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LET US PROCEED ON OUR NATIONAL MANDATE FOR CHANGE



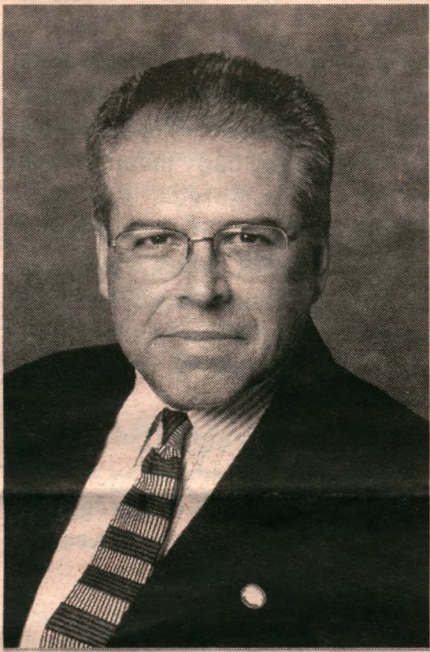
Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008
Volume 22
Number 5

HISPANIC NEWS

The Inland Empire's only Hispanic-owned English language newspaper

San Bernardino ♦ Riverside ♦ Colton ♦ Rialto ♦ Fontana ♦ Moreno Valley
Ontario ♦ Corona ♦ Bloomington ♦ Rancho Cucamonga ♦ Highland ♦ Redlands

EDUARDO DIAZ NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN LATINO CENTER



Washington, DC - 10/07/08 - Eduardo Diaz, a former San Bernardino resident, was recently named director of the Smithsonian Institute's Latino Center. Diaz is current executive director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, N.M., since August 2005. The Center is the largest Latino cultural center in the United States, and he administers the programming

and operation activities, a division of New Mexico's Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Center offers visual, performing and literary arts, archives and resource center, Latino museum, genealogy center, and a new educational center, scheduled to open in 2009. The Center is also the venue for administration of the Instituto Cervantes and Spanish Resource Center, two Spanish government entities that prepares teachers in the Spanish language.

Diaz has been responsible for two major initiatives: "African Presence in Mexico" and "Africa's Legacy in Mexico and New Mexico," and "From Field to Feast," exploring shared cultural connections with African-based cultures and Native American communities, respectively. In addition, he oversaw a statewide outreach initiative to take performances and exhibitions to underserved communities throughout the State of New Mexico. The Center also collaborates with myriad of institutions outside of New Mexico.

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LATINOS NATIONWIDE AND REGIONAL VOTED IN FULL FORCE

Latino activists and political consultants predicted that Latinos nationwide, in states and regions, where their vote would count, would come out to vote in great numbers. Predictably, Latinos came out to vote in voluminous percentages across the country, impacting their votes where it counted, and affecting critical state and regions as a viable force to join in turning the country toward a major change as presidential candidate Barack Obama continually stated in his campaign.

States like Florida, New Mexico, Nevada, and Colorado, to mention a few, were critical states where Latinos made the difference. Latinos across the country voted approximately 66 percent for Democrats, and in California, they voted 77 percent for

the Democratic Party.

Regionally, Latino candidates for partisan-non partisan offices were successful in their respective campaigns:

San Bernardino County

Congressman Joe Baca, 43rd Congressional District, Norma Torres, 61st Assembly District, Edgar Cam Argo-Adelanto City Council, Joe Gomez-Barstow Mayor, Timothy Saenz, Barstow City Council, Vincent Yzaguirre/Alex Perez, Colton City Council, Eileen Gomez, Colton City Clerk, Aurelio De La Torre, Colton City Treasurer, James Lopez, Needles City Council, Mayor Vargas, Rialto Mayor, Edward Carrillo, Rialto Treasurer, Rudy Cabriaes, Victorville City Council, Ted Baca, Fernando

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HONORING OUR MILITARY HEROES



Technician Fifth Grade Joseph Nieto Gomez, retired, was presented with the Silver Star by Lt. Col. G. B. Apelman at Camp Haan, Riverside, for gallantry and heroic action in the China, Burma, India Theater of War. As a volunteer with the famous Merrill Marauders in Burma, Gomez saved two wounded comrades and performed medical assistance. He later save the life of another comrade while under fire. Gomez was severely wounded in a later battle. *Photo courtesy of the Nieto Gomez family*

During the month of November, our Nation has honored veterans who have served throughout our history in our Wars against our enemies. The Inland Empire Hispanic News has profiled members that have honorably served in the Armed Forces. The following article depicts Technician Fifth Grade Joseph Nieto Gomez, a San Bernardino resident and recipient of the Silver Star.

