texas, 1836-1845
- Chapter 7, The Mexican American War, 1846-1848
- Chapter 8, Incorporating the Mexican and the Lost Territory, 1848-1865
- Chapter 9, Continuing Incorporation, 1865-1900
- Chapter 10, Incorporating Mexicans into Texas Society, 1900-1930
- Chapter 11, The Great Depression and World War II, 1930-1945
- Chapter 12, Mexican Americans during the Cold War Era, 1946-1960
- Chapter 13, The Chicano Movement in Texas, 1960-1978
- Chapter 14, The Moderate Agenda during the Chicano Movement, 1968-1978
- Chapter 15, The Post-Nationalist Era, 1980-2015



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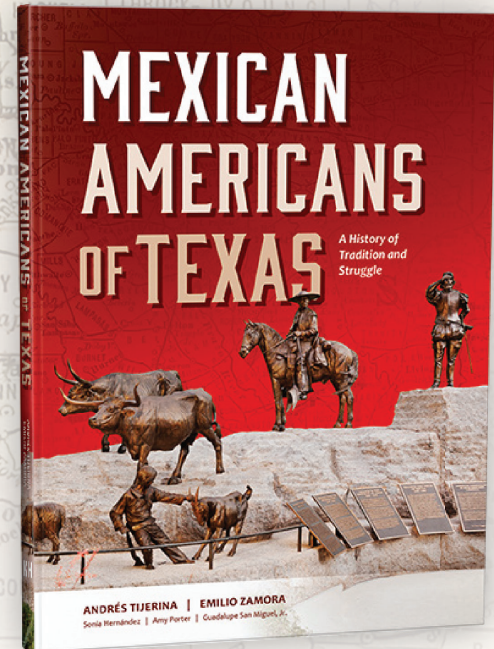
## Illuminate American History by Amplifying the Texas Narrative

Rooted in the heart of American history, *Mexican Americans of Texas, A History of Tradition and Struggle* revisits the history of Texas and connects the Mexican Americans to the history of the United States as well as the history of Europe and the rest of the world.

The textbook features seven sections and 15 chapters that follow the chronological order of history. Each chapter begins with learning objectives, key terms and a timeline that aims for each student to learn how Mexican Americans came to be Texans and how their story is as American as the pilgrims of Massachusetts.

Mexican Americans of Texas are different Texans and provided Texas with distinctive culture, Texan vocabulary and its independence from Spain. Mexican Americans are the only Texans who have been in Texas under all six flags over Texas and their story begins at the time the Spanish flag was planted on American soil.

**The central focus of the content revolves around the encounters and cultural exchanges shaping the Mexican experience in Texas throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.**



*Authored by: Andrés Tijerina,  
Emilio Zamora, Sonia Hernández,  
Amy Porter, and Guadalupe San Miguel, Jr.*

### Key Learning Features Include:

- Objectives and Key Terms
- Signal Questions
- Visual Historical Content: tables, maps and photographs
- Explanatory Notes
- Event Timeline Tool
- References to Historical Figures, Events, and Organizations



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE!**



# Zeke Castro Leaves a Legacy as an Influential Mariachi Instructor

**Zeke Castro**, known in **Austin** as the “*El Rey*” of mariachi music, was honored on July 13 at the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** for his significant contributions to the advancement of mariachi music.

As part of the celebration of his legacy, **Castro’s** traje—the black and silver suit he wore while performing—is now on display in the museum’s “**Story of Texas**” music gallery. His exhibit also features his sombrero and boots, alongside tributes to other legendary **Texas** musicians such as **Willie Nelson**, **Stevie Ray Vaughan**, **Beyoncé**, and **ZZ Top**.

**Castro’s** musical journey began in 1948. At just nine years old, he participated in the inaugural **Junior String Project** created by the **University of Texas**, where he also met his future wife, **Alice “Aly” Mercado**—later affectionately known as “*The Mariachi Mama*” by **Castro’s** students.

In 1961, **Castro** graduated from the **University of Texas** with a degree in viola pedagogy—the study of teaching string instruments.

**Castro’s** passion for mariachi music blossomed in 1973 when he began performing as a violinist. He eventually transitioned into education, teaching mariachi at **Fulmore Junior High** and **Travis High School** in **Austin**. He is credited with founding multiple mariachi programs in **Texas**, expanding the **University of Texas at Austin Mariachi Ensemble**, and founding the **University of Texas at Austin Mariachi Longhorn Camp** for high school students.

**Castro’s** students often recall his enthusiasm for teaching and his ability to foster a strong sense of community. During the celebration at the museum, a former student, **Alan Chen**, shared that **Castro** would tell his class, “Mariacheros make good compañeros”—meaning mariachi musicians make good companions. Through his teaching, students learned the values of integrity, leadership, collaboration, and friendship.

