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## Letter from the President

Texas Heritage and Independence Celebration Association, Inc. (THICA) is proud to present the new 14th Annual Happy Birthday TexasFest event. Join us as we travel back 188 years to 1836 and recreate the events that led to the battles of Gonzales, (*the Lexington of Texas*), the Alamo and San Jacinto and relive history. Bring your relative and friends to see and hear about the valiant efforts of Tejanos and Texians as they fight for Texas Independence. As you hear the roar of the cannons and see the clouds of smoke from the flint-lock muskets on the battlefield, history comes alive again.



Federico V. Garza  
*President*

It is our belief that now more than ever, we should reflect on the proud history of the birth of Texas and honor all of the brave men and women that sacrificed everything to give us this proud heritage. Help us educate more people about the wonderful history of Texas.

Participate in our activities. Our tents and re-enactors will be in full dress and welcome visitors to view their muskets, attire and camp surroundings. There will be arts and crafts and food vendors to serve all kinds of food for everyone. School District performances, Ballet Folklórico Tradición Mexicano, Aztec & Folkloric Dancers. Music will be provided by Carlos Cañas, San Benito High School Mariachi /Conjunto, DV8 Band, Los City Boys and The Fabulous Cruisers Band. Become a judge at our Texas Independence Bar-B-Que and taste some of the best Bar-B-Que in South Texas. Visit our art show. There will be artwork created by the school children of San Benito, Harlingen and Lyford schools.

Celebrate as we finish the day with the battle of San Jacinto and mark the birthday of Texas. Music and festivities will be plentiful. Enjoy the festivities and explore our rich history and celebrate and honor the courage of our Texians and Tejano heroes. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TEXAS!

FEDERICO V. GARZA

*President*

THICA Officers:

**Victor Rosas, Vice President, Treasurer**

**Diana Bates, Secretary**



Texas Heritage and Independence Celebration Association, Inc.

2004 W. Jefferson, Suite 6, Harlingen, Texas 78550

[www.happybirthdaytexas.com](http://www.happybirthdaytexas.com)

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# TEXAS HERITAGE AND INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE



Sitting (L-R): Sylvia Zamponi, Letty Gonzalez, Christine Kidd, Diana Bates, Nina Garza, Leslie Whittemore  
 Standing: Julio Guerra, Robert Ramirez, Frank Gonzalez, Bruce Kidd, Jack Ayoub, Fred Garza, Elizandro Muñoz, Jr., Ruben Cordova and Victor Rosas\*

\*Not Pictured

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# Table of Contents

- 4 Letter from the President
- 7 Schedule of Events
- 8 The “Come and Take It” Spirit  
*by Luis H. Loza*
- 10 Where Partnerships and Collaboration  
are Key, *by Greater Chamber of Harlingen*
- 13 Texas Declaration of Independence  
*by Jack Ayoub*
- 14-15 Reenactors Depict Battles for Texas  
Heritage Independence Celebration in  
Harlingen
- 16-17 The Road to Prosperity begins with the  
Harlingen EDC, *by Harlingen Economic  
Development Corporation*
- 19 Performing Bands
- 26 Special Thanks

