

2016 MASBA Hispanic Heritage Award Recipients



Tony Diaz



Tony Diaz Diaz, El Librotraficante, is a political analyst on "What's Your Point" which airs on Fox 26 Houston. He also hosts the weekly bilingual radio program Nuestra Palabra: Latino Writers Having Their Say which covers Latino Literature, Art, and Politics on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston. His essays have appeared or are forthcoming in the Houston Chronicle, Texas Observer, Fox News Latino, CNN.com, the Los Angeles Times, and Huffington Post Latino Voices, among other publications.

Diaz made national and international news when he led the Librotraficantes in defying Arizona's ban of Mexican American Studies by organizing the 2012 Librotraficante Caravan to smuggle books banned books in Tucson back into Arizona.

Diaz currently resides in Houston where he continues to fight for Intellectual Freedom and Freedom of Speech and advocates for the implementation of Ethnic Studies Courses in schools. He is the Director of Intercultural Initiatives at Lone Star College-North Harris.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15 - October 15, 2016

During National Hispanic Heritage Month we recognize the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate their heritage and culture.

Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our country through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service. They have enhanced and shaped our national character with centuries-old traditions that reflect the multi ethnic and multicultural customs of their community.

Congratulations to our 2016 Hispanic Heritage Award Recipients. Your dedication, service and commitment to providing guidance and leadership has changed and enriched lives and communities.

Richard Moya



Richard Moya was the first Mexican-American elected to public office as county Commissioner, Travis County, Texas and served for sixteen years. As a Travis County Commissioner, he was instrumental in establishing the first Human Resources office to centralize county hiring, a rural transportation program now known as CARTS and promoted diversity in hiring and contracting in the county government. After leaving office, he served as the Director of Field Operations for Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower and was later appointed Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Ann Richards from 1991 to 1995. Among his many responsibilities, he assisted Governor Richards in her efforts to diversify employment of agencies under the Governor's office and was the Governor's lead person in the selection and appointment of Hispanics in appointment positions in Texas Government. One of the state agencies under Governor Richards which was initially administered on an interim basis by Mr. Moya, and for which he continued to have oversight, attained a 40% Hispanic workforce composition.

Mr. Moya started young as the National President of Junior LULAC and was later a charter member of the original Mexican American Democrats of Texas (MAD) and the Tejano Democrats. Moya's political career spanned over 20 years in county and state government, serving in both elected and appointed positions. In 1972, he was one of the few Mexican American delegates to the Democratic National Convention. His love and inspiration for being involved in serving people, knocking down barriers, creating opportunities for lesser advantaged persons, and standing up for your rights, came from his mother. She challenged the Austin School District, which in the 1940's insisted

that he should attend the "Mexican school" instead of the "White school" which was in his neighborhood and much closer. She got her way! He continues to serve on advisory committees for Travis County and is considered an elder and wise statesman who commands a high level of esteem and respect throughout the State.

Richard and Gertrude met in high school and have been married for 62 years. They have two children, Lori who served on the Austin Independent School District Board several terms and also on the board of TASB, and Danny who was called to be with the Lord as a young man. He is a proud veteran having served in the Army during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in 1955 as a Sergeant 1st Class.

REST

Responsible Ethnic Studies Textbook (REST) is a broad coalition of organizations and scholars from across Texas who are creating awareness and calling on the State Board of Education to reject a proposed Mexican-American studies textbook. The proposed textbook is plagued by factual errors that distorts history and misrepresents the many contributions and leadership provided by Mexican-Americans.

Accepting the award on behalf of REST:

Celina Moreno - MALDEF

Val Benavides - Texas Freedom Network

Lilliana Saldana - NACCS-Tejas FOCO

