



Volume 20 Number 8
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La Voz

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Solamente el que carga el saco sabe lo que lleva a dentro

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Uvalde Elementary
Introducing **Principal Christy Perez** and **Assistant Principal Shawna Wolbert**. We are looking forward to the 2022-2023 school year!



THE UCISD office team is ready and able to help with your transition back to school. **Ms. Janette Martinez, Ms. Lorena Flores, and Ms. Stephanie Moreno** are ready to share back-to-school information. Uvalde Elementary's front office number is 830-591-4947



Ada Limón Named 24th Poet Laureate of the United States

By Sandra Lilley

Award-winning poet **Ada Limón** is making history: The **Library of Congress** announced that it has named her the 24th poet laureate of the U.S.

As **Limón** takes up the storied position this fall and travels around the country, she intends to share two things she believes about poetry: It gives us a way to "reclaim our humanity," and it can help repair our relationship with the planet.

But for starters, she's basking in the news and the moment. "The reeling has not stopped," **Limón** said, laughing, speaking on the phone ahead of the formal announcement.

Limón is the renowned author of six books of poetry. "The Carrying," published in 2018, won the **National Book Critics Circle Award** for poetry; her 2015 book, "Bright Dead Things," was a **National Book Award** finalist.

"We're still in the middle of a pandemic — bouncing from trauma to trauma," said **Limón**, who is the first female U.S. poet laureate of Latino and Mexican American heritage. She lives in **Kentucky**, fell in love with poetry in her teens.

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Pensamientos

Bienvenidos otra vez a La Voz Newspaper. As many of you know for the last couple of issues we have been heavily focused on the tragedy in **Uvalde, Texas**. **Uvalde** is one of two places that I claim as hometowns. (The other place being **Stockton, California**) I spent my formative years growing up in **Uvalde** and it is the place where I got into the **Chicano Movement** as a teenager. We organized a **MAYO** chapter in **Uvalde** in 1968 and began "stirring the pot" como quien dice by questioning the conditions in which we found ourselves.

As I observe **Uvalde** today I see a community struggling to find a unified voice. To be sure there are many competing interest at work and the situation is in many ways complicated and even more so with the millions of dollars that have poured into the community in the wake of the tragedy. But I am an optimist. Just like we struggled some 54 years ago as **MAYO** members to address the issues in the community, I believe people in **Uvalde** are doing the same thing today. *Se va llevar tiempo*. There will be mistakes. There will be hurt feelings. And there will be surprises.

But at some point, in the not too distant future there will be individuals who rise up and make up part of a new and fresh leadership in **Uvalde**. They will be among those who will not be afraid to ask tough questions.

Cambiando de Tema

In this issue of **La Voz** we have decided to bring you an interview with **Joy Diaz**. **Joy Diaz** ran earlier this year for the position of

Governor of Texas. She has never held elective office but she felt a calling to DO SOMETHING in these times of despair and frustration. She is a regular person who decided to throw her proverbial hat in the ring. We want our readers to hear what she has to say about some of the issues of the day. And then we want you to do your reflection about what you are going to do.

Cambiando de Tema

Also in this issue of **La Voz** is the sad news that a good friend from **Uvalde, Texas**, **David Ozuna**, has passed away. I decided to write about **David** because I did not like the short obituary that was published. And so when I don't like something, I do something about it! **David** was a friend from way back he will indeed be missed.

Another story I wish to call your attention to is about has a reunion that took place 35 years ago in 1987. It was a reunion with some of the soldiers who fought with **Pancho Villa** during the **Mexican Revolution**. Check out pages 18 and 19.

We saw this comment from **Arnulfo Reyes'** Facebook page. He was one of the teachers who was shot at **Robb Elementary School** and we thought more people should to read it.

From Arnulfo Reyes

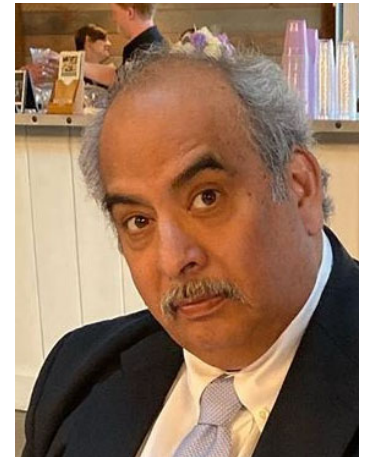
To all the ones at the top who are making these decisions let me tell you something. I'm tired of all the politics yall are playing. Yall are playing with peoples lives. I laid there for 77 minutes with my babies and being beside the room of my coworkers who I did not know how they were or the situation they were in. I laid there in silence with the hopes we would have a good result. But as you all know what those results are. How dare you not step down. How dare you say lie after lie. Tarnishing your family names.
#UvaldeStrong
#missyoueveryday
#RobbElementarySchool
#uvaldetx #forever21

Lauren Ibanez designed the poster for the **Joy Diaz** campaign

Sandra Dahdah is credited for the photos that appear in the **Joy Diaz** interview on pages 8 and 9.



EDITORIAL



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

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Sign In For Door Prizes: 5 - 6 PM

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Farewell to All: 11 - 12 PM

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Diana Maldonado was named the new Interim Executive Director of Jolt Action and Jolt Initiative.

Diana Maldonado, a community, political and educational leader in the Central Texas region heads up **Jolt Action**. In her new position, she will drive forward the organizations' mission to harness the power of young **Latinos** to transform **Texas** through their voice and their vote.



She is the first Latina elected to represent **Williamson County** in the **Texas House of Representatives** during which time she authored and co-authored 88 bills and was named "Freshman of the Year" by her colleagues. As **Interim Executive Director**, Maldonado will spearhead both organizations as they continue building the collective voice, power, and influence of **Latinos** across the **Lone Star State**.

ABOUT

A **Texas**-based civic engagement organization that builds the political power of **Latinos**. **Jolt** is a **Texas**-based multi-issue organization that builds the political power and influence of **Latinos** in our democracy.

Jolt knows **Latinos** have the power to make change and that we can have a say in how **Texas** is run. There are 10.8 million **Latinos** in **Texas** and together we can decide who gets elected, influence what laws get passed and lead on the issues that are most important to our families and communities.

Jolt brings **Latinos** from across **Texas** together to win on the issues that matter. **Jolt** doesn't stand for any one party or politician- it stands for the **Latino** community, families, and youth who worked hard to create opportunities and a better future for themselves and their children. **Jolt** supports **Latinos** to make change and have a say in how **Texas** is run by investing in building leadership, speaking truth to power through direct action, engaging and motivating voters, and bringing together culture makers to narrate and docu-

Jolt can be contacted at P.O.Box 4185 Austin, Texas 78765 or at their website: www.jolttx.org

Dr. Christopher Czarmona Moves on to Our Lady of the Lake University

Dr. Christopher Carmona is now an Associate Professor of Mexican American Studies and English at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. He previously was employed by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley.



He is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for the TX State Board of Education for Mexican American Studies. He served as the Chair of the NACCS Tejas Foco Committee on Implementing MAS in PreK-12 Education in Texas for 7 years.

His short story collection, The Road to Llorona Park, is listed by NBCNews as one of the 8 Great Latino Books published in 2016. Carmona was the winner of the NACCS Tejas Award for Best Fiction Book of 2016 for The Road to Llorona Park. He serves on Responsible Ethnic Studies Textbook committee that was awarded the "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" award for excellence in educational leadership from the Mexican American School Board Association (MASBA). His new bilingual book of poetry entitled 140: Twitter Poems was published by Jade Press in 2017.

Currently, he is working on a series of YA novellas reimagining the "Lone Ranger" story as a **Chicanx** superhero fighting **Texas Rang-ers** in the **Rio Grande Valley** from 1905-1920 entitled El Rinche: The Ghost Ranger of the Rio Grande.

Dr. Carmona earned his Ph.D from Texas A&M University in English in 2012 and his master's degree in American Literature from the University of Texas at Brownsville in 2007





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San Antonio, Pearsall, Jourdanton.

An Interview with Joy Diaz:

La Voz: Thank you for agreeing to be interviewed. Let's start by asking you about your recent run for **Governor of Texas**. What inspired you to throw your hat into the ring?

Joy Diaz: Thank YOU, **Alfredo** and allow me to thank the readers of *La Voz*. More than inspired, I felt like I had a duty to run. Allow me to explain. I believe we all have moments in our lives when we wish we could change things. I experienced a moment like that one year ago after I recovered from **COVID**. At the time, I was a radio reporter so I was consuming news – not just to keep up with what was going on – but, I consumed news for a living. And everything I read or heard felt overwhelming – the thousands of unnecessary **COVID** deaths in **Texas** that happened in part because the state didn't implement measures to protect people and that was the straw that broke the proverbial camel's back because I almost died from my **COVID** infection. And then, I realized that the people in **Texas** have been abandoned by their politicians. I don't believe our politicians remember that they were hired to SERVE US. I looked around - at the state of our schools, our healthcare, food insecurity and the disaster **Texas Governor Greg Abbott** has made of the border – and it got me thinking – WHY NOT ME? There is a promise in the **United States** that government is FOR the people, BY the people and OF the people. So, I thought – who is the people? I am! And, I don't like what I see. So, I'll run to change it.

