



¡Ah, Qué Bueno!

Raúl Ruben Rendón

September 14, 1928 - January 28, 2016

Raul Ruben Rendon was born in Dilley, Texas. His father was a migrant worker who was brought into the United States as part of the Bracero program. Raul was deported during the Great Depression along with his family among other Mexicans and Mexican-Americans during that time. He lived in Mexico for four years in a jacal. When his family was allowed to come back to Dilley he was not allowed to attend school until he was 11 years old since he was Mexican. He often would tell of the train tracks that divided the white part of Dilley from the Mexican part of Dilley. He later worked in the fields picking watermelon and spinach. He wouldn't eat fresh spinach until he was 85 years old.

He joined the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the Korean War so he could escape the life of a field worker, like many of his friends and other Mexicanos. He is one of the only two men who were rescued in a particular battle as part of the Chosin reservoir campaign. He is featured in the book Chosin by Eric Hammel. He was a recipient of the Presidential Unit Citation and Purple Heart. Although he is often known and remembered as a war hero, he would later tell his granddaughter Gianna that war is "not a good thing" and did not like the high the rate of veteran homelessness and what that says about the United States. And although he was seen and is seen as a decorated war hero, when he came back from the Korean War he faced racism and discrimination.

He settled down with his wife Elvia on the Westside of San Antonio by Las Palmas and put his 3 children through school at St. Martin Hall, Central Catholic and Incarnate Word.

Raul loved eating tortilla chips and French onion dip. He would often sit outside his red brick house with a hot plate cooking something. He often would come up with different recipe concoctions that he would write down so he could replicate later. He loved to make and preserve jams and salsas and his fridge could be found with bags of pecans he collected and shelled by hand.



He was preceded in death by his wife Elvia Garza Rendon, sisters Alma R. Vergara, Freya Mirta Rendon Garcia and parents Romana & Trinidad B. Rendon.

He is survived by his children; Raul Rendon Jr. and his wife Anita Rendon, Robert Rendon and his wife Yvonne Rendon, Rosanna Rendon, grandchildren; Mark, Elyse, Justin, Gianna and brother Trinidad Rendon and his wife Frances Rendon, and his best friend Oscar Noriega who he met in a VA hospital in Corpus Christi while they were both recovering from war wounds.

The Esperanza Peace & Justice Center extends our deepest condolences to his family and to our staffperson, Gianna who wrote of her grandfather: Today Feb. 4 we buried my grandfather... The number one thing he would say was "Ah que Bueno." I often took it as him being sarcastic... He would especially say this after someone told him something that he knew was bull... I love these three words because they are complex in their simplicity. They could convey 20 different emotions depending on inflection and circumstance (irritation, love, joy, sadness). He didn't have to yell to shut down a conversation if he was done with you. He'd just say this... I hope to incorporate Grandpa's "Ah Qué Bueno" mentality to my life... Que descanse en paz.



Francisco Alarcón, 1954-2016



Photo: Annie Valva

Francisco Alarcón of Davis, California passed into spirit on January 15, 2016. The Esperanza extends our sympathy to his family and wide and diverse community. He impacted my life as an early childhood bilingual educator as well as my life as a Chicana lesbian activist. Through his poetry he conveyed the richness of Chicano life, culturally and politically. Even to my young students, his poetry was accessible—written bilingually, in English and in Spanish, and on occasion,

Nahuatl. His ability to convey his roots through poetry was a gift to those who were not fortunate enough to have that connection in their own families. In the 80s, he co-founded the nation's first gay Chicano poets collective. By doing so, he opened more doors and impacted more gente. Francisco wrote his last calavera for La Voz in November. It was, of course, on Donald Trump. His presence will always be felt. ¡Francisco Alarcón, siempre presente!

—Gloria A. Ramírez, editor of La Voz



Photo: DarkMoi Studios

Ernestine Garza Moore

August 6, 1923 - January 16, 2016

Tina Moore, age 92, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 16, 2016 surrounded by her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred C. Moore, and is survived by her daughter Evita Sánchez; step-daughters: Mary Atkins,



Charlotte Cadenas, Virginia Siedel, Alice Ontiveros (Manuel); sons: John Mendoza (Gloria), Richard Sánchez (Mary), Reynaldo Sánchez (Olivia), Frederick Moore (Antoinette); her many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. She lived for her family, especially during the holidays when she would cook turkey, tamales and cookies.

Tina made a great contribution to the San Antonio community sharing stories of her sister, Eva Garza who was once considered one of the top ten singers of Mexico but went unrecognized in San Antonio, her hometown. Tina (and Eva), grew up in the Westside at the Alazan-Apache Courts. They played softball and attended Lanier High School in the 1930s. The culmination of Tina's stories and photos that she provided was a memorable tribute to Eva Garza in February of 2013 at the Esperanza Center, where the star of the evening was Tina



Tina in front of the Alazan-Apache Courts with her sisters (L to R): Dora, Tina, Eva and Irene.

surrounded by family from throughout the U.S. and Mexico. The tribute, "Homenaje a Eva Garza y las divas de la canción Mexicana." turned out to be an elegant and poignant event with Tina presiding as the matron of memories and familia.

Tina felt that it was vitally important to recover the rich history of the Westside as exemplified through her life that was directly connected to Mexico through the music of her sister, Eva. Tina shared her photos and memories with the Esperanza's *Fotohistorias* and *Aquellos Tiempos* programs and also gave invaluable information to Professor Deborah Vargas for her book, *Dissonant Divas in Chicana Music: The Limits of La Onda* that memorialized Eva and other Tejanas



Photo: www.mysanantonio.com

into the archives of American culture. Tina noted over and over that her sister was the first Latina to be broadcast on radio and was known as the "Sweetheart of the Americas." During the 1940s Eva recorded for Columbia and sang on CBS radio's Viva América program, broadcast over short wave radio in Spanish, English, and



At the Eva Garza Homenaje Tina (R) with her sister, Sylvia, and Leticia, her niece, (L) who performed at the event.

Portuguese throughout the Americas. Tina recalled, "We could hear her here at 9 o'clock at night." "She was the first to entertain the troops. She had a lot of personality and was good looking. We were very proud."

Tina was one of seven children of Procopio V. Garza and Cenobia B. Ramírez. Her father ran a barbershop on Commerce St. Tina, later, raised her family with her husband, "Cherry," in the Loma Park area. In a letter written to her family Tina wrote, "My last goodbye to my children—with the grace of God—I have lived a long life. My children did not know that I lived a very glamorous life in Mexico City, but now they will know about it." Tina accompanied Eva to cities throughout the Americas and attended events with the rich and famous: dignitaries, politicians, singers, and movie stars—but she knew that there would come to an end. When she came home to be with her mother, whom she dearly loved, she chose to live out her days in the Westside of San Antonio. The Esperanza Center and buena gente will forever remember Tina Garza Moore and be grateful to her for sharing her life's memories and the rich history that is San Antonio! Que en paz descansas, Tina. No te olvidaremos.