

LITANY TO AMERICA

Oh America, happy birthday.

Happy remembering how we declared our independence from the world's most powerful rule.

Happy remembering how we proclaimed our freedom from the very idea of empire, when we declared "all humans are equal,"

when we pronounced that governments get their powers from the consent of the governed

when we deemed it our right and duty to overthrow any rulers who impose on us empire and the ideas of empire.

Today, on this your birthday, we declare again our independence from empire and from the notions of empire:

—from the notion that the need to control requires that some dominate others, we declare our independence

—from the belief that the rulers may use us to achieve their goals, we declare our independence

—from the prejudice that nature equips men better than women to dominate, and some races and classes to dominate, we declare our independence

—from the assumption that imperial ends justify the use of any means, we declare our independence

—from the dogma that violence is redemptive, that violence is the only language enemies understand, we declare our independence.

—from the doctrine that those with weapons, technology, wealth and the largest markets are the ones who deserve to survive, we declare our independence

—from the idolatry that money is the most important value, we declare our independence

—from the supposition that the production of material goods is more important than the production of healthy and normal people, or the preservation of neighborhoods and the building of community, we declare our independence

—from the conviction that property is sacred, and property ownership is an absolute right, we declare our independence

—from the inference that in organizations or nations great size is proof of power and value, we declare our independence

—from the opinion that institutions are more important than people, we declare our independence

—from the pomposity that there is no higher value or being or power than the state, that if there is a God, God is the protector and patron of the state, we declare our independence

Happy birthday America!

And, here is to the day when you will enjoy independence from your own empire!

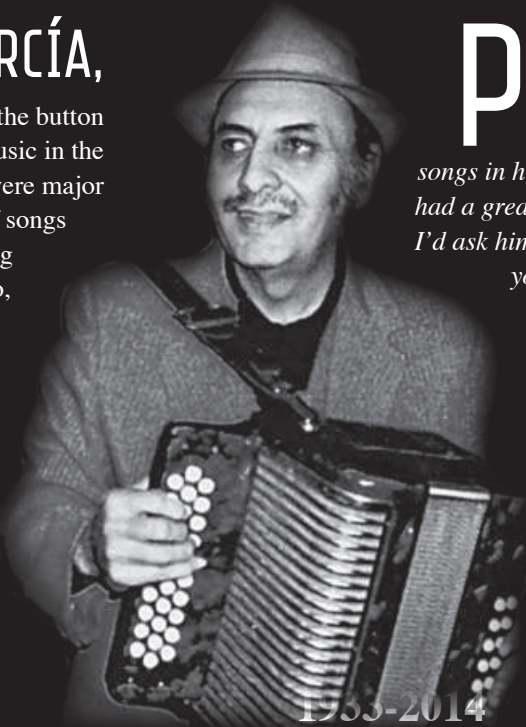
* With language and ideas from *Engaging the Powers*, by Walter Wink, Fortress Press, 1992.

by Tom Keene July 4, 1994 (with thanks to Walter Wink*)

SALVADOR "PAVO" GARCÍA,

songwriter and musician (most notably the button accordion), was a pioneer of conjunto music in the 1940s. His band, Los Pavos Reales, were major stars of conjunto. He wrote hundreds of songs that made many musicians famous. Among his hits were Todos Dicen, El Borrachito, Acordeones de Oro and more. He also popularized the use of dual harmonizing accordions with his brother, Eddie "Lalo" Torres García. He is survived by his 3 children: Clara Sánchez, Paula Molina and Salvador García Jr. His wife, Aurora died in 1965. Born in Seguin on June 15, 1933, Pavo was one of 10 children, 8 of whom became musicians. Heartfelt condolences to his family and the conjunto community.

—QUE EN PAZ DESCANSE.



1933-2014

Pavo was the most prolific creator I knew. His colorful life gave him plenty to write about. When I was driving around with him, he'd be composing songs in his head. He didn't read or write, but he had a great memory and a good ear. Sometimes, I'd ask him what he did at Lerma's when he was young. He told me many stories. *Le gustaba decir "cuiden al viejito."* Everyone knew that meant paying tribute to him by buying him a warm beer. Cold beer made him shiver. It was a way for him to remain in the old days, before anyone had refrigerators. I once told mom that he was the only one that made me want to cook for him. I'll miss his potato soup recipe the most. Hopefully, he'll get the recognition he deserves in death.

—Susana Segura