La Voz: I saw you attended the **UT Austin LBJ Women's Campaign**

School. Tell us about that experience.

Joy Diaz: I highly recommend campaign school to anyone remotely interested in running. And, I highly recommend the **LBJ Women's Campaign School** because it is non-partisan and because it helped me connect with women from around the country who – like me – want to change the world. But, think differently from me. The experience enriched me in ways that are hard to describe.

La Voz: Where did you do most of your campaigning?

Joy Diaz: I traveled through the entire state. I didn't visit every corner but made a conscious effort to go North, South, East and West.

La Voz: What kinds of media did you use the most? Radio? Print? Social media?

Joy Diaz: Well, as you may know, I had relatively no money. So, I did use social media and was able to print some posters. But, you



cannot think of my campaign in traditional terms because I was a non-traditional candidate.

La Voz: What surprised you the most about the run for **Governor of Texas**?

Joy Diaz: I was surprised by the level of acceptance I received from the people I talked to. I never once was asked – “Are you a **Democrat** or a **Republican**?” I was simply talking about bread and butter – everyday – issues and people responded kindly, respectfully – we connected. And that made me realize that I was not imagining things. There is a lot of need in

Texas. Yes, this super wealthy state has a lot of needs.

La Voz: I was looking at the election results from your race. Here are a few of the counties where you received the largest number of votes: 3,254 in **Travis County**; 2,408 **Hidalgo County**; 2,537 in **Dallas County** and 2,206 in **Bexar County**. Do you think that the votes you received were from Hispanic voters who were looking for a Spanish surname?

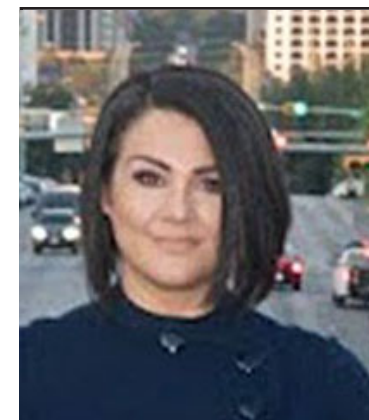
Joy Diaz: I don't think so and let me tell you why – primary voters are the most engaged ones. Primary voters are the ones who are committed to researching their candidates and hold candidates accountable. I visited each of those counties, I spoke on the phone to people in those counties – my phone number is public by the way – so, I pick up the phone when someone calls. I believe the votes I got – and I cannot express how humbled I am by those votes – but each and every voter, was someone who – against popular opinion – voted for me. And, I am (and will be) eternally grateful.

La Voz: In your view, is there a problem with turning out Hispanic voters in **Texas**?

Joy Diaz: No. People vote for people who earn their vote. It's like looking for a partner. You may have a crush on someone and then you get angry when you find out that person is going out with someone else. Did you speak to them? Did you tell them how valuable they are to you? Did you tell them how much you cared about them? NO? Well, don't complain when they are with someone who took the time and invested in them. What I'm saying is – Hispanic voters are like any other voter – we vote for the people we know or the people who made an effort to get to know us.

La Voz: What were some of the key elements of your platform during the campaign?

Joy Diaz: I started with the border because it is so near and dear to me but also education because I am a former teacher and I can't believe how cheap and stingy the state of Texas is with our children and I also spoke about healthcare



I cannot express how humbled I am by those votes – but each and every voter, was someone who . .

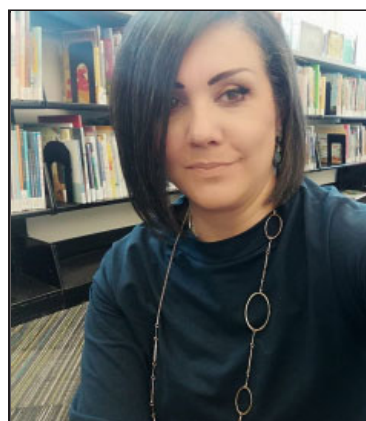
a 2022 Candidate for Governor

because people are dying and politicians are playing politics with our health. Expanding Medicare is a no brainer. Instead it's become a heartless decision by a governor who has the best healthcare in the world.

La Voz: Are we going to see **Joy Diaz** involved in politics again? If so, where and when?

Joy Diaz: I don't know. And I'm not being coy about it. I truly don't know. What you will see is **Joy Diaz** involved in the betterment of Texas because I am committed to service. I want to see this prosperous state have the most educated children, the healthiest communities both in urban and in rural settings, I want us to stop playing games at the border. I believe in change. I am committed to **Texas**. I don't know if I am committed to politics.

La Voz: A lot of people know your name from the time you were on public radio. How long had you been doing radio and how did you get into it?



So, I thought – who is the people? I am! And, I don't like what I see. So, I'll run to change it.

Joy Diaz: Radio is one of the greatest loves of my life. In **Latin America**, radio is an integral part of our daily lives – I grew up in **Mexico City** where I travelled everywhere on public transportation and drivers were always cranking up the radio – from news to music to game shows – radio was a trusted companion to me. So, I started doing radio in **Texas** in 2005 – 17 years ago – the better part of 2 decades. But, I helped my dad do radio in Mexico. My dad was an American missionary in **Mexico** and – he had a very **US** vision of ministry – so, he did a weekly radio show. I often covered for him. I also did radio part time at the **NPR** station in **Roanoke, Virginia** when we first moved to the **US** in 1998.

La Voz: Share with our readers where you grew up.

Joy Diaz: I grew up in a city called **Cuautitlan Izcalli** – it's a suburb of **Mexico City**. I was born in **Uruapan, Michoacan** in **Mexico**. It is a very green, very lush city that produces most of the world's avocados, a very prosperous



I love my life and live with no regrets.

community with water falls and Spring-like weather year-round. **Mexico City** is much different. But, it was similar to **New York City** – which is where my dad grew up. Urban ministry was his thing – helping people who were addicts, helping people who lived in extreme poverty. We worked in the municipal garbage dump and we built a school and a medical clinic there. My parents were committed to changing lives and healthcare and education were at the top of their list. It is no wonder I think the way I do – right? When I was growing up – I was assigned to work with people who had leprosy. I had a very unusual upbringing!

La Voz: Tell us about your education journey.

Joy Diaz: Sure! I went to school in **Mexico**. I started in a bilingual school. Then, my parents started building schools so I attended “**Instituto Pedagogico Abraham Lincoln**” – it was my parents' school. I went to **Bible School** in **New York** for one year when I was 17 and promptly decided I was not cut to be a religious scholar. I went back to **Mexico** and attended **Universidad de Cuautitlan Izcalli** and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Journalism. In **Virginia** I attended **Lynchburg College** and became a licensed K-12 teacher.

La Voz: How did you get to **Austin**?

Joy Diaz: Well, my parents left **Mexico** in 1999 and moved to **Austin**. My husband and I were living in **Virginia** at the time. But

the job that had transferred him there had moved to **Raleigh, North Carolina**. So, it was a time when we needed to decide what was next and I thought that – if I ever had children – I wanted them to grow up close to family. The

is his daughter's new husband – and the landowner says “*just because I speak with an accent, it doesn't mean I think with an accent*” — I love that quote! Is it my favorite? No, but it is a good one to use since I speak with an accent too!

From the movie – “A walk through the clouds” with **Keanu Reeves** – his character is a returning **US World War II** soldier trying to fool a Mexican vineyard owner into believing that he is his daughter's new husband – and the landowner says:

“just because I speak with an accent, it doesn't mean I think with an accent”

choices were **Mexico City** or **Austin** and we chose **Austin** – in part because my parents were here.

La Voz: Here are some light questions we like to ask the people we interview

Favorite color? I always struggle with this one — I LOVE COLOR — red has been a favorite, turquoise has been a favorite, yellow sometimes makes it there. I like color and I'm not committed to one.

Favorite food item? Love me some tamales de mole. Coffee is a constant in my life. Fuji apples are divine.

Last book read? I read a lot but I had never read anything by **Toni Morrison**. So, the last book I read was **Home** by **Toni Morrison**.