**Aly Castro** expressed pride in her husband’s accomplishments, describing him as a “transformational leader” whose mariachi programs continue to carry on his legacy. According to **Zeke Castro**, mariachi music is more than just playing the notes. “*Mariachi music is playing the feeling of the music. That’s what you’re trying to get across,*” **Castro** explained. He emphasized that every mariachi song has a hidden meaning, and that to truly perform it, musicians must discover and convey that meaning to their audience. “*That’s what differentiates mariachi music from band, orchestra, and choir,*” he said. “You’re sending a sensation out to the people you’re playing for.”

**Castro** reflected that it took him years to fully understand this, describing the experience as if the music had been “calling to him.” “*When it finally dawned on me, it was the best thing that ever happened to me.*”





# TAMACC Proudly Presents Our 2025 Women of Distinction



Susana Almanza



Monica Avila



Mariana Casarez



Ana Cortez



Nancy Flores



Dalialh Garcia



Vanessa Fuentes



Esther Garza



Gloria Leal



Rosalinda Martinez



Abigail Tarango



Lourdes Zuniga





# The UT Students Who Participated in The Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies Graduation Ceremony on May 10th, 2025

On May 10th, 2025, twenty six students participated in The Mexican American and Latina/o Studies Graduation Ceremony. Some majored in Mexican Studies while others took a minor. They appear below and on the following pages as a testament to the ongoing legacy of the Chicano Movement in a program that began at UT Austin 55 years ago.



**Alejandra Arroyo**

Bachelor of Arts

**Major**—Health and Society

**Minor**—Anthropology

**Certificate**—Forensic Science

**Hometown:** Houston, Texas

Durante su tiempo en la universidad, **Alejandra** tuvo el honor de trabajar con el Instituto Latino de Investigaciones como asistente de investigación. Aquí conoció a muchas personas quienes la apoyaron durante su jornada como estudiante. Después de graduarse, **Alejandra** espera seguir trabajando como asistente de investigación o explorar sus intereses en una carrera de médica forense — y no, no le da miedo.

**Alejandra** es, orgullosamente, la hija de **Oscar Arroyo y Maria Gonzalez**. Es la primera persona en su familia graduandose de la universidad y no sera la ultima, ya que espera que sus hermanos, **Sandra, Vanessa y Damian** la miren como ejemplo y sepan que si se puede.



**Linda Giselle Alvarado**

Bachelor of Arts

MALS Distinguished Graduate

**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Minor**—Latino Media Arts and Studies

**Hometown:** Cypress, Texas

**Linda** thanks her family for supporting her journey in higher education. This includes her parents, **Marisela Ortega** and **Pedro Alvarado**; her brother, **Diego Alvarado**; her padrino, **Ramón Alvarado**; her tíos, **Jesús “Chuy” Alvarado** and **Rogelio “Chapo” Alvarado Jr.**; and her tías, **Yanira Talamantes, Aida Garcia, Selenis Alvarado, and Juanita Blanco-Alvarado**.

She hopes her achievements inspire her younger cousins—**Abby, Melanie, Nataly, J.J., Sincere, Noah, Zarah, and Arisabella**. She also thanks her home-

town friends and her best friends for their constant support.

Gracias a sus abuelas **Melania Ortega y Marcelina Alvarado**, y a su abuelo **Rogelio Alvarado** por su amor y apoyo incondicional. Y a su abuelo **Artemio Ortega** y a su tío **Artemio Ortega Jr.**, quienes la cuidan desde el cielo—que descansen en paz.



**Maria Piedra Castillo**

Bachelor of Arts

**Major**—Government

**Major**—Rhetoric and Writing

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Certificate**—Bridging Disciplines Program – Public Policy

**Hometown:** Carthage, Texas

**María** es la hija de **María Guadalupe**

**Castillo y José Isabel Piedra**. Nació en **Zacatecas, México**, y creció en **Carthage, Texas**. Durante sus estudios en la **Universidad de Texas** en **Austin**, fue mentora de los **First Gen Longhorns** y recibió reconocimiento por sus contribuciones al programa.

Además, participó en la **Beca de Investigación J.J. Pickles** y en el programa de **Honores de Retórica y Escritura**. Después de graduarse, **María** planea estudiar para ser abogada. Está profundamente agradecida con su familia y reconoce que no estaría donde está hoy sin sus sacrificios.



**Alfredo Chavarria, Jr.**

Bachelor of Fine Arts

**Major**—Design

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** Lewisville, Texas



**Alfredo** would like to thank his family, friends and loved ones for all their support. He could not have achieved the goal of graduating from **The University of Texas** without them. Alfredo also thanks the faculty and staff that guided him over the years. **Alfredo** will miss **UT** but he looks forward to the next stage of his life and the opportunities to come.