Technician Fifth Grade Joseph Nieto Gomez ASN 18016224

Joseph Nieto Gomez was born on June 3, 1921, in Winslow Arizona and educated in Albuquerque and Gallup, New Mexico. He enlisted in the Army in 1939 and after basic training, received extensive medical technician and firearm expert training.

When World War II began, Fifth Grade Technician Joseph Nieto Gomez served in the Pacific Theater of War. He was involved in the battles of Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, and New Georgia. He later volunteered as a medic with the famous Merrill Marauders in the China-Burma-India Theater of War to aid the English Army in driving out the Japanese Army out of Burma.

During furious battles with the Japanese, Nieto Gomez exposed himself to enemy fire, and carried two mortally wounded fellow soldiers to

cover, and gave medical assistance to relieve the men of their sufferings. He later saved the life of another wounded comrade while administering medical aid without cover from enemy machine gun fire and without regard for his own safety. On April 4, 1944 near Nhpun Ga, Burma, while loyally doing his duty as a medic, Nieto Gomez was severely wounded by enemy mortar shell fragments and evacuated to the rear of the battle. He was given first aid and sent to the United States for recuperation in an Army general hospital for an extensive period of time. He was honorably discharged on October 9, 1944.

Technician Fifth Grade Joseph Nieto Gomez, retired, was presented with the Silver Star by Lt. Col. G. B. Apelman at Camp Haan, Riverside, on April 6, 1945, for gallantry and heroic action during the battle in the China-Burma-India Theater of War by order of Lt. General Joseph Stillwell, Commander of the China India-Burma Theater of War.

Joseph Nieto Gomez married Trini Rodriguez on July 8, 1945. The couple had three children Anna, Michael and Vanessa.

Joseph Nieto Gomez died on December 13, 1967, as a result of a car accident.

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CAN OBAMA CHANGE GOVERNMENT POLICY AND CONVINCENOS TO CHANGE OURSELVES?

By Arianna Huffington, Huffington Post

"On or about December 1910," Virginia Woolf wrote, "human character changed." We can be much more specific: "On November 4, 2008, just after 11 pm Eastern, America changed" (human character remains rather intransigent).

The change was driven by two things: our country's remarkable capacity for regeneration, and Barack Obama's remarkable ability to tap into the better angels of our nature. You know something extraordinary is happening when even Michele Bachmann, Sarah Palin, and Joe Lieberman trip over themselves — and their hastily discarded invective — to say nice things about Obama and the "tremendous signal" sent by his election.

Sure, it's easy to see their encomiums as purely tactical attempts not to be on the wrong side of history, but they are more than that. They also demonstrate how certain moments and certain individuals are able to bring the best out in people — even people who have shown us some of the worst aspects of human character. Because, hard though it may be to accept, the best and the worst reside in each of us, side-by-side.

As Alexander Solzhenitsyn put it: "The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between

classes, nor between political parties either — but right through every human heart." And the greatest leaders are those who inspire us to reside on the good side of Solzhenitsyn's line.

Obama does more. As David Brooks wrote recently, Obama's fractured childhood "is supposed to produce a politician with gaping personal needs and hidden wounds. But over the past two years, Obama has never shown evidence of that." Here is someone whose childhood could have easily led to a life in shambles. But Obama has somehow — and without, as far as we know, thousands of hours of therapy — succeeded in not letting circumstances dictate his life and reactions.

