



# Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN  
THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY  
AND THE BUSINESS WORLD

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2022

## Happy Father's Day

The month of June is when we dedicate a day of the month to our fathers present or gone to their reward. I hope everyone had a good celebration on such an important day when we take time to honor our fathers in person or in the memories that they have left in our hearts. The foundation of a family normally consists of two parents who contribute to our upbringing, both of equal importance for the most part. When we lose one, the other must take up the full responsibilities for the upbringing of their children. Such was my case when at an early age our mother passed away and my father assumed the full responsibility for our upbringing. On Fathers Day and throughout the year I honor his memory for the nurturing and guidance that he gave us and I am so grateful for his love and his patience. He nurtured with kindness and he disciplined with compassion and firmness.

Today I have two boys of my own and I have tried hard to pass on to them the teachings that I received from my father and my mother and I feel so blessed to see my sons thrive and demonstrate that they are responsible, fair and compassionate with their children. That is the greatest tribute that a father can hope to receive!



### ROBERTO FERNANDEZ

Roberto is the Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Vice President. He is a lifelong resident of Del Rio and is married to Margot Fernandez. They are the proud parents of two sons, Roberto Jr. and Javier Fernandez and grandparents of four grandchildren. Roberto graduated from The University of Texas and worked for the San Felipe Del Rio C.I.S.D. for 38 years and retired as Superintendent of schools. He was also elected to the Del Rio City Council at the age of 24 and served for nine years. After retirement, he served two terms as Mayor of the City of Del Rio.

### DRHCC BOARD MEMBERS

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**Isidro Valdez Fernandez**

Vice President  
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**Carmen Gutierrez**



Carmen Gutierrez Past President of the Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was recognized at TAMACC's 2022 Women of Distinction Award Ceremony in Austin on June 17, 2022. Carmen's nomination below was submitted by DRHCC Past Vice Chair Ms. Dora G. Alcala and Past President Ms. Otila Gonzalez. Joining Carmen at the table of of honor included her husband of 43 years Ruben C. Gutierrez Jr., son Ruben Gutierrez, cousin and San Antonio businessman Miguel Gutierrez and wife Maria, close family friend George LeGrande of San Antonio, Ms. Dora G. Alcala BFCU Board Vice Chair and Ms. Otila Gonzlaez, Vice Chair of the BFCU Supervisory Committee, President and CEO of the Border Federal Credit Union Maria J. Martinez and Val Verde County Surveyor Abner G. Martinez.

Carmen donates her time in volunteering to advance the quality of life in our community. She uses her professional background to help accomplish goals. One example is her tireless efforts to ensure ADA compliance at a local City of Del Rio public venue known as Historic Brown Plaza, located in the Hispanic neighborhood known as San Felipe. Brown Plaza is important as it is a center of cultural activities and annual celebrations throughout the year such as the Cinco De Mayo and 16 de Septiembre. Although these activities and celebrations attract a major part of the Del Rio and surrounding area population, it is not accessible to the hundreds of disabled veterans, elderly and children with physical limitations. Carmen researched FEMA and ADA Compliance regulations and made a presentation to the City Manager and after no results, approached the Del Rio City Council with photos and suggestions that would ensure compliance and most importantly provide physical access to those with mobility issues. The City of Del Rio is

presently correcting this need by installing ADA Compliant access at Brown Plaza, all due to Carmen's relentless efforts. Another example is utilizing her social capital in marketing the need to establish a Kids Art Center for children from all areas in Val Verde County. Her work on the Falcon Art Center Board of Directors will benefit the underserved in the barrio for the first time because of its location in the barrio. Carmen donates her time and skills in promoting the work of other non-profits such as Los Amigos del Cementerio de la Loma de la Cruz which is responsible for documenting, maintaining and preserving the first Hispanic and Historic Cemetery in Del Rio by helping publish a book which documents the grids and history of the only cemetery to serve the Hispanic community until 1932 and was abandoned for 90 years. Despite her own physical limitations due to an accident in 2015, which caused her to have 9 surgical operations, Carmen actively volunteers in the community. Incredibly Carmen who was employed with U.S. Congressman Will Hurd at the time of the accident, returned to work in a wheelchair, followed by a walker, rollator, cane and finally some independent mobility. Currently Carmen serves as Board Chairwoman of the Border Federal Credit Union, volunteers with International Good Neighbor Council and is a volunteer with the Catholic Charities Retired Senior Volunteer Program with the Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Los Amigos de la Loma de la Cruz.

Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce (TAMACC) is a nonprofit 501C (6) organization created to promote business leadership, create economic opportunities and provide legislative advocacy for the Hispanic business community in Texas.





# DRHCC 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS



On Tuesday, June 7th, Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce awarded their 2022 scholarships. Congratulations to the proud recipients and their parents: Maritza McNeal, Megan Adams and Itzel Fernandez for successfully completing high school with outstanding work and dedication! Best wishes on your next adventure and thank you to our board of directors who attended this event: Roberto Fernandez (Vice President), Tina Martinez for Del Rio City Council At Large Place C (Director of Education), Sonia Lisa Flores (Director of Women's Issues), Javier Martinez (Director of Membership) and Mary Mota (Director of Cultural Issues and Events).

## Isidro Valdez, Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President receives recognition for his job as Executive Director at the Del Rio Housing Authority

This past May, the Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio received five awards from the Texas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The awards included the best annual report for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022; and an award for other agency publications for the year 2022. Our Del Rio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President, Isidro Valdez Fernandez, who is also the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio was recognized as the 2021 Executive of the Year. The purpose of the Texas Chapter of NAHRO is to serve its membership engaged in providing persons of low and

moderate-income with the opportunity to live in adequate and safe housing and improving the quality of life for all within a community through development, redevelopment, conservation, and rehabilitation activities. Last year, the Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio received four awards from NAHRO at the national level, recognizing special projects that created a positive impact in our community. Congratulations to our President for a well-deserved recognition and to the Housing Authority of the City of Del Rio staff and Board of Commissioners for their hard work and dedication to serving our community.







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## DRHCC RIBBON CUTTINGS/NEW MEMBERS



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