

# Reyes Family sets the foundation for the Museo del Westside

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Museo del Westside groundbreaking on March 29, 2022 was attended by members of the Reyes family that sold Ruben's Ice House, the site of the Museo, to the Esperanza with the promise of turning it into a neighborhood museum. The event was another step towards realizing that dream*

*for the family, for the Esperanza and for the Buena gente of San Antonio's Westside. Patricia Reyes Zepeda one of the Reyes' daughters stressed the importance of the museo for their family who grew up learning the basic values their parents taught them at Ruben's Ice House.*

Patricia started her talk with a few quotes or dichos her parents used when giving their children advice:

*Educate, porque eso, nadie te lo quita y trabaja duro cuando estes joven, porque cuando ya estas Viejo, aunque quieras, ya no*

*puedes. / Educate yourself because that is something no one can take from you and work hard when you're young because when you are old, even if you want to, you can't.*

*Ayudale a la gente y Diosito te da a manos llenas. / Help others and God will keep your hands full.*

Hello everyone, my name is Patricia Reyes Zepeda, one of the 10 children and daughter of Manuel and Elida Reyes who once owned Ruben's Ice House. I'd like to thank everyone who is here today for his special occasion and to Graciela and the Esperanza committee for allowing me to say a few words about my family.

My parents married in 1939 in Cd. Anahuac, Mexico. In 1944, they moved to San Antonio to build a better life for their family. A few years after that, in 1946, they opened a family business and named it M & E Groceries (Manuel & Elida). When my oldest brother, Rubén, joined the Army, they renamed it Ruben's Ice House in his honor. All of their 10 children grew up



Patricia Reyes Zepeda talks about the family's history with Ruben's Ice House at the groundbreaking.

around the Ice House and helped with different chores. As a child you see it as chores, but as an adult, they become beautiful memories that built closeness between us. I saw my parents set the example for their children and grandchildren. I saw them work long hours, allow their customers to take groceries on credit and often

gave food away to people who needed it.

The values they often expressed were to get an education, work hard and help others. My parent's advice and beliefs continue to grow with children and grandchildren who serve in the military, others who are teachers, police officers, nurses, prosecutors, and doctors.

My parents would be extremely proud of the Museo and Esperanza's mission in not only saving this little building, but using it to continue sharing the values that were important to them with the community they cared so much about. Our family is grateful to all of those who have contributed in making this possible. God Bless You!



Esmeralda "Sam" Rocha, one of the Reyes sisters, addresses the crowd of about 100 attendees at the groundbreaking. Sam and her brothers, Martin and Manuel inspect the architectural plans that lay out the grounds and building for the Museo del Westside that's scheduled to open in May of 2023.