**Xiomara Lizette Cosino**

Bachelor of Science

**Major**—Environmental Science

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** Houston, Texas

Para su proyecto final, **Xiomara** condujo un análisis geoquímico del acuífero **Edward's**. Usando muestras del resort Barton, investigó las diferencias en minerales y cómo estos minerales afectan la infiltración del agua subterránea. Después de graduarse, trabajará para una empresa de licencias y permisos para energía solar. Le gustaría agradecer a su mentor **Jeff Watson** quien le ayudó a realizar su proyecto. le gustaría también agradecer a su familia por su apoyo durante sus estudios.

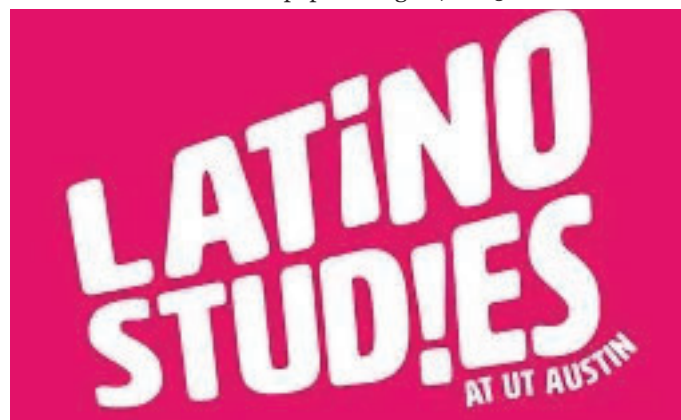


**Ava Isbella DeAlva**

Bachelor of Science

**Major**—Psychology

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies



**Certificate**—Forensic Science

**Hometown:** Keller, Texas

**The University of Texas at Austin** had been **Ava's** goal since she was a girl. Getting here was an achievement in itself, but learning to stand on her own as a first-generation student became the real milestone. Leaving home and family wasn't easy, but it pushed **Ava** to grow in ways she hadn't expected. Over time, she found her footing and learned to trust herself.

The past few years went by quickly, but they were full of moments that shaped her into someone more confident and capable. **Ava** is leaving **UT** with more than just a degree, she's leaving with pride in how far she's come and an idea of who she will be.



**Randy Gangoye Duncan**

Bachelor of Science

**Major**—Radio-Television-Film

**Minor**—Spanish

**Hometown:** Cypress, Texas

While at **The University of Texas at Austin**, **Randy** worked with the **Latino Research Institute**, contributing to research that explored the experiences and needs of Latino populations across **Texas**. This role sharpened his communication skills and affirmed his commitment to using media and research to foster un-

derstanding and advocate for equity. His Spanish minor further enabled him to engage more deeply with the communities he served.

Following graduation, **Randy** will begin an internship in college ministry, where he looks forward to mentoring students and supporting their spiritual and personal growth. He sees this next chapter as an extension of his desire to listen, encourage, and walk alongside others during pivotal moments in life.

Whether through film, faith, or research, **Randy** is passionate about creating space for meaningful conversations and authentic connection. He hopes to continue using his voice and skills to serve others and share stories that inspire and unite.



**Isabella Sofia Estrada**

Bachelor of Arts

**MAIS** Honors

**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Major**—Race, Indigeneity, and Migration

**Minor**—Law, Justice, and Society

**Minor**—History

**Minor**—Government

**Hometown:** Buda, Texas

**Isabella** is proud to have successfully completed her studies at **The University**

**of Texas at Austin**. She plans to take a year off from school to focus on applying to law schools during the upcoming admission cycle. During this time, she hopes to work and spend quality time with her friends and family.

**Isabella** is grateful for the unwavering support she has received from her parents, family, friends, and the faculty in the **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies**. She looks forward to your continued love and support as she embarks on her next chapter.



**Chantell Gonzalez**

Bachelor of Fine Arts

**Major**—Theatre and Dance

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Minor**—Law, Justice, and Society

**Hometown:** McAllen, Texas

**Chantell** is immensely grateful for the opportunity to attend **The University of Texas at Austin**—an experience that has shaped her in ways she will carry for a lifetime. She would like to thank the people who made this journey possible: her family, friends, and loved ones. Raised in a home that instilled a love for learning, she is especially proud to honor her heritage as a Latina and recognize the power in studying her culture.

**Chantell** extends heartfelt gratitude to her professors, mentors, and peers whose encouragement carried her through. Most of all, she honors her family, whose values of hard work, perseverance, and love have been the foundation of all she's achieved. Their sacrifices have made this milestone possible. This achievement is not hers alone—it reflects the unwavering support and guidance of those who stood beside her. **Chantell** is, above all, endlessly thankful.