During the campaign, Obama was an object lesson in equanimity. Insinuate he's Muslim or sympathizes with terrorists, and he brushes off the mud. Hammer him with trumped up charges — "sexist," "socialist," "un-American" — and he rolls with the punches. He simply doesn't let it in. He demonstrates that we have the ability to master whether we allow setbacks and attacks to throw us off course.

A lot has been written about Obama's calm in the face of adversity over the course of the last 21 months. Less noted has been how he displays that same centeredness in the face of triumph.

On Tuesday night, he could have waxed transcendent; he could have wrung every last tear and every last cheer out of the adoring crowd at Grant Park. But he chose not to. Instead, his speech gracefully touched the clouds a few times then soberly came back to earth, focused, as always with Obama, on moving forward.

To their great credit, the American people have responded to Obama's example by remaining remarkably focused as well. Despite the seemingly endless parade of meaningless sideshows trotted out during both the primaries and the general campaign, the public refused to be distracted. These kinds of tactics had worked well in 2004 — but not in 2008. Obama's focus, his sense of purpose cleared a path through the carnival of clownish attacks and chamber of horror scares. And voters followed.

After eight years in which it has felt like the very foundation of our

country was under assault, it is a testament to our democracy's inherent capacity for regeneration — our ability to course-correct — that Americans responded the way they did to a campaign so premised on an appeal to our greater selves.

A country can change only to the extent that the individuals within it change (and some changes come slower than others, as evidenced by Prop 8 and the other gay marriage bans that passed on Tuesday).

So it's back to Solzhenitsyn: "If you wanted to change the world, who should you begin with: yourself or others?"

Our president-elect is obsessed with Lincoln, who changed the country both by changing government policy and by using the bully pulpit to help us change ourselves. And our president-elect is endlessly being compared to FDR, who gave us both the New Deal and one of the most famous life lessons in history: "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself."

Now it's Obama's turn to pull off this rare presidential double play.

<http://www.alternet.org/bloggers/>
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/106604/>

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SAN MANUEL RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY AGENCY'S NEED

Generous donation of \$100K is planned to upgrade historic building



James Ramos, Chair of the San Manuel Indian Bingo, center, presented a check for \$100,000 to the Home of Neighborly Services at a recent presentation ceremony. Amparo Olguin, Home's executive director, at left, happily accepts the donation to be utilized for renovation of the 86-year old San Bernardino Westside nonprofit service organization. The upgrading includes complete major restoration of the kitchen and restroom facilities in the main building and adjacent sports and Head Start facilities. Photo by IEHN

On October, 2007, the Home of Neighborly Service (HNS), an established non-profit community service agency, celebrated 85 years of service to the greater Westside area of San Bernardino. Many longtime area residents attended the event to celebrate its longevity, reminiscing of past relationships, and their involvement in the multiple services provided by the service agency, directed toward the neighborhood youth and adults in the community. The attendees also commented on the deterioration of the facility and outer buildings utilized for the services provided.

James Ramos, San Manuel Chairman, also noticed the physical deficiencies in previous years. He contributed large sums of funding toward the upkeep of the age-old building, including the outer buildings, one which he helped fund for a new boxing ring for the agency's well-known boxing teams. He also joined the board of directors, served as its president and continues to be on the board.

Chairman Ramos recently acknowledged that the historic building had continued to become increasingly in need of major repairs, and announced to the board and executive director Amparo Olguin that the San Manuel would contribute \$100,000 to go for the agency's overall renovation.

On November 3rd, Ramos presented to the board of directors and Olguin with an enlarged check reflecting the contributed amount in bold numbers.

"The Home of Neighborly Service has provided valuable services to the community for many decades by initiating valuable programs for the youth, senior citizen and those in need in the Westside. San Manuel acknowledges that San Bernardino is composed of diversified residents and we have to work as a total community to improve the lives of those in need, for the youth and our senior citizens who have previously contributed to the community. The San Manuel is part of that community and we want to participate as a partner in working

with our community for the betterment of everyone in the region. This is our share of people helping people."