Favorite quote? This one is not from a book but from a movie – “A walk through the clouds” with **Keanu Reeves** – his character is a returning **US World War II** soldier trying to fool a Mexican landowner into believing that he

Who do you admire and why? I admire many people – from the women in my life – my mother, my grandmothers, my sister, my mother in law, my daughter. I admire the men in my life – my father, my son, my husband — and many male friends. I admire political figures – **Barbara Jordan** and **Ann Richards'** friendship is one I admire. Can you imagine two world-changing giants who are from different backgrounds and whose skins are different colors and can be friends? I admire faith leaders who seek reconciliation – my pastor is one, **Jim Harrington** in **Austin** is another.

Complete this sentence. . if I had to do it over I would — forgive me — but, I would do it all over again. I know we are looking for some wisdom in these statements. The thing is – I've found wisdom in my mistakes and in my sorrows. But also in my joys and my successes. I love my life and I live with no regrets.

Perfiles Latinos en Valor

Oscar Romero: Mártir por la Justicia Social

El 3 de febrero de 1977, **Oscar Romero** fue nombrado arzobispo de la arquidiócesis católica de **San Salvador**, la capital de **El Salvador**. Para muchos él parecía la persona perfecta para este puesto. Él era considerado un conservativo y de acuerdo con el gobierno de la derecha. Como editor del periódico diocesano, él había criticado lo que él consideraba distorsiones de las enseñanzas cristianas por los sacerdotes que estaban trabajando en causas sociales y que estaban propagando una más justa distribución de las tierras para los campesinos del país.

Desde su establecimiento como una república independiente, el verdadero poder de **El Salvador** estaba concentrado en las manos de la oligarquía, un pequeño grupo de familias ricas con muchas tierras, gobernando lo que era esencialmente una sociedad feudal. Los campesinos trabajaban grandes plantaciones, llamadas haciendas con pocos derechos y protecciones. La cosecha principal era el café vendido a los Estados Unidos y otros lugares.

Atrapados en un capitalismo feudal los campesinos encontraron ideas marxistas y empezaron a protestar contra sus opresores. En 1930 esto causó lo que es conocido como la matanza, una venganza del gobierno que mató a miles de campesinos. Desde ese tiempo en adelante **El Salvador** fue gobernado por una dictadura militar controlada por la clase rica. Campesinos vivían en condiciones como esclavos.

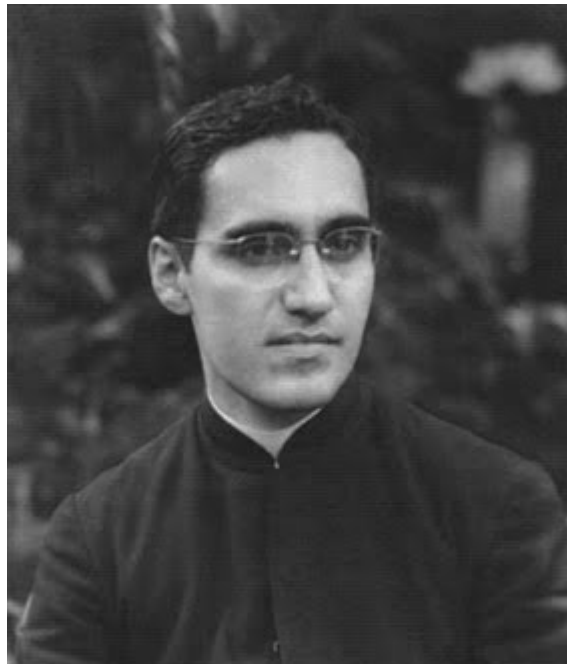
Justo antes que Oscar Romero vino a ser el arzobispo había un trabajo legislativo para distribuir las tierras y los recursos más equitativamente, un movimiento que estaba supuesto y

eventualmente parado por las haciendas. Aquellos en poder usaron fraude y la fuerza para dirigir las elecciones presidenciales y mantener el control en el campo de la derecha.

Romero hasta este punto había reconocido la injusticias en su país, pero no había aceptado que la iglesia aceptara el activismo social. Él simplemente pedía que el gobierno y las haciendas hicieran lo que era correcto. Muchos líderes religiosos estaban desilusionados que él fuera nombrado arzobispo porque creían que él estaba opuesto a **Medellín** una conferencia de obispos que trataban de implementar las enseñanzas del segundo **Concilio Vaticano** en latinoamérica a través de la liberación de la gente que sufrían de la violencia institucional, de pobreza y el tratamiento para los pobres. Pero el asesinato de su buen amigo, el activista y padre **Rutilio Grande** por las fuerzas conectadas con el gobierno empezó a cambiar su pensamiento.

Romero que se crio en un pequeño y empobrecido pueblo, siempre había rehusado el marxismo como una enseñanza atea y materialista. Pero en esta época en la historia de **El Salvador** cualquier oposición a la clase dominante o defensa de los pobres se les llamaba marxistas y eran sujetos a la opresión violenta. Muchos líderes religiosos conectados con el gobierno simpatizaban con estas acusaciones. Pero **Romero**

empezaba poco a poco a identificarse más con los pobres y defenderlos, lo cual causó que él se encontró atacado por aquellos de los cual él dependía para su apoyo.



Esta división llegó hasta **Roma**. Y aunque el **Papa Pablo VI** apoyaba a **Romero** sus sucesores **Juan Pablo II** y **Benedicto XVI**, quienes desconfiaban de la teología de liberación resultado del **Concilio de Medellín**, elegían a obispos conservativos en **latinoamérica**.

Mientras la violencia aumentaba en **El Salvador**, **Romero** escogió un camino más activista en contra de la injusticia social, la tortura y los asesinatos. En 1979 una junta de la derecha tomó el poder con la ayuda de los **Estados Unidos**.

En protesta **Romero** le escribió al presidente de los **Estados Unidos Jimmy Carter** diciendo que la contribución de su gobierno en vez

de promover la justicia social y la paz en **El Salvador** iba sin duda a aumentar la injusticia y la opresión en contra de las organizaciones de la gente que habían estado luchando para ganar el respeto de sus derechos humanos fundamentales. Sus suplicas fueron ignoradas.

Romero no pudo obtener la condenación de **Juan Pablo II** de los abusos de los derechos humanos, y los escuadrones de las muertes, porque él quería la unidad de los obispos antes de

todo. **Romero** con sus sermones de radio vino a ser una de las voces prominentes en el país y su activismo empezó a ganar reconocimiento internacional. Él rechazó una liberación simplemente material pero rehusó a separar la lucha para una liberación política y la liberación espiritual en Cristo.

El 24 de marzo de 1980 **Romero** le suplicó a los soldados salvadoreños que rehusaran a continuar con las violaciones del gobierno en contra de los derechos humanos. Esa noche mientras celebraba su misa en una pequeña

capilla en el hospital de los pacientes de cáncer y los terminalmente enfermos, lo mataron con una bala en el corazón. Miles de personas atendieron su funeral donde una masacre causó la muerte de muchos de los dolientes.

Investigaciones encontraron que el escuadrón de la muerte bajo el liderazgo de **Roberto D'Aubuisson** quien fundó el partido de la extrema derecha **ARENA** había otorgado el asesinato de **Romero**. En el año 2000 un artículo en el periódico **El Guardián** cita evidencia que **Romero** fue matado por el **CIA**. Y como **Romero** había dicho, su muerte marcó el principio simbólico de una larga y sangrosa guerra civil que tomó la vida de miles de personas.

En el año 2018, **Oscar Romero** fue canonizado por el **Papa Francis** quien comentó durante su sermón que Jesús era un radical. También fue honrado por los anglicanos, luteranos y otros cristianos. En su honor las **Naciones Unidas** ha nombrado marzo 24 el día internacional para el derecho y la verdad de las violaciones humanas y para dignidad de sus víctimas. El presidente **Barack Obama** visitó la tumba de **Romero** en el año 2010. El amigo de **Romero**, **Rutilio Grande** fue reconocido como un mártir por el **Papa Francis** en el año 2022.

Latino Profiles in Courage

Oscar Romero: Martyr for Social Justice

by Michal Ortiz

On February 3, 1977, **Oscar Romero** became archbishop of the Catholic archdiocese of **San Salvador**, the capital of **El Salvador**. To many he seemed an obvious choice. He was deemed a conservative, in step with the right-wing government.

As editor of a diocesan newsletter, he had criticized what he saw as distortions of Christian teaching by priests working as social activists, who were campaigning for a more just distribution of land to the peasants or campesinos of the country.

Since its establishment as an independent republic, the real power in **El Salvador** had been concentrated in the hands of an oligarchy, a small group of wealthy families with much land, ruling what was essentially a feudal society.

Campesinos worked large plantations, called haciendas, with few rights or protections. The main crop was coffee, sold to the **United States** and elsewhere.