### Maya Isabella Guerra

Bachelor of Arts

Liberal Arts Honors

**Major**—Government

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Maya** would like to thank her family, friends and loved ones for all their support. She could not achieved the goal of graduating from **The University of Texas** without them. **Maya** also thanks the faculty and staff that guided her over the years. **Maya** will miss **UT** but she looks forward to the next stage of her life and the opportunities to come.



### Jennifer Alexis Guerrero

Bachelor of Arts

**Major**—International Relations and Global Studies

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Minor**—Portuguese

**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Jennifer** feels immense gratitude for her time at **The University of Texas at Austin**. She would like to thank her family: to her Auntie and her Tias, thank you for always supporting me throughout my

journey. To her grandparents, your love has always lifted me up. To her precious siblings, you are the ones I can count on to make me laugh when the world feels like it is ending. To her beautiful Mom and Dad, I will never have enough words to express the gratitude for everything you have done for me and the love I have for you. I could not have done this without you. This accomplishment is your success, just as much it is mine. I love you all so much. Thank you for having me in your lives.



### Kyara Michelle Huichapa

Bachelor of Arts and Sciences

**Major**—Astronomy

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** Cutler Bay, Florida

**At The University of Texas at Austin**, **Kyara** served as Chair of the **Mexican American Culture Committee** under Campus Events & Entertainment, where she found joy in celebrating and expressing cultural identity. She also worked as an **Orientation Advisor**, welcoming thousands of new Longhorns to campus.

Earning her degree in Astronomy brings her one step closer to her lifelong dream of working at **NASA** and becoming a role model for young Latinas who aspire to pursue STEM careers. **Kyara** is grateful for her experience with the **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies**, which has helped her better understand and connect with the communities she hopes to support and uplift.

**Kyara** thanks her family and friends, who have become her greatest support system, for their constant love and encouragement. She wouldn't be here without each and every one of you. And to anyone chasing a dream, keep going, for even stars take time to shine.



### Anthony A. Larraga

Bachelor of Arts

**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Major**—Government

**Minor**—Business and Public Policy

**Minor**—Law, Justice, and Society

**Hometown:** Gainesville, Texas

**Anthony** would like to dedicate this message to his family and friends who have never given up on him and pushed him to succeed. He will never forget the sacrifices made by his parents who came from **Mexico** to the U.S. in hopes of a better life. Without their love and support, he wouldn't be walking this stage. Even though they tell him "*Don't do this for us, do it for you*", he can't help but feel this is for them to thank them for the sacrifices made.

To his brothers and sisters, thank you for dealing with his younger sibling tendencies. Thank you for listening to him when no one else could. Thank you for reminding him that life shouldn't be taken for granted and to enjoy life to the fullest.

### Fernanda Arlen Lopez

Bachelor of Arts

**Major**—Journalism

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** Alamo, Texas

**Fernanda** is the daughter of Mexican immigrants and a proud graduate of **The University of Texas at Austin**. Today, she walks across this stage in deep gratitude for her parents, who came to this country with nothing, but have given her everything. Their sacrifices have shaped every step of her journey, and it is because of them that she stands here today.

In a time when immigrant communities continue to face dehumanization, erasure, and political violence, this celebration carries even more weight. To study **Mexican American** history, to uplift her culture, and to take up space in institutions that were not built for her is not just a personal achievement—it is an act of resistance. **Fernanda** dedicates this moment to her parents and to all who came before her, whose labor and love make achievements like this possible. She carries their legacy forward with pride, power, and purpose.



### Alexis Esperanza Martinez

Bachelor of Arts

MALS Distinguished Graduate

**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Major**—Psychology

**Hometown:** Houston, Texas

**Alexis** would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the faculty and staff in the **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies** for welcoming her with open arms and for giving her a place to call home on this giant campus. A special thank you goes to her mentor, **Dr. Rachel González-Martín**, for giving her a chance and believing in her potential.

**Alexis** also thanks her family—especially



her mom, dad, sister, and grandma—for their unconditional love and constant encouragement. She also thanks her partner, **Cris**, who has witnessed every high and low since their freshman year. His steady presence and unrelenting support made all the difference. She is glad to have gone through everything with him.



**Paola J. Mendoza**

Bachelor of Science  
**Major**—Neuroscience  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown**: Fort Worth, Texas

**Paola** gives all thanks to God for lighting her path and walking beside her through every challenge. This moment is dedicated to her parents, family, and friends—whose love, prayers, and unwavering support carried her through every step of this journey.

**Paola** is especially grateful to her mentors and professors for believing in her potential when she doubted herself, and for pushing her to grow beyond what she thought possible. Your support made her feel seen, capable, and inspired.