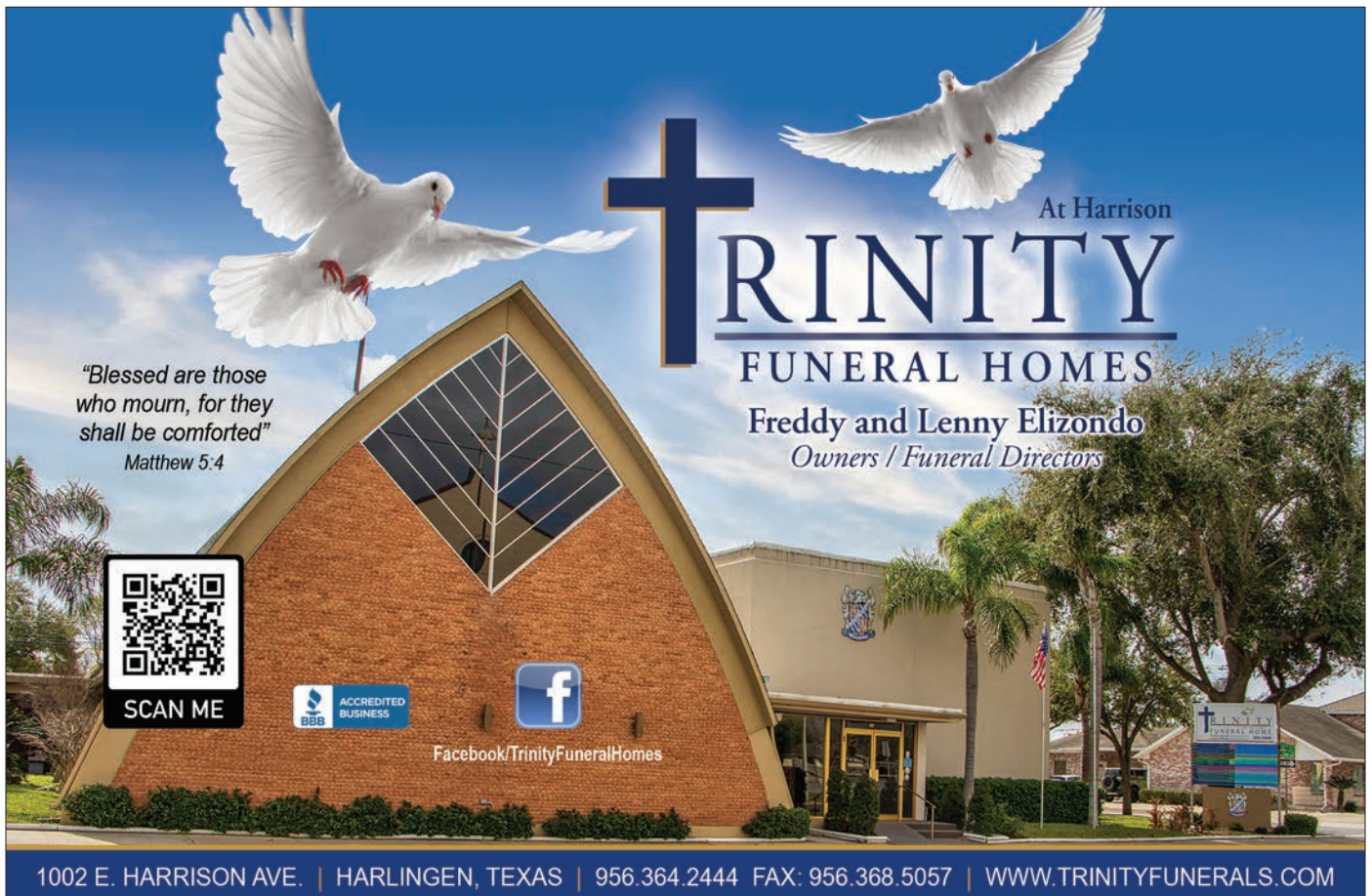


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# TexasFest 2024 Schedule of Events

## Friday, April 12, 2024 - Living History Day

1:00 PM	Gate Opens
2:00-2:30 PM	Ribbon Cutting by Greater Chamber of Harlingen and RGV Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
2:30-3:30 PM	San Benito High School Mariachi / Conjunto
3:30-4:00 PM	Live Music by Carlos Cañas / Texas Line Dancing by Charly's Angels
4:00-5:00 PM	Ballet Folklórico Tradición Mexicana
5:00-6:00 PM	San Benito High School Mariachi / Conjunto
<b>6:00-8:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Living History presentation by Reenactors</i></b>
8:00-9:00 PM	Los City Boys
9:00-11:00 PM	The Fabulous Cruisers Band "50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's" Music

## Saturday, April 13, 2024

10:00 AM	Gate Opens
11:00-11:30 AM	Opening Commencement Ceremony
11:30 AM	Invocation - Dr. Donald Hamm, Pastor of Kingdom Connection Worship Center
11:32 AM	Welcome - Norma Sepulveda, Mayor - City of Harlingen
11:35 AM	Proclamation - On behalf of the Governor of Texas
11:50 AM	"Riderless Horse" Ceremony & Recognition of Veterans and last flag over Vietnam
12:15 PM	Re-signing of Texas Declaration of Independence
12:30-1:00 PM	Studio 956 Aztec Dancers
1:00-1:30 PM	Studio 956 Folkloric Dancers
1:30-2:00 PM	Pre-K/K Student Performance
2:00-2:30 PM	First Grade Student Performance
2:30-3:00 PM	Second Grade Student Performance
3:00-3:30 PM	"Lone Star Dream" Musical by RGV Students
<b>4:00-5:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Battle of Gonzales Reenactment</i></b>
5:00-5:30 PM	Studio 956 Folkloric Dancers
5:30-6:00 PM	Studio 956 Aztec Dancers
<b>6:00-7:00 PM</b>	<b><i>Battle of the Alamo Reenactment</i></b>
7:00-8:00 PM	DV8 Band
8:00-9:00 PM	Los City Boys
9:00- 11:00 PM	The Fabulous Cruisers Band "50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's" Music