Trapped in this feudal "capitalism," the campesinos turned to **Marxist** ideas and began to protest their oppressors. In the 1930s, this sparked what is known as **la Matanza**, the Slaughter, a government retaliation that killed

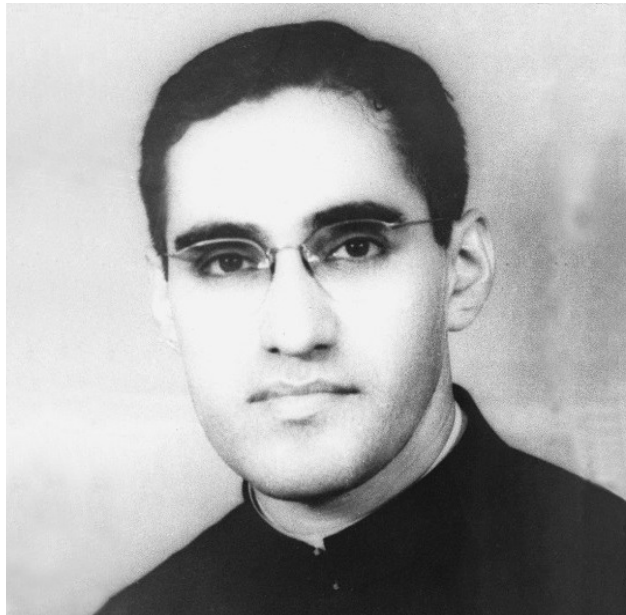
tens of thousands of campesinos. From that time forward, **El Salvador** was ruled by a military dictatorship controlled by the elite. Campesinos lived in a condition close to slavery.

Just before **Oscar Romero** became archbishop, there had been legislative work to redistribute lands and resources more equitably among the people, a movement opposed and eventually halted by the haciendas. Those in power used fraud and force to direct the outcomes of presidential elections and keep the right wing in control.

Romero had up to this point recognized the injustices in his country, but he had not accepted the role of the church in social activism. He simply called on the government and the haciendas to do what was right. Many religious leaders were disappointed by his appointment because they felt that he opposed **Medellin**, a bishops' conference that sought to apply the teachings of the **Second Vatican Council to Latin America** through the liberation of the people from the "institutionalized violence" of poverty and the "preferential option for the poor." But the

murder of his good friend, the activist priest **Rutilio Grande**, by forces linked to the government began a shift in his thinking.

Romero, who came from a tiny,



impoverished village, had always rejected **Marxism** as an atheist, materialist worldview. But at that time in the history of **El Salvador**, any opposition to the ruling classes or advocacy for the poor was labeled by the right wing as **Marxism** and subjected to violent oppression. Many religious leaders attached to the government echoed these accusations, and, as **Romero** began more and more to identify with the poor and speak on their behalf, he often found himself attacked by those he had depended upon for their support.

This division went all the way to **Rome**. Although **Pope Paul VI** supported **Romero**, his

successors, **John Paul II** and **Benedict XVI**, who distrusted the "liberation theology" for which **Medellin** had paved the way, tended to appoint conservative bishops in Latin America.

As violence continued to escalate in **El Salvador**, **Romero** took an ever greater role in activism against social injustice, torture, and assassination. In 1979, a right-wing junta came into power with military aid from the **United States**. In protest, **Romero** wrote to **President Jimmy Carter**, saying that "the contribution of your government, instead of promoting greater justice and peace in **El Salvador**, will without doubt

sharpen the injustice and repression against the organizations of the people which repeatedly have been struggling to gain respect for their most fundamental human rights." His warning was ignored.

Romero similarly failed to obtain a condemnation of the human rights abuses and death squads from **John Paul II**, who stressed unity among the bishops above all else. His radio sermons made him one of the most prominent voices in the country, and his activism began to gain international recognition. He rejected a merely material liberation but refused to separate

the peaceful struggle for political liberation from spiritual liberation in Christ.

On March 24, 1980, **Romero** called on **Salvadoran** soldiers to refuse to carry out the government's violations of human rights. That evening, as he celebrated mass at a small chapel at a hospital serving cancer patients and the terminally ill, he was shot in the heart by assassins and killed. Hundreds of thousands attended his funeral, where a massacre claimed the lives of many mourners.

Later investigation revealed that the death squad led by **Roberto D'Aubuisson**, who later founded the far-right party **ARENA**, had carried out **Romero's** assassination. A 2000 article in **The Guardian** gives evidence linking **Romero's** killing to the **CIA**. And, true to his warning, **Romero's** death marked the symbolic beginning of a long and bloody civil war that claimed the lives of tens of thousands.

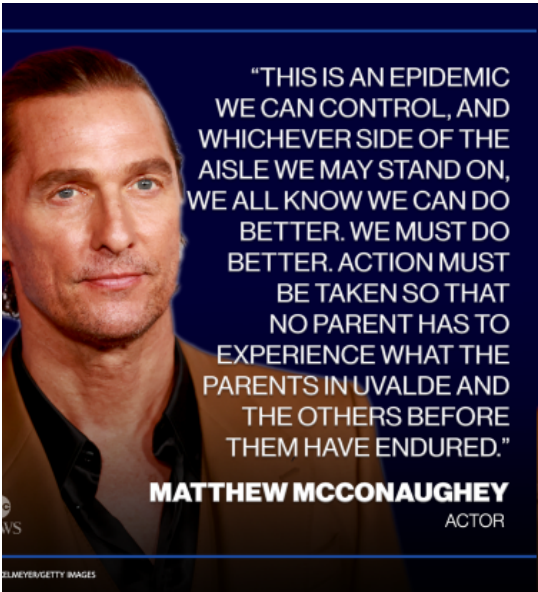
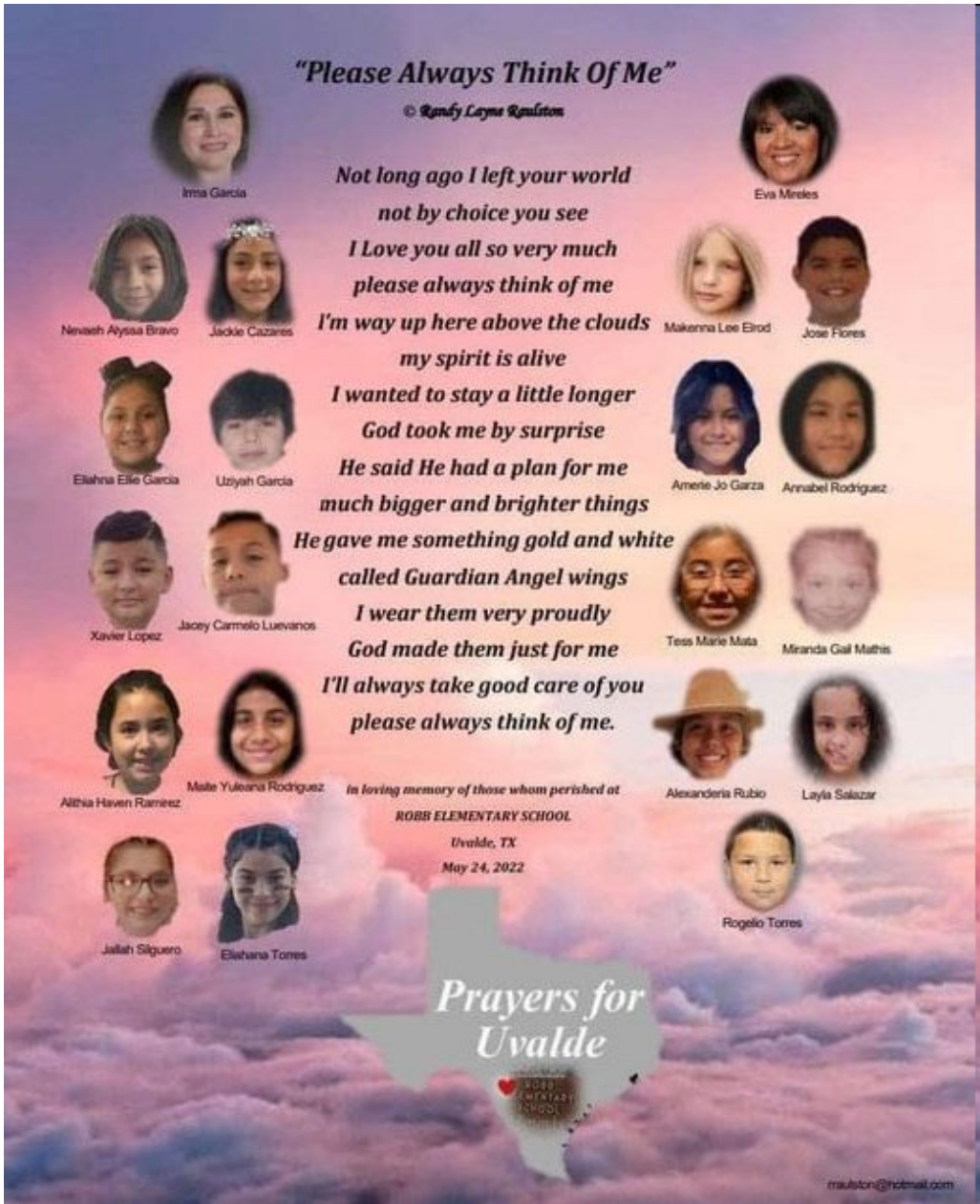
In 2018, **Oscar Romero** was canonized as a saint by **Pope Francis**, who during his homily, commented that "Jesus is radical." He is also honored by **Anglicans**, **Lutherans**, and other Christian denominations. In his honor, the **United Nations** has named March 24 the **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations** and for the **Dignity of Victims**. **President Barack Obama** visited **Romero's** tomb in 2010. **Romero's** friend, **Rutilio Grande**, was recognized as a martyr by **Pope Francis** in 2022.

