

# Isabel (Belle) A. Ortiz

February 12, 1933- July 12, 2023



Antonio's Westside graduating from Sydney Lanier High then Our Lady of the Lake University with a B.A. in Performance and Music Education. Her teaching career encompassed many firsts: At Berkeley Elementary, she started Los Tejanitos; at Lanier, she began the nation's first high school ballet folklórico program; and at Jefferson High, the first high school mariachi program.

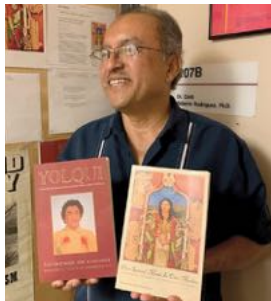
The beloved Belle Ortiz was surrounded in her last days of life by dozens of family members, friends and musicians who serenaded her with the Mariachi music that she elevated to a place of study in public schools, colleges and universities in San Antonio and beyond. Known as the *Mother of Mariachi Music Education*, she was raised on San

She went on to create mariachi programs at San Antonio College and Texas A&I University. With her husband, Juan Ortiz, she started the award-winning Mariachi Campanas de América named after her and organized the first International Mariachi Conference and Festival and the Texas Association of Mariachi Educators. Belle was also engaged in many civic projects and was involved with her family of five children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. This powerhouse of a woman left an indelible mark with her passion for música that she exhibited as a toddler when she would sit in front of an open oven door and "pretend" to play piano. Belle Ortiz will long be revered for the contributions that she made to the cultural arts and music education in San Antonio. Condolences from the Esperanza community to the family, friends and musical collegas that mourn her passing. ¡Que viva la memoria de la *Madrina del Mariachi*, Belle Ortiz!



## Roberto Cintli Rodríguez

(1953 or 1954 – 31 July 2023)



Robert "Dr. Cintli" Rodriguez entered the spirit world on July, 2023 in Teotihuacan, Mexico—*place of the Gods* close to the celebrated sun and moon pyramids of Mexico City. An award-winning journalist, author, activist and recently retired associate professor of Mexican American Studies at the University of Arizona, he published his last

book, *Writing 50 Years mas o menos: Amongst the Gringos* in San Antonio with Aztlán Libre Press. A giant in Chicano studies, Dr. Cintli contributed greatly to scholarship on identity and indigeneity through his maíz research (history, folklore, science and modern-day uses) strengthening the relationship between academia and community. Raised in East Los Angeles, Rodríguez turned an incident of police brutality against him into a lifelong crusade for justice. *La Voz de Esperanza* reprinted articles in the mid 90s through the early 2000s from Patrisia Gonzáles and Roberto Rodriguez's syndicated Column of the Américas," distributed by Universal Press Syndicate. Roberto's moniker, "Dr. Cintli" was bestowed by an elder who recognized Dr. Rodríguez's dedication to the study of corn, or "cintli" in nahuatl. May Dr. Cintli rest in peace and power. Condolences to his family, friends and fellow activists de parte de Esperanza Peace and Justice Center.

## Arturo 'Sauce' González

January 27, 1943-June 28, 2023



Arturo 'Sauce' González, one of the originaltors of San Antonio's West Side Sound, died on June 28, 2023 at 80 years of age.

Keyboardist for the West Side Horns, he played with Sunny and the Sunliners when they appeared on American Bandstand and played with Chicano legends like Randy Garibay, Little Joe, Rubén Ramos, Doug Sahm, Roy Montelongo and more. He also played with groups like The Krayolas and influenced generations of musicians.

Fan Roberto Livar wrote in a Facebook tribute: "May he find peace jamming in that great gig in the sky with Spot, Rocky, Lola, Doug Sahm and all of our beloved músicos who have transitioned over before us." González, a legendary musician, will forever be remembered as part of La Onda Chicana and as a true icon of the San Antonio Westside sound. The Esperanza community sends condolences to his familia, friends, fans and fellow artists. Que en paz descanse.