John Futch, board president and recently elected to the San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees, stated that the prioritized renovations will be the agency's kitchen, sealing the attic, upgrade the plumbing for the restrooms in the main building and outer buildings which houses the boxing arena and Head Start program. Other improvements are boxing equipment, punching bags, gloves, safety gear and new computers, according to Futch. "A lot of things can go wrong in 86 years, and San Manuel has provided a timely donation that was needed at the present time," he said.

The original HNS was a residence purchased by the Presbyterian Church on the southeast corner of Mt. Vernon and Spruce Streets, providing limited services. In 1926, the Church purchased land on the Mt. Vernon between 8th and Union Streets and construction of the new HNS was begun. Dorothy Rose was the first director who guided the HNS throughout the depression and throughout the 1940's. Her work was

a national model and was illustrated by Ruth D. Tuck in a book, **Not With The Fist**. The first public library on the Westside was situated at the HNS until 1941.

Since the beginning and throughout its history, HNS has provided an array of services, including education, religion, scouting, and assisting families in need of help in stressful situations.

HNS has expanded in providing added services, including after-school classes, bilingual-English classes, scouting, boy and girl boxing, parenting classes, nutrition and health, senior citizens meals, and a myriad of essential programs as the need arises.

"We are very appreciative of this financial gesture that James Ramos and the San Manuel have granted us at a critical time. The demand for our services is continuing to increase and our staff and volunteers are working hard to meet every demand in our community," stated Amparo Olguin, HNS longtime director.

The Home of Neighborly Services is located at 893 N. Mount Vernon Av., San Bernardino. For information on its services, call at (909) 885-3491.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOSIE GONZALES HELPS BRING EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT TO CAL STATE

SAN BERNARDINO – Starting November 22nd county residents will have a unique opportunity to see rare Egyptian artifacts, some dating as far back to 2900 B.C.

Supporting efforts to bring cultural and educational enrichment to San Bernardino County, 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales has allotted \$5,000 to help bring "Excavating Egypt: Great Discoveries" from the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College London to California State University

San Bernardino's Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum.

Outside of Egypt itself, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology on the University College London campus houses the largest collection of Egyptian antiquities in the world. This is the *first* time the Petrie Museum is sending selections from its extensive collection on tour in the United States.

Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum at Cal State San Bernardino is one of the few

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08/11/08 11/08

SAN BERNARDINO KICKS OFF TRADE MISSION TO MEXICO



The area's first Trade Commission kicked off its official notice in a press conference at San Bernardino City Hall. Commission members, l to r, San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris, Concepcion Powell, EDA Consultant for International Relations and Business Affairs, 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Emil Marzullo Executive Director of the City's Economic Development Agency, Charlie Gabriel, Arrowhead Credit Union, and General Mexican Consul Jeremias Guzman Barrera. Photo by IEHN

San Bernardino CA – The City's first official Trade Mission to Mexico kicked off at a City Hall Press Conference hosted by Mayor Patrick Morris, San Bernardino County 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Emil Marzullo, Executive Director of the City's Economic Development Agency (EDA) with Concepcion M. Powell, the new EDA Consultant for International Relations and Business Affairs.

Eight representatives from City and County government, Cal-State San Bernardino, UCR-Riverside, Arrowhead Credit Union and San Bernardino International Airport

Authority/Inland Valley Development Agency represent the Trade Commission.

The Trade Mission members have been invited to join next May in Mexico for a bi-national "4th forum of Economic Development between two Nations – International Trade Conference to interact with equal trade and commerce representatives from throughout Mexico. The members' goal is to work to create collaborative alliances and efforts between both nations to establish development, educational and social partners, and address policy issues in economic development and global

economic issues.

General Mexican Consul Jeremias Guzman Barrera of San Bernardino has pledged on-going support of the Consulate and his commitment to assist the delegation.

"This great opportunity for our City to establish trade relationships with our closest neighbor, Mexico," said Mayor Morris. "With our beautiful new International Airport completion date scheduled for December and 68% of our population being of Hispanic descent, it's logical

to promote air travel and create trade and commerce alliances with Mexico. Our U.S. Customs and Free Trade Zone is in place to be of great service and convenience to the diverse and highly competitive market. Our City and County Economic Development Agencies work well with the Inland Valley Development Agency on common development goals, so this is a real plus for Mexico. It can only be a positive shot in the arm' for both economies," added Morris.