“ATTENTION -



La Voz would like to correct a misprint that was printed in our last issue involving a fundraising effort for a **Robb** mom in need of financial assistance.

Angela Villescáz, the Founder of **Fierce Madres** has NEVER held any fundraisers and her phone number should not have been incorrectly published in the *La Voz* article.



The Words of a Uvalde victim's mother:

The chicken soup in her thermos stayed hot all day while her body grew cold. She never had a chance to eat the baloney and cheese sandwich. I got up 10 minutes early to cut the crust off a sandwich that will never be eaten.

Should I call and cancel her dental appointment next Wednesday? Will the office automatically know? Should I still take her brother to the appointment since I already took the day off work? Last time **Carlos** had one cavity and **Amerie** asked him what having a cavity feels like. She will never experience having a cavity. She will never experience having a cavity filled. The cavities in her body now are from bullets, and they can never be filled.

What if she had asked to use the bathroom in the hall a few minutes prior to the gunman entering the room, locking the door, and slaughtering all inside? Was she one of the first kids in the room to die or one of the last?

These are the things they don't tell us.

Which of her friends did she see die before her? Hannah? Emily? Both? Did their blood and brains splatter across her Girl Scout uniform? She just earned a Fire Safety patch. What if it got ruined? There are no patches for school shootings. Was she practicing writing GIRAFFE the moment he walked in her classroom, barricaded the door and opened fire?

She keeps forgetting the silent "e" at the end. We studied this past weekend, and now she doesn't need to take the spelling test on Friday. None of them will take the spelling test on Friday. There will be no spelling test on Friday. Because there is no one to give it. And no one to take it. These are the things I will never know: I will never know at what age she would have started her period. I will never know if she had wisdom teeth. (Or if they would have come in crooked.)

I will never know who she spoke to last. Was it the teacher? Was it her table partner, George? She says George is always talking, even during silent reading. Did she even scream?

She screamed the lyrics to We Don't Talk About Bruno at 7:58 AM as she hopped out of my car in the circle drive. She always sings the **Dolores** part, her sister sings **Mirabel** and I'm **Bruno**.

"And I wanted you to know that your bro loves you so Let it in, let it out, let it rain, let it snow, let it goooooo....."

Did the killer ever see **Encanto**? Could we have sat in the same row of seats, on the same day, munching popcorn?

What if **Amerie** brushed past him in the aisle? Did she politely say, *"Excuse me,"* to the boy who would someday blow her eye sockets apart? Was he chomping on bubble gum as he destroyed them all? If so, what flavor? Cinnamon? Wintergreen? Was the radio on as he drove to massacre them? Or did he drive in silence? Was the sun in his eyes as he got out of the car in the parking lot? Did his pockets hold sunglasses or just ammunition? These are the things I will never know.

There is laundry in the dryer that is **Amerie's**. Clothes I never need to fold again. Clothes that are right now warmer than her body. How will I ever be able to take them out of the dryer and where will I put them if not back in her dresser? I can never wash clothes in that dryer again. It will stand silent; a tomb for her pajamas and knee socks.

Her cousin's graduation party is next month and I already signed her name in the card. Should I cross it out? That will be the last card I ever sign her name to. The dog will live longer than she will. The dog will be 12 next month and she will be eternally 10. What will the school do with her backpack?

It was brand new this year and she attached her collection of keychains like cherished trophies to its zipper.

A beaded 4 leaf clover she made on **St. Patty's Day**.

A red heart from a Walk-a-Thon.

A neon ice cream cone from her friend's birthday party.

Now there will be no more keychains to attach.

No more trophies.

Surely they can't throw it out? Would they throw them all out? 19 backpacks, full of stickered assignments and rainboots, all taken to the dumpster behind the school? Is there even a dumpster big enough to contain all that life?

These are the things someone else knows:

The moment the semiautomatic rifle was put into his hands—was "Bring Me a Higher Love" playing in the gun store? "Get off my Cloud" by the **Rolling Stones**? Maybe it was **Elton John's** "Rocket Man." Did the **Outback Oasis** salesperson hesitate as they slid him 375 rounds of ammunition?

Not my problem my kids are grown and out of school Or I don't have kids, so I don't have to worry about their skulls getting blown across the nap time mat Or fingers crossed there's a good guy with an equally powerful gun that will stop this gun if needed


Did they sense any danger or were they more focused on picking that morning's **Raisin Bran** out of their teeth? My Nana used to say, "Pay attention to what whispers, and you won't have to when it starts screaming."

But now I know there is a more deafening sound than children screaming.

More horrific even, than automatic rifles on a Tuesday morning.


I beg the world:

Pay attention to what's screaming today, or be forced to endure the silence that follows."



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Uvalde Timeline

Monday, July 4

Citing victims' hardships, **State Senator Roland Gutierrez** and **Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin** call on **Governor Greg Abbott** to remove **Uvalde County District Attorney Christina Mitchell Busbee** from overseeing victims' services, to be replaced by the **Texas Division of Emergency Management**.

Wednesday, July 6

The **Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center (ALERRT)** at **Texas State University** releases a report on the May 24 shooting, noting several missed opportunities to stop the gunman on the part of law enforcement, including an officer who asked permission to shoot the gunman but received no answer.

State Congressman Dustin Burrows, chair of the House committee investigating the **Robb** shooting, sends a notice of deposition for a July 11 hearing to **Uvalde County Sheriff Ruben Nolasco**, noting that **Nolasco** has thus far refused to testify and that thirty-six other witnesses have voluntarily testified.

Thursday, July 7

Sheriff Nolasco issues a statement of his intent to comply with the deposition, insisting that his refusal to testify was out of concern for the integrity of the investigation.



Friday, July 8

Mayor McLaughlin issues a statement denying that any officer had an opportunity to shoot the gunman, contradicting the **ALERRT** report, which based its findings on a briefing by a **Texas Ranger**.

Sunday, July 10

The **Unheard Voices March and Rally** takes place in **Uvalde** as hundreds of protesters march from **Robb Elementary** to the downtown plaza, carrying signs and calling for justice; victims' family members speak at the plaza, followed by **Texas gubernatorial candidate Beto**

O'Rourke, **Parkland** shooting survivor and gun control activist **David Hogg**, and members of the **Brown Berets** and the **League of United Latin American Citizens**, demanding transparency and accountability.

Monday, July 11

The assistant director of **ALERRT** clarifies that their report was based on two statements of an officer that were contradicted by a third statement.

Congressman Burrows announces plans to show **Robb** surveillance footage to Uvalde community members on July 17 and to release it publicly "very soon thereafter," despite

previous statements that **District Attorney Christina Mitchell Busbee** is blocking the release called for by both the House and the **Texas Department of Public Safety**.

Tuesday, July 12

KVUE and **Austin American-Statesman** release leaked surveillance footage, edited to remove traumatizing audio, "to provide transparency to the community," earning swift condemnations from state and local leaders and community members, who felt that the footage should have been shown to parents first.