## Sunday, April 14, 2024

9:00 AM	Gate Opens
9:00-10:00 AM	Cowboy Breakfast
10:00-11:00 AM	Cowboy Church with Dr. Rey González Jr.
<b>11AM-12PM</b>	<b><i>Battle of San Jacinto Reenactment</i></b>
12:30 -1:00PM	PM Studio 956 Folkloric Dancers
1:00-1:30 PM	PM Studio 956 Aztec Dancers
2:30-3:30 PM	Tug of War by First Responders
3:30-4:30 PM	DV8 Band
4:30-5:30 PM	Los City Boys
6:00- 9:00 PM	The Fabulous Cruisers Band "50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's" Music

# The "COME AND TAKE IT" Spirit:

## A brief look at the Battle of Gonzales

By Luis H. Loza

The most famous battles of the Texas Revolution are arguably the battle at the Alamo and the Battle at San Jacinto, but the Battle of Gonzales is another battle worth remembering and retelling.

Unlike the battles at the Alamo and San Jacinto, which were clearly defined as direct intentional war conflicts with Mexico for the independence of Texas, the battle that took place in the small town located approximately 75 miles northeast of San Antonio, was a result of failed attempts by the Mexican government to take back a small cannon that had been given to settlers in Dewitt County, which Gonzales served as the capital city.

The six-pound cannon which historian Timothy Todish described as “a small bored gun, good for little more than starting horse races,” was given to Gonzales in 1831 in order to help settlers defend themselves against attacks from Indian tribes such as the Comanche.

According to historian Stephen Hardin, on September 10, 1835, a Mexican soldier bludgeoned a Gonzales resident, which outraged the public and led to protests. The attack on the Gonzales resident along with political tension caused by Mexican states revolted during the early 1830s, raised fears among Mexican authorities, who came to suspect Texas might want to break away as well. Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea the commander of Mexican forces in Texas began to be suspicious and thought it would be unwise for Mexican government to leave the residents of Dewitt County with the cannon.

Ordered by the Mexican government to avoid using force if possible, Col. Ugartechea sent six soldiers to retrieve the cannon. The request was denied. Ugartechea sent 100 soldiers in response. On September 29, news of the Mexican troops approaching the town of Gonzales forced the residents of Dewitt County to use several excuses to keep them from the town and the cannon. One of excuses was demanding Ugartechea be physically present to make the request for

the cannon. Tactics such as this one delayed fighting and allowed the Texans to covertly relay messages to surrounding towns for support. During the next two days approximately 140 Texians and Tejanos (Texas-born citizens of Mexican and Spanish ancestry) gathered in Gonzales. With a larger number of volunteers poised to do battle, the Texas settlers voted on October 1 to delay the battle no more.

Although women were excluded from physically participating in the battle, they were still able to contribute in a special way. The women created a home-made flag from a white bed sheet and charcoal which featured the black silhouette of the disputed cannon placed horizontally in the center with the muzzle pointed to the right. A black star was placed above the cannon and the words “COME AND TAKE IT” in capital letters were written below it.

The rally cry evoked by the flag led to the controversial piece of artillery to become better known as the “Come and Take It” cannon.

Hoping to draw first blood, the Texas fighters approached the Mexican camp during the early hours of October 2, but they were spotted and the Mexican Army fired at them. After several hours of firing the Mexican troops retreated.

According to several historians the skirmish had little military significance; however, the Texans and Tejanos had made their intentions clear with their actions. The war for the Republic of Texas had officially begun, and like the controversial cannon that had led to the Battle of Gonzales, Mexico’s Army and its infamous dictator Antonio López de Santa Anna would have to “COME AND TAKE IT”, by force because they were not going to give up the land without a fight.

Although the Battle of Gonzales took place more than 180 years ago, the spirit of the colonists and fighters who helped birth the Republic of Texas lives on through the efforts of the proud Tejanos of today.

*(Information from various authors and historical sources was used in this article.)*





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## Greater Chamber of Harlingen:

# Where Partnerships and Collaboration are Key!

### Introduction:

At the Greater Chamber of Harlingen, we're proud to uphold a legacy of service and dedication that spans over a century. Since our establishment in 1919, we've remained steadfast in our commitment to being the heartbeat of our community, fostering synergy and collaboration. For 105 years, we've championed growth and prosperity by promoting, advocating for, and supporting all businesses within our vibrant city through tailored membership services.