VETERANS TO RECEIVE DIPLOMAS THROUGH OPERATION RECOGNITION

Due to popular demand, the Riverside County Office of Education, with assistance from the Riverside County Department of Veteran's Services, will offer a second chance this year for veterans to receive high school diplomas through its Operation Recognition Program.

Residents of Riverside County whose high school education was interrupted by military service in World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War, may receive diplomas at Operation Recognition at **10 a.m. on Friday, November 14, 2008.**

The program will be held at the Riverside County Office of Education,

3939 Thirteenth Street, Riverside. Enter at the Conference Center on the corner of 12th and Almond streets.

RCOE has given 146 diplomas to veterans between the first Operation Recognition event held in May 2007 and second in May of this year. The next ceremony is being scheduled to align with the week of the Veteran's Day holiday.

For additional information on Operation Recognition and a downloadable registration form, go to www.rcoe.k12.ca.us/operationrecognition or contact Tracey Rivas at (951) 826-6570 or trivas@rcoe.us.

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HISPANIC RECIPIENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

<p>Philip Bazar <i>Civil War</i> Picture Not Available</p>	<p>Joseph DeCastro <i>Civil War</i> Picture Not Available</p>	<p>John Ortega <i>Civil War</i> Picture Not Available</p>	<p>France Silva <i>Boxer Rebellion (China)</i> Picture Not Available</p>	 <p>David Barkeley <i>World War I</i></p>	 <p>Lucian Adams <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Rudolph Davila <i>World War II</i></p>
 <p>Marcario Garcia <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>David Gonzales <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Harold Gonsalves <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Silvestre Herrera <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Jose M. Lopez <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Joesph Martinez <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Manuel Perez, Jr. <i>World War II</i></p>
 <p>Cleto Rodriguez <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Alejandro Ruiz <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Jose F. Valdez <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Ysmael Villegas <i>World War II</i></p>	 <p>Fernando Garcia <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>Edward Gomez <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>Ambrosio Guillen <i>Korea</i></p>
 <p>Rodolfo Hernandez <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>Baldermo Lopez <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>Benito Martinez <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>Eugene Obregon <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>Joseph Rodriguez <i>Korea</i></p>	 <p>John Baca <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Roy P. Benavidez <i>Vietnam</i></p>
 <p>Emilio DeLaGarza <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Ralph E. Dias <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Daniel Fernandez <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Alfredo Gonzales <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Jose F. Jimenez <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Miguel Keith <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Carlos Lozada <i>Vietnam</i></p>
 <p>Alfred Rascon <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Louis R. Rocco <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Euripides Rubio <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Hector Santiago-Colon <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Jay R. Vargas <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Roque Versace <i>Vietnam</i></p>	 <p>Maximo Yabes <i>Vietnam</i></p>

The Medal of Honor is awarded only for the most uncommon acts of extraordinary valor. Of the 35,000,000 Americans who served in World I, World War II, Korea and Vietman, only 925 servicemen received the Medal of Honor; 526 posthumously.

"A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, The men it remembers..."
John F. Kennedy

INLAND EMPIRE 11TH ANNUAL HISPANIC IMAGE AWARDS

Hispanic Lifestyle presented the Inland Empire 11th Annual Hispanic Image Awards at the Historic Mission Inn in the City of Riverside, attended by a banquet-filled community activists and family members in support of awardees. The following persons and/or organizations were honored at the event.

Influential Latina of the year

Dr. Vilma Torres-Associate professor, Medicine, Loma Linda School of Medicine



Dr. Vilma Torres is nationally recognized for the seminars that she presents on cardiology at Loma Linda University Medical Center. She was one of the instrumental persons that established a women's heart center. She is sought after as one of the leading experts on cardiology throughout the nation.

Her community service includes: serving as President of the Inland Empire American Heart Association. Dr. Torres received top honors as Hispanic Alumnus in 2003 from Loma Linda University. She broke the glass ceiling by being the first in her family to become a doctor. Simply put, Dr. Torres is truly a role model for us all.