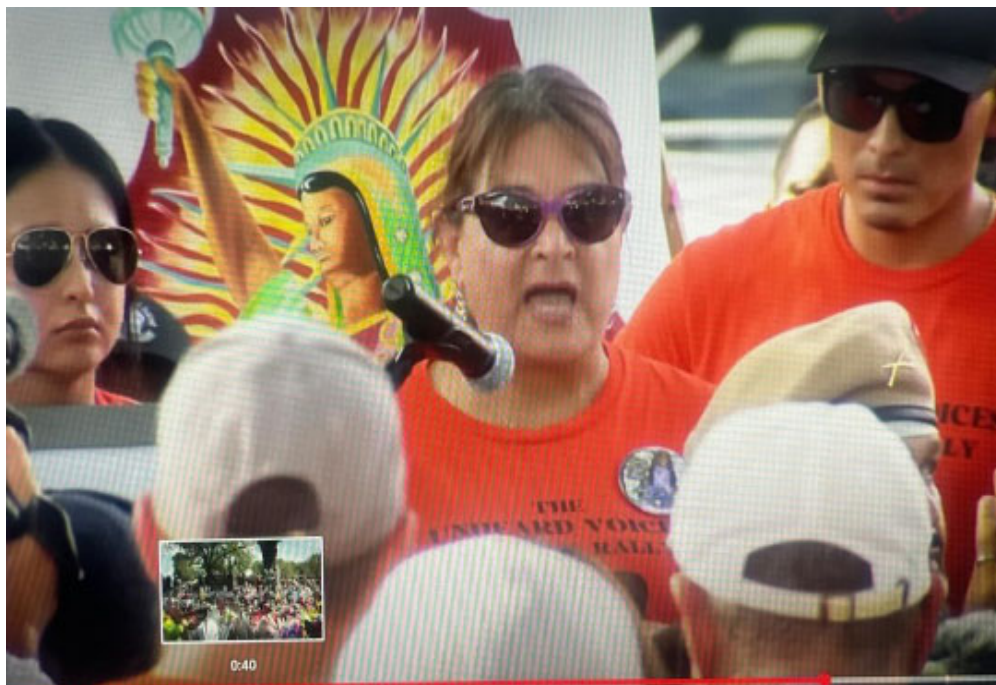
At a City Council meeting, **Mayor McLaughlin** states that the premature release of the

surveillance footage is "one of the most chicken things I've ever seen." The **City Council** accepts **Pete Arredondo's** resignation. **County Commissioner Ronnie Garza** requests that a call for **Governor Abbott** to call a special session be added to the agenda of the July 26 **City Council** meeting, to which **McLaughlin** agrees. **McLaughlin** receives praise for having attended the July 10 rally, but he and the **City Council** receive criticism from community members and are told that they need to advocate more aggressively for those affected by the shooting.

Wednesday, July 13

The **Uvalde County**

Uvalde Timeline



commissioners vote unanimously to call on **Governor Abbott** to call a special session to consider gun control measures.

Friday, July 15

The **New York Times** reports that **Uvalde** city officials requested that the **Texas Department of Public Safety** sign on to a statement in June praising the **Uvalde** police response but that the **DPS** refused.

Sunday, July 17

The **Texas House** committee investigating the **Robb** shooting releases a 77-page report, providing the most thorough account yet of the event, detailing the gunman's preparations, the failures of law enforcement personnel, and laxity in school district safety

measures which were due in part to the frequency of lockdowns called in response to bailouts. A press conference is held in **Uvalde**.

Lieutenant Mariano Pargas, acting city police chief on the day of the shooting, is placed on administrative leave in response to the report so that his role can be investigated. **Pargas** also serves as **County Commissioner**.

Monday, July 18

The **City of Uvalde** releases the body camera footage of seven police officers at the **Robb** shooting.

The **Department of Public Safety** announces that it is investigating 91 of its officers for their response to the **Robb** shooting.

review.

At a special meeting of the **UCISD** school board, which lasts three hours, community members call for the superintendent's resignation unless **UCISD Police Chief Pete Arredondo** is fired, criticize board members, and threaten to keep their children out of school until adequate safety measures are taken.

Wednesday, July 20

UCISD Superintendent Hal Harrell recommends that **Pete Arredondo** be fired. A special school board meeting is scheduled for July 23.

Friday, July 22

At the request of **Arredondo's** lawyer, the **UCISD** school board indefinitely postpones its

Senator Gutierrez questions whether the **DPS** can be trusted to investigate its own officers and calls on the lieutenant governor to have the **Texas Senate** take over the

meeting to consider the firing of **Arredondo**.

Monday, July 25

UCISD school board votes to delay the start of the school year from August 15 until September 6. It also unanimously votes to call on **Governor Abbott** to call a special session to consider gun control measures. The board's plans to add officers to the campus police department are met with skepticism, given the number of officers present during the shooting.

Tuesday, July 26

Principal Mandy Gutierrez of **Robb Elementary** is placed on administrative leave in response to the House report.

The **Uvalde City Council** votes to call on **Governor Abbott** to call a special session to consider gun control measures. The **City Council** announces plans to investigate every officer present at the **Robb** shooting.

Wednesday, July 27

Principal Mandy Gutierrez disputes the findings of the House committee regarding the laxity of security measures at **Robb Elementary**.

Dr. Roy Gutierrez starts a [change.org](https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-sale-of-assault-rifles) petition calling on **Randy Kline**, owner of **Oasis Outback**, where the gunman purchased his weapons, to halt the sale of assault-style rifles.

Friday, July 29

Principal Gutierrez is reinstated as assistant director of special education.

Monday, August 1

A coalition of national news agencies sues the **DPS** over withheld records.

The **Hondo City Council** rescinds its permit for a local **National Rifle Association** group to hold an event in its rental hall, which would have included a raffle for an AR-15, after a group of **Uvalde** community members protests at its meeting.

Thursday, August 4

At a hearing held in response to **Senator Gutierrez's** lawsuit of the **DPS** for withholding records related to the shooting, **District Attorney Christina Mitchell Busbee**, at whose request the records are being withheld, testifies that the release of the materials, including video footage, would compromise the investigation.

The **Uvalde Leader-News** reports that **Arredondo's** hearing is postponed again due to scheduling conflicts.

Saturday, August 6

The **Uvalde Leader-News** reports that multiple **Robb Elementary** employees dispute the claims of **Angeli Gomez** regarding the alleged rescue of her child, which was reported by multiple news source

Remembering My Good

My good friend **David Ozuna** passed away on July 11th, 2022. He was 71 years old. I still don't really know the cause of death. When I read his obituary I was very dissatisfied. It was only two inches in height and just provided the basics. It by no means did **David** justice. So I want to share with the readers of **La Voz** some stories about the **David** I knew.

I first met **David** at **Uvalde High School**. We played on the freshman football team. **David** was shorter than me but what he lacked in height he made up for it in speed. He was a running back who wore the number 33.

David worked after school at the **Kuik Check** food market of **Mr. Gallardo** in Main Street. **David's** father also worked there. Actually, they were both butchers and known for their generous cuts of steaks.

The other thing about **David** that grew with our friendship was our love for motorcycles. It was around 1966 that the **Honda** motorcycle craze hit **Uvalde**. **David** had bought a black **Honda 65** and could be seen driving it up and down the streets of **Uvalde**. I bought a red **Honda 50**, **Xavier Reyes** had a black **Honda 50**, **Bart Flores** bought a black **Honda 65** and the **Castro** brothers had **Hondas**.

There were times when we would meet up and drive all over town in a group (*muy* Hell's Angels) There was one time in the summer of 1967 when we drove to **La Pryor, Texas**. **David** supposedly had a girl friend over there. After making the 19 mile trip to "**La Pry**" and buzzing around town, **David** couldn't find the girlfriend's house. "*¿No que tu tienes una novia? ¿Y*

no puedes encontrar su casa? ¿Qué pasa contigo Mr. David?" We all took turns razzing him about this fictitious girlfriend.

After another half hour or so, we decided to return to **Uvalde**. As we were heading out of town, we passed a gas station where a group



of guys happened to be hanging out. Someone in our group thought it was a good idea to flip them off as we headed out of town. Well needless to say that did not go over too well with these guys. As we turned around to look at their reaction, we saw them scrambling into a car.

We immediately twisted the gas on our motorcycles to increase our speed but why lie? Our motorcycles were not power houses. Their top speed was probably 49 miles per hour. And in my case, I had **Rata** riding as a passenger giving me a top speed of maybe, just maybe 40 miles per hour. As we continued to drive up the highway I began to think of all the bad things that were going to happen to us once these guys caught up with us. I also began looking for an escape. Up ahead, I spotted a road and decided this is where we were going.

The plan was to go into the *monte* (brush) where their car couldn't go and then somehow make a run for it. We drove my motorcycles maybe a mile in and kept looking for dust clouds that would indicate an approaching vehicle. *Nada*. We drove a little more and still no dust clouds. So, we stopped and hid. We waited for about an hour before deciding to come back to the highway. We wondered what might have happened to the others.

Seeing nothing we decided to make our way back to **Uvalde**.

About four miles up the road we saw a motorcycle on the side of the road. It looked like **David Ozuna's** bike. We stopped to investigate. It had a flat tire. What we didn't see, which was a good sign, was any blood. **Rata** and I discussed what to do.

Finally, we decided to return to **Uvalde**. We went to **David's** house, but he was not home. We went to the houses of the others y *tampoco*, no one was home. As we would later learn, the guys in the car who were insulted by the finger



gesture did catch up to **David**, but they just happened to know him so there were no hard feelings. **David Ozuna** was always very lucky.

In 1968, **Ozuna** told us he was leaving **Uvalde** to go work up



ABOVE: David Ozuna, Raul Ramos, Danny Chapa, Mario Bernal, Jesse Estrada, Jose Aguilera, unidentified

Friend David Ozuna

north *en el betabel* We wished him well and did not see him again until September.