Quiere agradecer sinceramente a sus padres por cada sacrificio, cada palabra de aliento y cada abrazo en momentos de duda. Su esfuerzo y amor incondicional son el cimiento de este logro. Este título es tan suyo como de ella. **Paola** los ama con todo su ser. Con orgullo en sus raíces y gratitud en el corazón, **Paola** celebra este logro como el comienzo de algo aún más grande.

## Veronica Moreno

Bachelor of Arts  
**Major**—Government  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown**: Del Valle, Texas

Born in **Mexico** and raised in **Texas**, **Veronica** has dedicated her academic journey to education, social justice, and community empowerment. During her time at **The University of Texas at Austin**, she worked to amplify the voices of marginalized communities through research and advocacy.

**Veronica** agradece profundamente a sus padres, quienes, a pesar de no haber tenido acceso a una educación formal, trabajaron incansablemente para brindarle las oportunidades que ellos no tuvieron. Este logro es un testimonio de su esfuerzo, amor y sacrificio.



**Ailema Tlamatina Ortiz**

Bachelor of Arts  
**Major**—Sustainability Studies  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown**: Pharr, Texas

**Ailema** has had an incredible time here on the 40 acres and is extremely grateful to the faculty and staff that have made an everlasting impact on her life and future career. She is excited to go out into the world and find a job where she can express her immense amount of creativity and passion for sustainability.

**Ailema** quiere agradecer a sus padres, hermanos, pareja y, por último, pero no menos importante, a su **Tía Ofelia** (que en paz descanse), por todos los esfuerzos que ha logrado aquí en la universidad. Sin su amor y apoyo, no estaría aquí hoy, y les está muy agradecida. Sus padres siempre le decían: Sí se puede, y mírala ahora: Sí se pudo!



**Gabriela Perez Rivera**

Bachelor of Arts  
**Major**—Spanish  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown**: Austin, Texas

Los últimos tres años fueron completamente dedicados para mi familia. Mi educación es demostración para las futuras generaciones sobre el poder de los latinos en las universidades. No solo aprendí más sobre el mundo, pero sobre mi historia. Siempre me acordaré que los sueños no tienen fronteras y hay que ponerse las pilas para tener éxito. Para mis padres que llegaron con nada, les entrego todo. ¡Adiós UT!

**“Mamá y papá, quiero que sepan que sus sacrificios y esfuerzos valieron la pena. Que el sueño que estaban esperando ver se ha hecho realidad. A mis hermanos, ustedes son mi motivación para ser mejor. Ustedes son la luz de mi vida y no podría haber hecho esto sin ustedes. Los quiero mucho con toda mi alma y les estaré eternamente agradecido por sus fe en mi.”**



**Aide Isabel Ramos**

Bachelor of Science  
**Major**—Communication Studies  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown**: El Paso, Texas

While at **The University of Texas at Austin**, **Aide** was recognized on the Dean's List six times, earned **University Honors** six times, and was named a **College Scholar** twice—an award given to the top 20% of students in each college.

She has been involved in organizations such as Women Pursuing Law, and **Kappa Delta Chi Sorority**, Inc. She has also held several leadership positions, including **Community Engagement Officer** for **She's the First**, as well as Vice President, Historian, and Sisterhood Chair for **Kappa Delta Chi**. She plans to continue her education by attending law school in Fall 2026, with the goal of becoming an immigration attorney.

**Aide** would like to thank her friends and family—especially her parents—for their unwavering support throughout her college journey. Without their love and encouragement, she would not be here today, graduating as a proud first-generation college student.



# The UT Students Who Participated in the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies Graduation Ceremony on May 10th, 2025



**Gustavo Alonzo  
Ramos Reyes**

Bachelor of Arts  
**Major**—International Relations and Global Studies  
**Major**—Sociology  
**Hometown:** Laredo, Texas

**Gustavo** wants to thank everyone he worked with at the **Department of Mexican American and Latino Studies**, and especially, everyone at the **Latino Research Institute**. **Gustavo** is deeply grateful to the people at the **LRI** who guided him and taught him so much, his former and current supervisors: **Daisy, Laura, Nelly, and Krissia**.

**Gustavo** quiere agradecer a toda su familia, quienes lo han ayudado a ser la persona que es, y quienes son una parte muy importante de su vida. Sobre todo, **Gustavo**

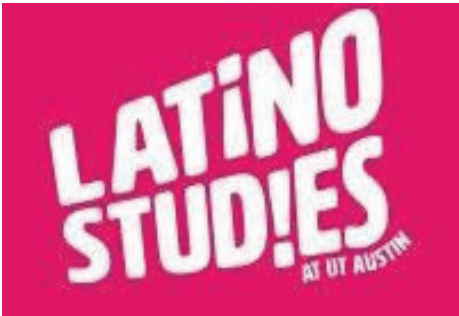
quiere agradecer a sus hermanos, a **Gael y Natalie**, a quienes quiere mucho y que siempre va a tratar de ayudar en lo que necesiten. Y finalmente a sus papás, **Gustavo Ramos y Bellanira Reyes**, quienes lo han apoyado toda la vida, quienes le permitieron irse a estudiar a **Austin**, irse de intercambio a **Madrid**, dándole la confianza y las herramientas para vivir nuevas experiencias y convertirse en una persona más independiente. **Gustavo** los quiere mucho y les agradece por todo.