**Lifetime Achievement Award
Ernest F. Garcia Ed.D**



Dr. Ernest F. Garcia has a long list of honors and accolades throughout his life. In his youth, he picked crops, and then served in the California National Guard. A highlight is his achievement as the first Latino to graduate from UC Riverside.

Dr. Garcia was a K thru 12 instructor for 13 years. Thereafter, he gave 23 years of his life to higher education as an Associate Professor at the University of Redlands, and Dean of the School of Education at Cal-State, San Bernardino.

Dr. Garcia has given back to his community through leadership positions at Kiwanis Clubs and Sinfonia Mexicana, and donates his artwork to the YWCA for fundraising purposes.

Educator of the Year

Bobbi Ciriza Houtchens, Arroyo High School, San Bernardino School District



Ms. Bobbi Ciriza Houtchens has been teaching at the elementary level and high school English and English Language Development (ELD) for the past 38 years in San Bernardino and other educational venues throughout the United States. She holds a Masters Degree in Bilingual/bicultural literacy from Cal-States, San Bernardino and is an adjunct professor at the university.

This year Ms Houtchens was selected one of 25 teachers out of over 1,000 nationwide to receive a fellowship at the Department of Education in Washington, D.C. to provide classroom experiences and collaboration in developing teaching perspectives on multiple issues impacting students in the classroom.

**Public Safety Person of the Year
Chief of Police David Dominguez,
City of Palm Springs**

Chief of Police David Dominguez was raised in the Los Angeles area in a family that has established a tradition of careers in the public safety sector: his father and two uncles had distinguished careers with the Los Angeles Police Department, and two brothers are fire fighters.

Chief Dominguez has been in law enforcement in the Inland Empire for 28 years, and has been actively involved in the communities that he has served. In 2007, the City of Palm Springs appointed Dominguez to

become chief of police for that city.

Business of the Year

Casa de Flores, San Bernardino



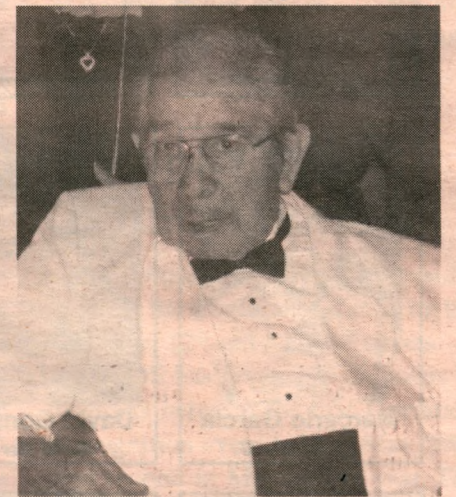
In 1974 Jess and Inez Lucero opened *Casa de Flores* with only \$700. Today, with the support of their family; daughters Margaret, Lindy, Bernadette, Amanda, daughter-in-law Liz and granddaughter France, they have expanded their floral business to include wedding and quinceañera dresses and accessories.

Casa de Flores is located at 342 So. Mount Vernon, City of San Bernardino and Inez has never thought of leaving the community that

has been so good to her business and family. Now with great granddaughter Erica lending a hand, Casa de Flores has all the elements to continue to grow and be of provide the traditionally excellent service to the region.

Beaumont Legacy Award

The Valdivia Family



Toribio and Juan Valdivia married sisters Guadalupe and Trinidad Dominguez, and settled in the farm community of Beaumont, CA in 1908. The families grew to 22 siblings, whereby the descendents to date have had a positive impact in their

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INLAND EMPIRE 11TH ANNUAL HISPANIC IMAGE AWARDS

respective communities.

The single most important highlight is the commitment of sons, daughters and grandchildren in the education field. There are over 100 family members who have graduated from Beaumont High School; the first started the trend in 1936. There are over 20 members who have college degrees, and many have followed careers in the education profession.