Our dedication to excellence has been recognized by the Valley Morning Star Readers' Choice Awards, where we have proudly received the honor of being named the Best Chamber of Commerce for three consecutive years. Additionally, we are proudly accredited by the Better Business Bureau (BBB), further solidifying our commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

### Collaborative Partnerships:

In close partnership with the City of Harlingen and the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation (EDC), we synergize efforts to empower local businesses and drive economic development. Together, we strive to create an ecosystem where businesses thrive, residents flourish, and the community prospers.

### Community Impact:

Over the past two years, our Chamber has implemented three impactful programs dedicated to nurturing entrepreneurial growth and supporting small businesses in the Harlingen area and its surroundings. In October 2022, we kicked off an innovative partnership with Harlingen CISD aimed at cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit among our community's future leaders. This collaborative initiative provides students with specialized training over five months, delivered by local business experts, equipping them with the necessary tools and knowledge to launch their own ventures. The program culminates in the CEO Shark Tank event, where students pitch their business plans to a panel of judges, receiving feedback and potential funding.

In the summer of 2023, we launched a series of small business trainings to offer valuable resources and help to local and startup enterprises. Led by industry professionals, these sessions covered essential topics such as marketing strategies, financial management, and customer service excellence.

Additionally, our Small Business Grassroot Initiative (SBGI), initially planned for the summer months, garnered such overwhelming success and positive feedback from participants that it was extended throughout the year. This initiative aims to support non-member small businesses by providing them with a one-year chamber membership, an exclusive ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate their entry into the

Chamber family, enhanced marketing opportunities, and prominent features in our monthly newsletter, among other benefits.

Our community's support drives our dedication to empowering local businesses. We're committed to providing valuable initiatives and resources for growth and success in Harlingen and nearby areas.

Interested in sponsoring our initiatives? Contact us today!

### Member Benefits:

We're committed to empowering local businesses and driving community growth. Network at our events to connect with industry leaders and entrepreneurs, opening doors to new opportunities. Gain credibility and referrals through our Chamber network, boosting your business's visibility online and offline. Celebrate milestones with ribbon-cutting ceremonies, generating buzz and recognition. Enjoy exclusive discounts for

selected Chamber events. We're more than an organization; we're your strategic partner in prosperity. Join us today to unlock the tools, resources, and connections you need to thrive in today's competitive business area. Contact Liz Davila, our Director of Membership & Retention, at [ldavila@harlingen.com](mailto:ldavila@harlingen.com) for more information.

### Chamber Events:

At the Chamber, we host a diverse range of events throughout the year, catering to both our esteemed Chamber members and the wider community. Among our regular monthly events, "Women Empowering Women" takes place on the first Thursday of every month, fostering collaboration and empowerment among female entrepreneurs. "Business Over Breakfast" follows on the second Thursday, offering a relaxed morning setting perfect for networking and relationship building. For those seeking professional development, mark your calendars for the third Thursday of each month, when our "Business Training Sessions" deliver valuable insights on selected topics. Additionally, our roster includes Lunch & Learns and social mixers, providing further avenues for community engagement.

One of the highlights of our annual calendar is the prestigious Chamber Gala, an evening dedicated to celebrating the achievements and contributions of our Chamber members and community partners. And that's not all! We're excited to announce the return of MARGARITAFEST on June 22, 2024, a fun family-friendly summer celebration. Admission is free for all, with tickets available for our Tequila Trail and Margarita Contest. Join us in selecting the best Margarita in the Valley! Tickets are now available and start at \$35. Get yours now before they sell out! If you're interested in becoming a vendor or sponsor for Margarita Fest, give us a call.

Don't miss out on these exciting opportunities to grow, connect, learn, and celebrate with us at the Chamber. Stay tuned on Facebook or Instagram @harlingencoc for more details on upcoming events!



(L-R): Liz Davila - Director of Membership & Retention; Aaryn Marez - Director of Finance & Administration; Javier De Leon - President & CEO; Alyssa Alvarez - Administrative Assistant; Alondra Sanchez - Director of Social Media & Marketing



Chamber  
HARLINGEN TEXAS



# JOIN THE GREATER CHAMBER TODAY!

*The Greater Chamber strives to be the synergy of information and serves as a champion for growing business relationships by promoting, advocating, and supporting all businesses in our community through our membership services.*

## MEMBER BENEFITS:

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Warriors United in Arms Brownsville Veterans will honor Vietnam veterans with a presentation of the last flag that flew over Vietnam during the Riderless Horse Ceremony Saturday, April 13 at 11:50 AM.