## America Yalile Ramirez

Bachelor of Science and Arts  
**Major**—Human Ecology  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown:** Laredo, Texas

The journey of a first-generation student, a **Mexican American**, and an oldest daughter, is not easy. With obstacles already set up at the start of the line, being able to see the end of this journey, is one the best feelings in the world. These past four years have been a difficult journey, but **America** is proud of the results that have come out of these efforts. However, she cannot take credit for this effort without the support of friends, but most importantly from the support of family.

**Mamá y papá**, quiero que sepan que sus sacrificios y esfuerzos valieron la pena. Que el sueño que estaban esperando ver se ha hecho realidad. A mis hermanos, ustedes son mi motivación para ser mejor. Ustedes son la luz de mi vida y no podría haber hecho esto sin ustedes. Los quiero mucho con toda mi alma y les estaré eternamente agradecido por sus fe en mi.



**Jacqueline  
Ricalday Venegas**

Bachelor of Arts  
**Major**—Portuguese  
**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Hometown:** Houston, Texas

**Jacqueline** quiere desearle felicidades a todos los estudiantes de la clase del 2025! Quiere darle las gracias a su familia por estar aquí con ella en este día. Ella estará eternamente agradecida con sus padres por su amor, su apoyo, y por enseñarle a siempre echarle ganas. También le da las gracias a sus hermanas por haberle dado la confianza para enfrentar sus miedos y recordarle que puede llegar muy lejos. Hay personas que no pudieron estar aquí, pero ellos están en su corazón y sabe que de lejos le están echando porras.

También le manda un agradecimiento a sus profesores de la **Universidad de Tejas** y los profesores de la Universidad Fed-

eral de São João del-Rei por orientarla y darle el apoyo necesario para completar su bachillerato.

**¡Jackie** les manda decir que no lo podría haber logrado sin ninguno de los mencionados! ¡Por último, le da las gracias a su ama y apa por ponerla hacer tarea hasta en las vacaciones!



**Naty Roman**

Bachelor of Arts  
MALS Distinguished Graduate  
**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies  
**Certificate**—Digital Humanities  
**Hometown:** San Antonio, Texas

**Natividad's** grandmother, **Consuelo de la Garza**, who was never able to pursue her dream of being a doctor, used to tell her 11 children, **“Te pueden quitar todo, pero nunca te podrán quitar la educación.”** Today **Nati** passes on this lesson to her daughters, **Estrella** and **Aurora**, and hopes that walking across this stage will forever be an inspiration to them and a reminder to never give up when things get hard. She hopes to continue to make her children, and her ancestors proud.





**Cerise Abigail Saucedo**

Bachelor of Arts

**MALS Honors**

**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** El Paso, Texas

**Cerise Saucedo** is a Mexican American, queer woman, from the mountains and sunsets of **El Paso, Texas**. Now, she is a graduate of **The University of Texas at Austin!** She would like to thank her family, friends, those with her today, every day, those at home and in her heart.

How many people does it take to earn a bachelor's degree? Too many! It takes a village, thank you to her village. Sharing this

moment with you, is the cherry on top.

THANK YOU, in all caps, to the incredible **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies**, Drs. **Maria Coteria**, **CJ Alvarez**, **Wanda Hernandez**, **Lilia Rosas**, and the legendary **Luis Guevara**. You all are the reasons **Cerise** felt at home and completely inspired during her time here.

This degree, what it taught her, the people it brought her, are gifts, and so is today. To the class of 2025, in the words of her mom and many parents "*mija you did it, I'm proud of you!*"



**Madeleine Grace Vacanti**

Bachelor of Science

**Major**—Psychology

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Minor**—Women's and Gender Studies

**Hometown:** Arlington, Texas

**Madeleine** extends heartfelt appreciation for the faculty and staff in the **Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies**, they provided community, cultural pride, and support throughout these past four years.

**Madeleine** would also like to show her deepest gratitude to her family: Mom, Dad, **Sophia**, **Eva**, **Isaiah**, and **Aunt Mary Jane**. They have provided her unconditional love and support that she never takes for granted.

Finally, **Madeleine** would like to mention her grandparents, **Ernest** and **Josephine**. **Madeleine** feels honored to have learned their stories and carry their heritage forward. She hopes she is making them proud today and every day.