Entertainers of the Year

KGGI 99.1 FM

GGGR is a Contemporary Hit Radio (CHR) station that started broadcasting on August 6, 1979. KGGI has been the leader in Arbitron ratings for years, and 2005 was the station of the year for the entire United States in the CHR category presented by Radio and Records. KGGI's audience consists of 60% Latino listeners' hip of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th generations. KGGI also is at the cutting edge of technology by broadcasting online as well as on HD (high definition).

KDIF La Preciosa is a Classic hit

Spanish language station appealing to the first and second generation Mexican American. It airs the greatest hits from the 70's, 80's and 90's. KDIF was established in 1986 and at the time was the only Spanish language station in Riverside. It has been committed to the Latino community for over 20 years.

Non-Profit Organization of the Year

Puente Project

Puente was founded in 1981 by Felix Galaviz and Patricia McGrath at Chabot College in Hayward, California. The program was launched as a grassroots initiative to address the low rate of academic achievement among Mexican American and Latino students.

The Puente program has since expanded to 33 high schools and 59 community colleges throughout the state of California. Puente's staff training programs currently benefit approximately 14,000 students in the high school and community college system.

EDUARDO DIAZ NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE SMITHSONIAN LATINO CENTER

Continued from page 1

"We're delighted that Eduardo Diaz will lead the Smithsonian Latino Center in its commitment to reach more Americans with the vital story of Latino art, culture, history and heritage," said G. Wayne Clough, Smithsonian Secretary. "Eduardo's experience, expertise and leadership skills will be invaluable as he expands the center's influence. I look forward to working with him."

"I am very excited about joining the Smithsonian and its dedicated staff at the Latino Center," said Diaz. "I have watched and supported the development of the center and pleased to be able to lead it, ensuring a continuing and influential Latino presence and collaborating with Latino communities and cultural centers throughout our nation. The Institution and its Latino Center exercise a viable cultural leadership position for, by and about our diverse Latino communities."

Before joining the New Mexico National Hispanic Cultural Center, Diaz operated a consulting firm, serving arts groups, statewide advocacy and community-based organizations, specializing in grant development, business and strategic and cultural facilities planning and cultural and heritage tourism. In 2001, Diaz co-founded the International Accordion Festival, an outdoor music festival in San Antonio, and continues to serve on its board and participates

in the annual event.

From 1989 to 1999, Diaz served as director of Cultural Affairs for the City of San Antonio. He currently serves on the board of the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau and the New Mexico Community Foundation Albuquerque Advisory Committee.

Diaz earned a B.A. Degree in Latin American Studies at San Diego State University in 1972 and Law Degree at the University of California, Davis in 1976. He is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

Editor's note: Eduardo Diaz is the son of retired San Bernardino school educators Leno and Elisa Diaz, and education in the San Bernardino School System.

About the Smithsonian Latino Center

The Smithsonian Latino Center is a division of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. highlighting the Latino historical contribution to the arts, science and the humanities, and advances the development and support of public programs, scholarly research, museum collections and educational opportunities at its central environment and through its affiliated organizations in the United States and international network. For information contact

CapitalWirePr at (202) 633-5188

S.B. FIFTH STREET BRIDGE GRAND OPENING



The official Fifth Street Bridge opening in San Bernardino with a ribbon-cutting ceremony—Congressman Joe Baca, Mayor Patrick Morris, 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Assemblyperson Amina Carter, 1st Ward Councilperson Esther Estrada with SANBAG and city officials. Photo by IEHN

The Fifth Street Bridge, in construction since February, 2007, was officially opened to the public after an official opening on November 7, with county, city, SANBAG officials and Congressman Joe Baca celebrating the long-awaited opening against a strong wind, and the delicious Mexican Food from the historical Mitla's Café being served after all the hoopla was over.

"We hope that the building of this bridge will be the stimulation of the economy and raise the Mount Vernon from its ashes. We also would like to announce that the construction to date is six months ahead of schedule," San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris said in opening the official ceremony, as master of ceremonies.

Congressman Baca remarked that for many years he traveled the old Fifth Street to work and wondered when a western off ramp would be built. "This is a long time coming," he said.