And it did go well for him because when he came back he came back with a blue **1957 Chevrolet**. Back in those days, guys who went up north to work in the fields would be judged on how well it went for them based on the kind of car they brought back. I remember that for entire school year **David Ozuna** was *el mero sorga* (the star) in our group because of the car he brought back. That car made many trips to **Piedras Negras** *si me entiendes como*.

The following year it was our turn to make the trip up north. **David** didn't want to go because he was singing in a band called the **Royal Jesters**, so it was **Oscar Castro, Richard Nevarez, Richard "Rata" Garcia, Alfred Valverde, Onofre Morales** and my self who piled into **Oscar's** 1960 station wagon. I think it is fair to say that each of us carried the idea in our head that we would come back like **David Ozuna**, in a 1950s **Chevrolet**.

We were staying in a little town called **Glyndon Minnesota**. A lady had rented us two upstairs bedrooms. She was also supposed to feed us but every evening meal did not include meat. We wanted meat! We were very unhappy renters but didn't really want to move out. It was after about two

weeks of no meat that we decided to act.

We went down to a local **Kentucky Fried Chicken** place and each of us bought a bucket of chicken. We brought it back to the house and had a **KFC** party in our bedrooms. I had never eaten so much chicken in my life.

We ended up staying at this house for two more weeks. **Oscar Castro**, the leader of the group and the owner of the car, said it was time to leaver for **Wisconsin**. He had worked there before and knew we could get jobs just by showing up. But **Rata** and **Richard Nevarez** didn't want to go. They want to go back to **Uvalde**. So what did they do? They called **David Ozuna** to come and get them in

Minnesota. And lo and behold, he drove all the way to **Minnesota** and picked them up. I don't know if I could have done that. I would have said *vayanse a la casa del perro flaco*. (Go to the house of the skinny dog.) The **Greyhound Bus** station.

We ended up leaving for **Wisconsin** before **David** arrived and spent the rest of the summer working the graveyard shift at a **Del Monte** cannery in **Markesan, Wisconsin**. We finally made back to **Uvalde** in mid September. No one brought back a classic 1950s car so I guess you could say things did not go well for us. But we did manage to send money home to our parents every week. I know I sent \$100 every week. It was some time in the fall that **David** decided to

join the military. The **Vietnam War** was on everybody's mind. I didn't see again for several years.

In 1978, I got a job in **Austin, Texas** and **David** was working there. We connected and since I was being paid a per diem for hotel accommodations, I told him that I could pay him instead. He agreed and I got the couch. Well one day I came back to the apartment and about ten minutes later **David** opens the door and announces he just got married! Married? I didn't

know what to say or do. So, I went down to a corner store and bought a six pack of beer and brought it back.

A month later I went back to **Uvalde** to start this new job and didn't see **David** for a while. He stayed in touch with cousin **Rod Rodriguez**. They both liked to go hunting. I ended up moving to **Houston** for 17 years and didn't

move back to **Uvalde** until 1996. I would see **David** occasionally when he was in **Uvalde**. He was a Radiation Tech. By now he owned a big **Harley Davidson** motorcycle. I moved to **Austin, Texas** in 2004 and **David** was living in **Schertz** just north of **San Antonio**. I would stop by and visit with him from time to time. And each time we got together we would pick up the conversation right where we left off.

The last time **David** and I spoke was about six months ago. We exchanged pleasantries and made small talk. We kept promising to get together but we never did. When my cousin **Rod** told me that **David** had died I was shocked. He always appeared to be in good health. I still don't know what he died of. What I do know is that little obituary really doesn't do **David** any justice. He was a good friend to many and would do anything you asked. (Even going to **Minnesota** to retrieve friends)

David, I am sorry you are gone. May your motorcycle never run out of gas or have a flat tire. *Saludame a Rata y Richie*.



to right: Oscar Navejar and Betty Mae Carroll. Second Row, left to right: Danny Chapa, David Ozuna, Richard Garcia, Hector Hernandez, James Tafolla, Armando Maldonado. Second Row, left to right: Dickie Barrera, Eddie Garcia, Santos Garcia, Fidencio Rivera, Ruben Arredondo, Johnny Benavides, Fortunato Hinojosa and Johnny Rodriguez.



Mexican Revolution Reunion in 1987 Con Los Quien Andaban con Pancho Villa

by Alfredo Santos c/s

Next month activists who participated in the **Chicano Movement** and specifically **La Raza Unida Party** will come together in **San Antonio, Texas** for the **50th Anniversary** of the founding of the party. Many of them who are now up in years remember the early 1970s as though it were yesterday because of the excitement and thrill of challenging the establishment.

It is these same feelings that inspired a reunion in 1987 at the **College of the Mainland** of the men who fought with **Pancho Villa** during the time of the **Mexican Revolution**. It was organized by **Dr. Manuel Urbina** and drew over 400 people from the Houston area.

I was privileged to attend this reunion and see in person old men who were now in their 70s and 80s who participated in the revolution of **Mexico**.

Journalist **Stewart Taggart** wrote about the event:

*They rode tall and fought hard as teenagers under Mexican revolutionary hero **Francisco Pancho Villa**, who helped bring a constitutional government to **Mexico** that stands today.*

Jesus M. Gonzalez and **Leo Reynoso**, both 87, were honored as two of the few remaining survivors of **Villa's** forces. A third survivor, **Rafael Lorenzana Reyna**, 88, could not travel from **Brownsville** for the reunion.

General Villa was a man, as all other men are, with a simple heart but high ideals, said **Gonzalez**, who served with **Villa** as a captain between 1912 and 1915.

Villa was a hardworking, very honest man, and he knew when to become

Gonzalez and **Reynoso**, who rode with **Villa** from 1914 to 1916, were presented commemorative awards by the **Urbina Foundation**, a charitable group dedicated to, among other things, preserving **Texas** and **Mexican** history.

When you finally realize that there are only three or four survivors, then you realize that is the time to bring them together, said **Manuel Urbina II**, foundation chairman.

When we become aware that this episode in history is about to pass before us, it becomes time to honor them, he said. **Urbina** said the three are the only survivors of the army that helped wage the **Mexican** revolution between 1910 and 1917 that he has been able to find.

In addition to the awards, the men were given specimens of currency dated 1913 from the **Mexican** state of **Chihuahua** that bore **Villa's** name.

In addition to the awards, the men were given specimens of currency dated 1913 from the **Mexican** state of **Chihuahua** that bore **Villa's** name.

The **Mexican Revolution** began in 1910, when opposition grew to the 30-year rule of **President Porfiro Diaz**. **Francisco Madero**, supported by revolutionaries in northern **Mexico** headed by **Villa** and in southern **Mexico** by **Emilio Zapata**, assumed the presidency in 1911, exiling **Diaz** to **Paris**. Instability and fighting wracked the country until 1917, when the present-day constitution was written

From my vantage point in the crowd, I saw the frail soldiers up on the stage and watched as they struggled to understand all the praise and commotion that was being made. Someone sitting next to me pointed out that **Aurelio "Leo" Reynoso**, who was sitting on the stage, was actually the little boy who appears in the photo below on the left shoulder of **Emiliano Zapata**.

I was told he was fourteen years old at the time the photo was taken and that he was the founder of a Mexican Restaurant on **2203 S. Sheppard Dr.** in **Houston, Texas** called **Leo's** which he opened in 1941.



The photo above is from the **Metropolitan Research Center** of the **Houston Public Library**. **Leo Reynoso** is on the left.





Don Emiliano Zapata Y Francisco “Pancho” Villa

This picture was taken on December 6, 1914 by Agustín Víctor Casasola.

La fotografía de Agustín Víctor Casasola, tomada el 6 de diciembre de 1914, recoge el momento en que Pancho Villa, Emiliano Zapata y otros revolucionarios posan para la cámara en el salón presidencial de la República. Villa está sentado en la silla que había sido símbolo del poder de Porfirio Díaz. Momentos antes, ambos habían insistido cordialmente en que fuera el otro quien tomara asiento. Finalmente, el tesón de Zapata consiguió que Villa tomara posesión del mismo.

La imagen está tan profusamente llena de detalles, de matices que es un auténtico friso de la Revolución. Formalmente, su estructura piramidal, ordenada por hileras en profundidad, enmarcada por las piernas de los personajes y el sombrero de Villa en el primer plano y cerrada (por la derecha) por el enorme cuerpo y rostro de Rodolfo Fierro, nos invita a recorrer la escena con detenimiento.

The Mexican Revolution
CONFLICT AND CONSOLIDATION, 1910-1940



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National Hispanic Institute Has
Been Working for Over 40 Years
to Develop the Youth in the State

A Letter From One of Them

Dear Mr. Ernesto Nieto,

My name is (omitted) from **Pharr, Texas**. I was a competitor at **The Great Debate** earlier this summer at **Rock Island, IL**; I'm not sure if you remember me, but my friend **Nora** and I came to say hello to you after you watched us students go upstage to answer your questions.