**Alejandra Yaneth Vadillo**

Bachelor of Arts

**MALS Distinguished Graduate**

**Major**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Major**—Health and Society

**Minor**—Philosophy

**Hometown:** Crete, Nebraska

**Alejandra Vadillo** es de **Crete, Nebraska**, hija de inmigrantes, y la primera en su familia en graduarse de la universidad, recorriendo con mucho esfuerzo y corazón para lograr sus metas. Durante su tiempo en la **Universidad de Texas en Austin**, **Alejandra** se comprometió con su formación académica, en la investigación para mejorar sus comunidades.

Fue tres veces campeona nacional como parte de **Texas Speech**, donde aprendió el valor de expresar lo que uno cree con pasión y convicción.

Hoy, **Alejandra** no solo celebra un título, sino todo lo que representa: el sacrificio de su familia, su perseverancia y el apoyo de quienes caminaron a su lado. Agradece profundamente a sus abuelos, **Hector y Maria Lafon**, mama, **Alma Garcia**, amistades, profesoras, y mentores. Gracias a todos ellos, su vida solo está comenzando y está emocionada por todo lo que viene.

**Mellina Zavala**

Bachelor of Arts

**Major**—Latin American Studies

**Minor**—Mexican American and Latina/o Studies

**Hometown:** Waxahachi, Texas

**Mellina Zavala** es la hija de **Juana Moran**, hermana de **Miguel Zavala**, y dueña de **Monte** (su gatita quien se ha desvelado junto a ella en sus estudios).

Su tiempo en la **Universidad de Texas en Austin** ha respaldado su amor del aprendizaje y desea seguir en la academia. Como la primera de su familia en graduarse de la universidad, le gustaría agradecer a todos los quien han amado y apoyado en este éxito. Apesar que su nombre en su título demuestra el esfuerzo personal de **Mellina**, no sería posible sin los quien han estado ahí ayudando. Familia, Profesores, Personal, Amigos. **Mellina** ha emprendido mucho en su tiempo en **UT**, pero lo más importante después del conocimiento de su gente es la importancia de comunidad.

En estos tiempos, tenemos que recordar los quien nos rodean y depender el uno del otro para salir adelante. Como la activista **Alicia Escalante** dijo, "*para recuperar nuestros derechos de libertad y de oportunidad, tenemos que permanecer unidos.*"



**The University of Texas at Austin**  
**Latino Studies**  
**College of Liberal Arts**





# Johnson High School Reunion



## Word Power

### En Palabras Hay Poder

No one can ever argue in the name of education, that it is better to know less than it is to know more. Being bilingual or trilingual or multilingual is about being educated in the 21st century. We look forward to bringing our readers various word lists in each issue of La Voz.

Nadie puede averiguar en el nombre de la educación que es mejor saber menos que saber más. Siendo bilingüe o trilingüe es parte de ser educado en el siglo 21. Esperamos traer cada mes a nuestros lectores de La Voz una lista de palabras en español con sus equivalentes en inglés.

The people	El pueblo
The voters	Los votantes
The fight	La lucha
The constitution	La constitución
The agenda	La agenda
The responsibility	La responsabilidad
The consequences	Las consecuencias
The hope	La esperanza
The Dilema	El dilema
The Choice	La decisión
The Opportunity	La oportunidad
Your Future	Tu futuro
Your Past	Tu pasado
Your Children	Tus hijos
Your Grandchildren	Tus nietos





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“

31.78% VOTED FOR TRUMP  
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1.06% VOTED THIRD PARTY  
36.32% DID NOT VOTE  
100.00%

MORE AMERICANS  
VOTED FOR SOMEONE  
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THIS IS NOT A MANDATE  
FOR TRUMP FASCISM...



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## AUSTIN SALTILLO SISTER CITIES REVEALS “EL GRITO” POSTER CONTEST WINNER

**AUSTIN, TEXAS**—“Viva la América” by local artist **Fidencio Durán** is the winning entry of the 2025 **El Grito Poster Contest** sponsored by **Austin Saltillo Sister Cities** (ASSCA) and **Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation**. The painting will serve as the poster image of the **Mexican Independence Day Celebration**, slated for 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15, at **Republic Square Park**, 422 Guadalupe Street. The free event, sponsored by **ASSCA**, the **Mexican Consulate of Austin** and the **Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation**, celebrates **Mexican Independence Day** with a community festival comprised of a community resource fair, an artisan mercado and Mariachis, , Ballet Folclorico and music together with the traditional **Cry of Dolores** given by the **Mexican Cónsul Humberto Hernández Haddad**.