**Warriors United In Arms Brownsville Veterans** is a veteran's services organization committed helping those in need while advocating for fair and equal conditions for everybody in Brownsville. We are driven by our passion to help, so we always work hard in our efforts to build a better future for our clients. We are a non-profit partnering with local agencies to better perform our service responsibilities. We are dedicated to improving the life quality of all veteran's in our community. You can reach us at 956.455.5558 to find out more about us.

You can find us on Facebook, Warriors United In Arms Brownsville Veteran's or visit us on our website at [https://warriors-united-in-arms-brownsville-veterans.ueniweb.com/#about\\_us](https://warriors-united-in-arms-brownsville-veterans.ueniweb.com/#about_us)

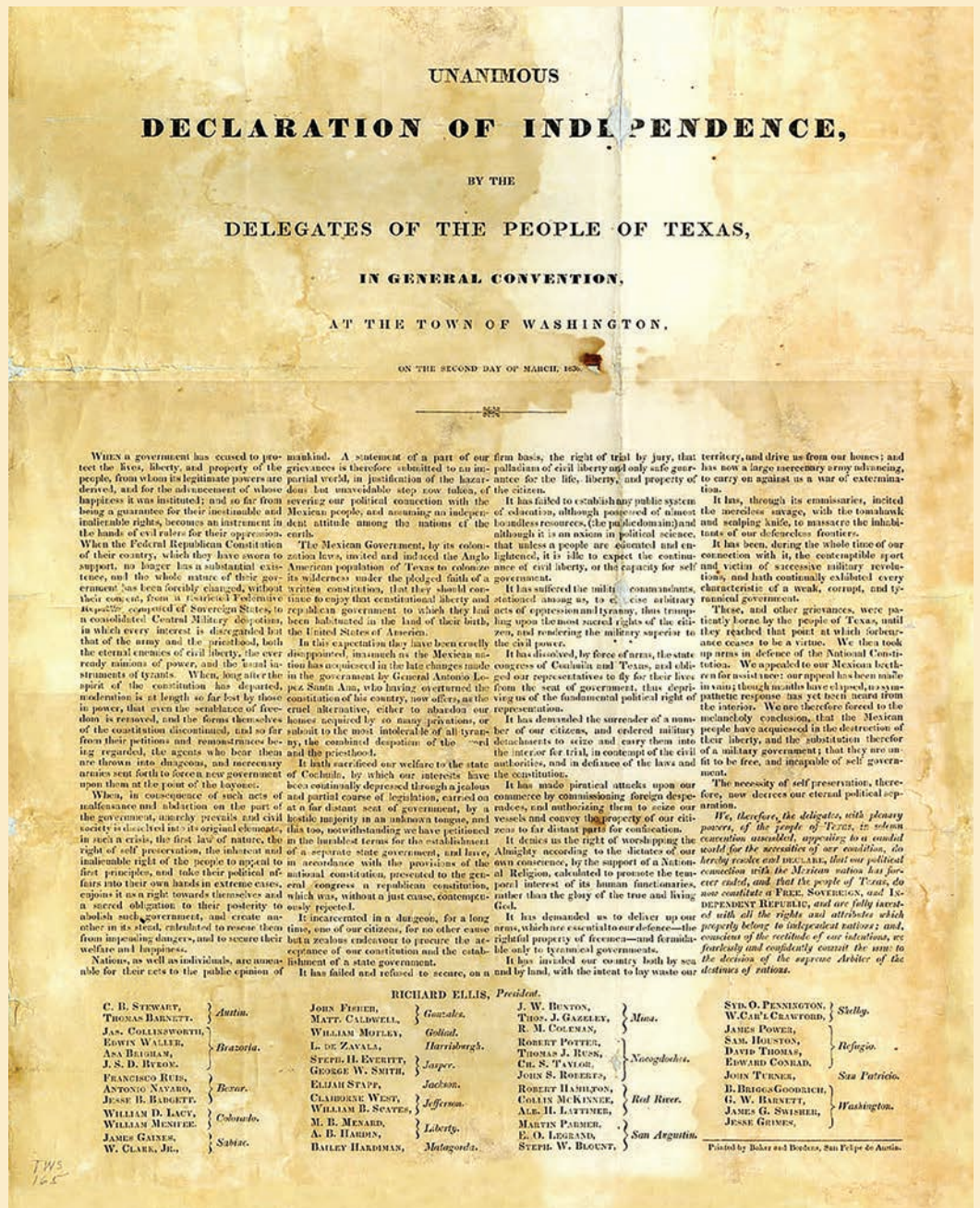
# Texas Declaration of Independence

by Jack Ayoub

On March 2nd, 1836, 59 delegates all across Texas including two Tejanos, Jose Antonio Navarro and Francisco Ruiz, from San Antonio as well as a Mexican national, Lorenzo de Zavala, from Mexico City, met at Washington-on-the-Brazos in a half-built barn with glassless windows and open doors in nearly freezing conditions.