Anyhow, I wanted to say "Thank You" for allowing my schoolmates and I to be a part of your program. Honestly, when we signed up, we thought the entire program was only to get a feel for living in a college campus! I guess the title "The Great Debate" didn't strike us as a competition. The week's experiences confused us terribly; they were very stressful and tiring. However, we took a lot away from the debate and the details surrounding it. We learned what it is like to sleep 4-5 hours a night, how courage is lacking in many people today, the hardships of planning out an argument while working with a stranger, and one of the things that struck me as most powerful - the fact that all of us are human.

I was placed in the **Mock-Trial** category, and when I, so shockingly, was on stage for the Final, although I was a witness, I was terrified. I shook, the blood from my hands seemed to have gone straight to my face, my heart was pounding, and I felt cold. Despite this, what seemed to comfort me was the fact that my opponents were the exact same way. The defendant attorney questioning me was trembling, and I could see the notes in his hand quiver. At that exact moment, I came to realize that all of us have our weaknesses, and that even though The Debate was scary enough already, it was preparing us for even more difficult competitions in the future.

Later on, perhaps in just a couple of years, someone else with the composure of a statue will want to test me, beat me, and prove themselves right. The program taught me not to win, but to try my best to get MY side across. And while I'm not a competitor in total, I can at least be prepared for the different fights I will come across with, like the injustices of a someone's guidelines, or something simpler.

The program also taught me how to be courageous when it comes to expressing these certain opinions. The most awkward of situations in the classroom is when a teacher asks, "Who would like to go first and present?" or "Who would like to come up and solve this equation?" Before, I would just sit in my chair and await the more bold and daring student to go up first and break the silence, but everything changed when I took away "No matter if you're wrong or right, if you can't speak without stuttering, or if you're just plain afraid, ALWAYS be the brave one and at least TRY to express yourself first." This changed a very important part of myself, and my schoolmates, too, I believe, because when I start school on Monday, I'm going to try even harder to rid myself of most of my shyness. Thank you very, very much for everything, sir. You've helped us a lot. P.S. I hope we get to see you at Celebracion!

Oh, and thank you for ridding our sentences of the word, "Basically."

SWTJC awarded \$296,000 JET grant to support career training

Uvalde, TX, August 9, 2022 – Southwest Texas Junior College officials met Julian Alvarez, III Commissioner Representing Labor of the Texas Workforce Commission, on Aug. 3 at the Jack R. Chittim Technical Campus in Eagle Pass for a check presentation.

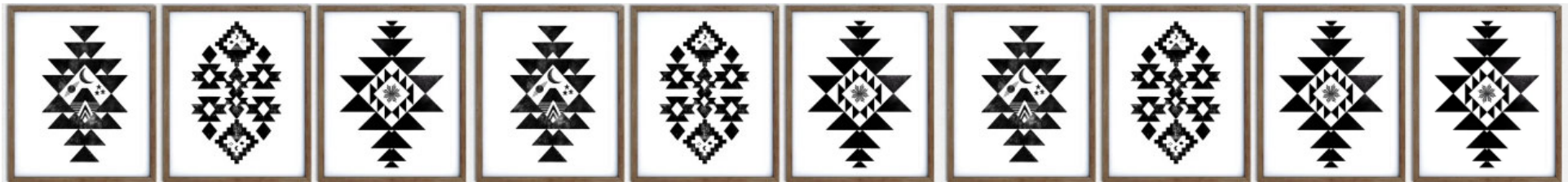
The Jobs & Education for Texans (JET) Grant worth \$296,000 will help SWTJC purchase and install equipment to prepare dozens of students for careers in diesel engine repair.

The college will use the JET funds to purchase equipment such as a truck diagnostic scanner, air-braked driving simulator, heavy vehicle HVAC system, and diesel engine transmission system. Students can receive hands-on training to prepare for Automotive Service Excellence Entry-Level certifications.

“This JET fund is going to allow us to enhance the training that we currently do in our diesel training, supporting both our certificate programs as well as our associates of applied sciences,” said Hector Gonzales, SWTJC President. “These dollars are being put to very good use. It enhances the training and puts our students in front of the equipment that they most likely will be servicing out in the field.”



The diesel technology program is currently enrolling students for the fall semester, which begins Aug. 23 in Eagle Pass. **Photo:** (l-r) Johnny Guzman, Betty Sifuentes, Jonathan Butler, Hector Gonzales, Esmeralda Arreola, Luis Fernandez, Victor Caballero, Lucas Limbrick, Julian Alvarez.



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Word Power

En las 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.

From Lino Garcia Jr

Spanish words borrowed and used almost daily by English language:

Before 1848 California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming were part of Mexico so historical Spanish was spoken daily by its residents who later became American citizens. In 1819 Spain ceded to USA Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi.

Obviously many Spanish words and phrases remained there. Thus, the English language has a long history of interaction with the Spanish language. Here is a partial list of Spanish vocabulary now essential part of the English language:

California-Colorado Arizona-Texas- New Mexico- Montana-Nevada-Utah-El Paso-Fresno - Las Vegas - Monterrey- San Antonio- San Francisco- Santa Fe- buckaroo-coral- chaps- desperado - lasso- ranch-rodeo- stampede -mustang- wrangler- arroyo-breeze- canyon- playa-sierra- tornado- armada - flotilla- bronco- cockroach- mosquito-fieta- macho- patio- pueblo - rumba-tango - guerilla-vigilante- cargo- embargo-burrito-chorizo - jalapeño- salsa- vanilla- bonanza- pronto- avocado- chile- chipotle- chocolate- coyote - and hundreds others

English speakers avail themselves of borrowed Spanish words phrases now part of the English language. Strong evidence all languages are a mixture of others and all merge some as they come in contact daily.



Words of Wisdom

My friend Kerri Grote died this morning. While I am still processing, I wanted to share the words she left to be read upon her passing. Life is short. I hope they bring you perspective, inspiration and healing like they did for me. R.I.P Kerri. I love you.

"If you're reading this, this fu\$king brain cancer probably got me.

But let me be crystal clear while I'm able: I did not "lose a battle" against cancer. This is a ridiculous, steamy pile of horse shit that society has dumped on cancer patients. Western medicine, and Western culture, especially, is so uncomfortable talking about death that instead it created this "battle" analogy that basically shames people who die from cancer.

News flash: None of us gets out alive from this rodeo called life.

There is no shame in dying from cancer – or any serious illness. And it doesn't need to be a battle. It's a transition that each of us will go through. I was asked by a shaman, whom I spoke to after my second brain surgery, "Are you running towards life or running away from death?"

Whoa! That got my attention.

There's a BIG difference. I got it wrong more often than not.

Don't let fear fuel your choices. Live fearlessly. Run TOWARDS life. Don't worry about what people will think. Trust me, it doesn't matter.

Focus on you. Be true to yourself. Be your own best friend. People who tell you you're selfish are not your people. If the voice in your head says these unkind things, get a new voice. Honor your mental health and seek out a good therapist with the same vigor you'd search for a romantic partner.

Speaking of, be intentional about cultivating friendships that lift you up. As those friendships grow and change, don't overlook them while you search for that "great love of your life." (No, I'm not suggesting you sleep with your bestie. But you do you!)

Another unhelpful message that we get from society is that we need a "love of our life," as a romantic partner.

Single and childless when I was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, I looked around my life and came up sputtering and sobbing from the wave of grief washed over me. I thought I'd be doing this alone... no husband, no kids, no "great love."

How wrong I was. At the first appointment with my neuro oncologists, one of the nurses diligently hauled in chair after chair for the great loves of my life who came with me that horrible day and many days after that.

I sat and listened while the doctor explained the 12-month treatment plan, focusing on my breathing, then looked around the room.... filled with great loves of my life: incredible women friends whom I had met at various stages of my life.

Surround yourself with people who contradict that unkind voice, people who see your light, and remind you who you are: an amazing soul.

Learn how to receive these reflections from your people. Because they are speaking the Truth.

Love yourself, no matter how weird and silly it might feel. Every morning, give yourself a hug before your feet hit the floor.

Look deeply into your eyes in a mirror. Say to yourself, out loud, "I trust you." That voice in your head might say you're a dork.

Ignore it.

As I prepare to leave this body and embark on this mysterious journey of my soul, I hope these observations from my deathbed are somehow useful.

What I know, deep in my bones, is that learning to love myself has led me to be able to say this: I'm so proud of how I lived.

May you, dear reader, feel the same when you head out on your soul journey, too. Until then, enjoy the ride. And always eat dessert first, especially if there's pie!"