First Ward Councilwoman Esther Estrada gave a history of the off and on ramps designed toward the central

section of town and the displeasure of many Westside residents for over two decades. "This new design will certainly stimulate the economy in the Westside of San Bernardino," she said.

The Fifth Street Bridge, built in 1951, is the first phase of the four-part I-215 Widening Project that will widen the 7.5 mile stretch of freeway between I-10 and University Parkway. Other phases include Orange Show Road to Rialto Avenue, headed by Cal-Trans and began in 2008; Rialto to Massachusetts Avenue, expected to begin in 2009; and Massachusetts Avenue to University Parkway, also expected to begin in 2009.

The I-215 Widening Project ties directly to the revitalization of the City of San Bernardino as it will connect the east and west sides of the city; and help alleviate traffic congestion for the more than 83,000 vehicles that travel the corridor daily, and anticipation to increase the traffic flow to 135,00 vehicles per day in 2030.

LATINOS NATIONWIDE AND REGIONAL VOTED IN FULL FORCE

Continued from page 1

Baca, Barstow Community College, Jess Vizcaino, San Bernardino College District, Mary Rodriguez, Norbert Acevedo, Barstow School District, Patricia Hara, Colton School District, Barbara Chavez, Fontana School District, Christina Otero, Needles School District, Joe Martinez, Joe Ayala, Rialto School District, Barbara Flores, San Bernardino School District, Judy Munoz, Victor Valley High School District, Carlos Mendoza, Lisa Marie Garcia, Adelanto Elementary District, David Ortega, Cucamonga Elementary School District, Maureen Mendoza, Ont. Montclair Elementary School District, Edna Rodriguez Rodriguez, Oro Grande elementary School District, Ruben Arredondo, Barstow Fire District, Oscar Gonzalez, Cucamonga Valley Water District, Mark Alvarez, San Bndo Muni. Water

District,
Riverside County

Manuel Perez, 80th Assembly District, Mary Figueroa, Riverside College District, Mark Orozco, Beaumont School District, Anna Rodriguez, Jose Lalas, Coachella School District, Jeanie Corral, Lake Elsinore School District, Stacey Guzman, Val Verde School District, Marie Calderon, Banning City Council, Kathleen DeRosa, Cathedral City Council, Eduardo Garcia, mayor, Emmanuel Martinez, Gilbert Ramirez, city council, Isabel Castillon, city clerk, Stacey Garcia, treasurer, City of Coachella, Guadalupe Ramos, Indio City Council, Melissa Ann Melendez, Lake Elsinore City Council, Jesse Molina, Moreno Valley City Council, Gabriel Salinas, Beaumont-Cheery Valley Recreation/Park Commission.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SUPERVISOR JOSIE GONZALES HELPS BRING EGYPTIAN EXHIBIT TO CAL STATE

Continued from page 3

museum sites selected for the tour, and the *only* west coast location.

"This is a unique honor and we are very proud that Cal State San Bernardino was selected as the only west coast site for this extraordinary exhibit," said Supervisor Gonzales. "I strongly recommend that everyone visit our beautiful university campus

and the 'Excavating Egypt' exhibit as well as experience the other tours and lectures offered at the museum."

"Excavating Egypt" will be presented at the Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum from November 22, 2008 thru February 15, 2009. For more information about the exhibit call

(909) 537-7373 or visit the Museum website at rvf-artmuseum.csusb.edu.

The 5th District includes the unincorporated areas of Bloomington, Muscoy and Arrowhead Farms, the City of Rialto, major portions of the cities of Colton and San Bernardino, and a segment of the City of Fontana.

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S.B. DEMOCRATIC LUNCHEON CLUB

San Bernardino Democratic Luncheon Club of San Bernardino meets at noon on Fridays at Democratic Headquarters, 136 Carousel Mall (near the central glass elevator-lower level). Questions regarding the Democratic Club call Nancy White at (909) 793-6229. Visitors welcomed. Following is a schedule of speakers:

Nov 14 **Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod**, Chair
Womens Caucus

Nov 21 **James Ramos**, Chair
San Manuel Indians

Nov 28 Dark for Holiday

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