George Childress, an ancestor of Dr. James Childress, a San Benito surgeon, came to the convention with 5 handwritten copies of the Texas Declaration of Independence modeled after the American Declaration of Independence. This famous document declared Texas independence from Mexico because President Santa Anna was establishing himself as a dictator when he did away with the Mexican Constitution of 1824, denying basic rights and liberties to the citizens of Mexico as well as doing away with the state governments and the local militias. This political act by Santa Anna would centralize all political and military power to the federal government in Mexico City. His government would now be named the centralists, while the followers of Stephen F. Austin would be called the Federalists with the belief in state rights and the right to keep and bare arms to maintain a local militia.

While General Santa Anna's cannons were pounding the walls of the Alamo, our brave Texas patriots were signing their names, their lives, and their sacred honor to this famous document, knowing full well that this declaration could be their death warrant if Santa Anna won the war.... VIVA TEJAS Y VIVAN LOS TEJANOS!



# Reenactors depict battles for Texas Independence Celebration



**T**he sounds of firing muskets and cannon blasts fill the air each year as part of the annual Texas Heritage Independence Celebration.

Battle skirmishes and reenactments by living historians detail the Battle of the Alamo, Siege of B exar and finally the final clash, the Battle of San Jacinto, where Texas was born as a republic, free from Mexico.

Reenactors staged as both Texan and Mexican soldiers dress in period

attire, rode on horseback and marched in make-shift formation for the battles. Defenders at the Alamo readied their muskets and cannon in anticipation of the looming battle. Many crouched behind the fortified wooden walls and hay bales, watching the Mexican troops in crisp blue coats moving towards them.

Founded in 2007, Texas Heritage & Independence Celebration Association, Inc., (THICA), produces Texas



Independence Day. The organization is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Texas, from the natives who first settled here to the numerous flags that have flown over Texas.

The group works to bring the story of the Alamo to life in celebration of Texas Independence Day. The community comes together in an effort to remember the bravery of the Texans and Tejanos for our independence.

It was on March 2, 1836, when Texas severed ties with Mexico and became a free and independent republic, when at the Town of Washington, 59 representatives voted into existence a sovereign nation: the Republic of Texas. Both Anglo and Tejano delegates declared to the world that they were different: Neither Mexican or American, but to be known as Texians.

The Independence Day reenactments honor the independent spirit of those early Texans and the sacrifices made for the independence that was won at the Battle of San Jacinto where the battle cry that day was “Remember the Alamo” and “Remember Goliad”; The battle lasted only 18 minutes and ended with the unconditional surrender of General Santa Anna to General Sam Houston in a victory that secured Texas’ Independence.

We honor the heroes of the Texas Revolution such as Sam Houston, Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie and William Barrett

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Travis; and we honor the influential Tejanos such as Jose Antonio Navarro, Gregorio Esparza, and Juan Seguin who proudly risked death with the other signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

An emotional portrayal of the Battle of the Alamo over the years has been performed for increasingly large number of spectators coming from across the Valley to witness the historic depiction. In one performance, the audience watched in disbelief, and awed silence, as Davy Crockett was executed. In apparent disbelief at seeing the legendary hero gunned-down, the crowd remained reverently silent until the announcer asked for applause for the reenactors.

The reenactors themselves come from across the Valley, and sometimes across the state, to participate in the memorable events.

Event moderator described the scene where the defenders were holed-up in the Alamo in preparation for the advancing Mexican troops



under the command of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. “The General ordered that no prisoners would be taken, which only deepened the resolve of the Alamo defenders to fight to the end,” the moderator said.

The event has grown significantly over the years, moving from Plaza de San Benito on Stenger Street, to Harlingen Field to accommodate side attractions and a more appropriate area to support an increasing audience base.

In recent years, the organizers have added a sanctioned cook-off for a variety of dishes, an art show is featured and arts/crafts/corporate vendors join with food concessions to service the attendees.

THICA endeavors to retell these stories and honor the memory of those who came before us, shaping the Texas we enjoy today. Texas Heritage & Independence Celebration Association, Inc. (THICA) helps educate and celebrate Texas culture and to encourage participation by promoting the history of our state through symposiums and community events that recreate this area’s rich and colorful history.



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# The Road to Prosperity Begins with the Harlingen EDC

Harlingen is a community that is business ready at the crossroads of opportunity and has become known as the heart of the Rio Grande Valley.