**Durán**’s artwork documents how the **Priest Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla** rallied Mexican peasants to take up arms against the Spanish crown, igniting the Mexican Independence liberation movement in 1810 that was consummated in 1821. The painting also highlights other heroes like the co-conspirators **Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez** and **Ignacio Allende**. The winning entry will be on display in the lobby of the **Mexican Consulate**, 5202 E Ben White Blvd #150, **Austin, TX 78741** from August to Sept. 15.

Aside from being the **2025 El Grito Poster Image**, **Durán** received a \$1000 prize from the **Austin Saltillo Sister Cities Association**.

**Durán** has a prolific portfolio focusing on paintings and murals that depict scenes of everyday life, family gatherings and significant cultural events. He primarily works with acrylic and oil on canvas. One of his most well-known works is “The Visit,” a large mural located at the **Austin-Bergstrom International Airport**, which depicts a multi-generational family reunion. He has also completed commissions for various public institutions, including the **Montopolis Recreation and Community Center** and the **Mexic-Arte Museum** in **Austin**.

He received all three of the **Dallas Museum of Art’s “Awards to Artists”**: the **Clare Hart DeGolyer Memorial Fund Award**, the **Arch M. Kimbrough Fund Award**, and the **Dozier Travel Grant**. His work is included in the permanent collections of institutions such as the **Art Museum of South Texas** and the **University of Houston**.

**ASSCA** was established in November 1968 and has included 57 years of diplomatic missions, cultural and education exchanges, public safety and training programs, commerce, and art exhibits. It was a response to the nationwide non-governmental organization called the People-to-People Program that President Dwight D. Eisenhower created in 1956 to foster citizen diplomacy, universal understanding and world peace. Now called Sister Cities International, there are over 500 U.S. cities enjoying over 1,800 partnerships in 138 countries on six continents.

## “VIVA LA AMÉRICA” GANA COMO LA IMAGEN PUBLICITARIA DE “EL GRITO 2025”

**AUSTIN, TEXAS**—“Viva la América” del artista local **Fidencio Durán** es la obra ganadora del Concurso de la Imagen Publicitaria “El Grito 2025”, patrocinado por Ciudades Hermanas Austin Saltillo (ASSCA por sus siglas en inglés) y Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation. La pintura servirá para promover la Celebración del Día de la Independencia de México, programada el lunes, 15 de septiembre de 6 a 9 pm, en **Republic Square Park**, 422 Guadalupe Street. El evento es gratuito, auspiciado por **ASSCA**, el **Consulado de México en Austin y Downtown Austin Alliance Foundation**, celebra el **Día de la Independencia de México** con un festival comunitario que incluye una feria de recursos comunitarios, un mercado de artesanos y Mariachis, Ballet Folclórico y música, junto con **El Grito de Dolores** que celebrará el **Cónsul de México, Humberto Hernández Haddad**.

La pintura de **Durán** documenta cómo el cura Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla reunió a los peones mexicanos para tomar las armas contra la corona española, encendiendo el movimiento de Independencia de México en 1810, el cual se consumó en 1821. También destaca a otros héroes como co-conspiradores como Doña Josefa Ortiz y Domínguez e Ignacio Allende. La obra ganadora estará en exhibición en la área de recepción del Consulado de México, 5202 E Ben White Blvd #150, Austin, TX 78741, del mes de agosto hasta el 15 de septiembre.

Además de ser la imagen publicitaria de El Grito 2025, **Durán** recibió un premio de \$1,000 por parte de **ASSCA**.

**Durán** tiene un portafolio prolífico que se centra en pinturas y murales que representan escenas de la vida cotidiana, reuniones familiares y eventos culturales significativos. Trabaja principalmente con acrílico y óleo sobre lienzo. Una de sus obras más conocidas es “The Visit”, un gran mural ubicado en el Aeropuerto Internacional de Austin-Bergstrom, que representa una reunión familiar multi-generacional. También ha completado encargos para varias instituciones públicas, incluyendo el Montopolis Recreation and Community Center y el Mexic-Arte Museum en Austin.

Recibió los tres “Premios para Artistas” del Museo de Arte de Dallas: el Clare Hart DeGolyer Memorial Fund Award, el Arch M. Kimbrough Fund Award y el Dozier Travel Grant. Su trabajo está incluido en las colecciones permanentes de instituciones como el Art Museum of South Texas y la Universidad de Houston. **ASSCA** se estableció en noviembre de 1968 y ha incluido 57 años de misiones diplomáticas, intercambios culturales y educativos, programas de seguridad pública y capacitación, comercio y exposiciones de arte. Fue una respuesta a la organización no gubernamental a nivel nacional llamada People-to-People Program, que el presidente Dwight D. Eisenhower creó en 1956 para fomentar la diplomacia ciudadana, la comprensión universal y la paz mundial. Ahora llamada Sister Cities International, hay más de 500 ciudades de EE. UU. que disfrutan de más de 1,800 asociaciones en 138 países en seis continentes.