From its humble beginnings as a train stop and agricultural center, Harlingen has evolved into a diverse, vibrant city. The adversity of early pioneers created a ‘can-do’ culture with foresight to seize the opportunities of the growing Rio Grande Valley. Looking around, one can see the many formidable contributions Harlingen has made to the Rio Grande Valley such as the medical district, Valley International Airport, the Port of Harlingen, and Texas State Technical College – just to name a few.

Leading the efforts to seize opportunities today for the community and creating a business-friendly culture is the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation (HEDC). The mission of the organization is to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Harlingen through the creation of wealth, jobs, and investment. The organization is governed by state regulations and by a seven-member volunteer board of directors appointed by the mayor and city commission. The HEDC’s pillars focus on marketing the community to attract new companies and investments to the city, supporting existing businesses to help them grow and expand, supporting young entrepreneurs to help them launch their business, and supporting programs that help enhance workforce development.

The HEDC Board and its staff of six individuals achieves their efforts by collaborating with key community stakeholders who want to see Harlingen prosper. In June 2023, the HEDC led a two-day retreat with community leaders representing the HEDC Board, the mayor and



city commission, Valley International Airport, Harlingen Water Works, Texas State Technical College, Workforce Cameron, Harlingen Improvement Corporation, and the Port of Harlingen. The outcome was a three-year strategic plan prioritizing six goals to enhance economic prosperity in Harlingen.

Goal number one is to develop an aggressive business attraction and retention strategy. Attracting new businesses is important to Harlingen because it attracts new investments, creates new jobs, and helps diversify the local economy. Equally important is working with existing businesses to ensure that the community retains them. Studies have shown that existing businesses in any community generate 80% of new jobs within that community. Over time these businesses evolve into more sophisticated enterprises requiring a higher level of skills.

Goal number two is to foster a highly skilled local workforce. By having a higher skilled local workforce, existing companies can evolve, grow, and stay in Harlingen. A higher skilled workforce also helps attract new industries to Harlingen that will have a higher level of pay.

Goal number three is to create an entrepreneurship/innovation hub. This future center will help the community develop and support its own new businesses and will ensure the longevity of existing businesses to help them grow and expand.

Goal number four is to support infrastructure for local industry. Fundamental to the economic prosperity of communities is having the necessary infrastructure such as quality roadways, utilities, port, airport, and international bridges to support commerce and trade.







Goal number five is to develop and execute a unified marketing program to elevate Harlingen locally, nationally, and internationally. As a competitor for new investments, the community needs to know who they are and the industries they want to target to tell its story to the world. This helps Harlingen become more than just a dot on a map to attract new businesses and to develop a stronger sense of pride for existing businesses and residents alike. This ensures that Harlingen is relevant in a highly competitive arena.



Goal number six is to elevate the HEDC organizational structure to be a model for economic development. Having a board and staff that is highly skilled and understands economic development best practices is important to the successful

execution of programs that enhance the organization's efforts.

The road to prosperity in Harlingen does begin with the Harlingen Economic Development Corporation. For more information on programs and services provided by the HEDC, please visit [www.HarlingenEDC.com](http://www.HarlingenEDC.com).

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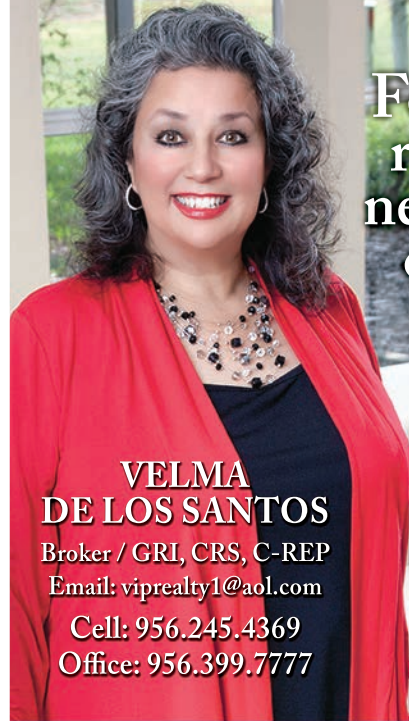
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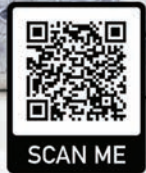


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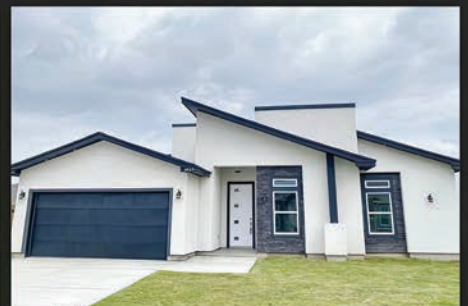


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# The Battles for Texas Independence



## THE BATTLE OF GONZALES

**I**n 1835, with tensions rising with the Texans and Tejanos against the central Mexican government of General Santa Anna, the military commander of San Antonio began taking action to disarm the region. When his request for the return of a small cannon from the citizens of Gonzales was refused, Lieutenant Francisco Castañeda was dispatched with 100 calvary men to seize it. Lieutenant Castañeda and his soldiers were eventually attacked while they were resting at their camp about 7 miles from Gonzales, by Colonel John Henry Moore and 150 Texas militia with the battle cry, "Come and Take It". Outnumbered and outgunned, Castañeda ordered his troops back to San Antonio. Although the only

casualty of the skirmish was a Mexican soldier, the Battle of Gonzales, sometimes called "the Lexington of Texas", symbolized the beginning of the Texas War for Independence, on Oct 2nd, 1835.

Tensions were increasing between the Texas settlers and the Mexican government ever since General Santa Anna became president. Santa Anna had Stephen F. Austin thrown into prison for personally requesting statehood. The Mexican Constitution of 1824 was done away with and all the state governments were closed, transferring all political power to Mexico City. Santa Anna was now making himself, a dictator and wanted to disarm all the citizens of Mexico.

Colonel Domingo Ugartechea, the highest ranking officer in San Antonio, decided to disarm the settlers of Gonzales of their 6 lb. cannon that was given to them by the Mexican government 4 years earlier. The cannon barrel was no longer than a man's arm and was not even mounted on carriage wheels. Also, the cannon didn't even fire half the time and the other half was used to only scare off the Indians and start the horse races. The Mexican army saw a piece of junk, but to the citizens of Gonzales, the cannon was their symbol to keep and bare arms for their protection. Lieutenant Francisco Castañeda rode out of the Alamo with 100 calvary men with written orders for Andrew Ponton, the mayor of Gonzales, that ordered he give up the cannon to the Mexican calvary. Castañeda's calvary men were met by Colonel John Henry Moore with 18 militia volunteers, guarding the road.

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“Remember the Alamo”

## THE BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

**O**n February 23rd, 1836, General Santa Anna and his Mexican Army nearly caught the defenders of the Alamo by surprise, but these brave Texans and Tejanos would hold out for 13 days against impossible odds. As these defenders saw it, the Alamo was the key to the defense of Texas, and were ready to defend their fort rather than surrender to General Santa Anna. Among their leaders were Lieut. Col. William Travis, commander of the Alamo, Col. James Bowie, famed knife fighter, and Davy Crockett, famed frontiersman and former congressman from Tennessee.

The final assault came before daybreak on March 6, 1836, with the calls of “viva Santa Anna and viva Mexico”, on each side of the Alamo. Small arms fire and cannon blasts beat back several attacks, but the 3rd assault finally over ran

the north wall. Once inside, the Mexican army turned the captured 18-pounder cannon on the southwest corner on the defenders behind the barricaded doors of the Long Barracks and the chapel. Their desperate struggle continued until all the defenders were overwhelmed. By sunrise, the battle of the Alamo had ended, as General Santa Anna entered the compound to survey the bloody scene of his military victory.

While the facts and legends of the Alamo continue to be debated by Texas historians today, there is no doubt that the Battle of the Alamo has come to symbolized a heroic struggle and the supreme sacrifice for freedom and liberty when brave Texans and Tejanos (Texas-born Citizens of Mexican and Spanish ancestry) fought and died together.

## THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

**O**n April 21st, 1836, General Sam Houston led his 900 Texans and Tejanos to a decisive victory over General Santa Anna and his 1300 Mexican soldiers in just over 18 minutes. Battle cries, such as “Remember the Alamo and Remember Goliad” could be heard all over the battlefield. About 630 Mexican soldiers died and 730 captured, while only 9 Texans died. Santa Anna was captured the following day and held as a prisoner of war. About 3 weeks later, the Mexican general was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco ordering his armies to leave Texas and cross over the Rio Grande River; allowing the Republic of Texas to become established as an independent country.



Painting that depicts the surrender of Mexican Gen. Antonio López de Santa Anna. Niday Picture Library/Alamy

# Special Thanks



## T O O U R P A R T N E R S

We wish to thank Harlingen Mayor Norma Sepulveda and City Commissioners Daniel Nemencio Lopez, Ford Kinsley, Frank Morales, Michael Mezmar and Rene Perez, City Manager Gabriel Gonzalez, Asst. City Managers: Josh Ramirez, *Internal Services* and Oscar Garcia, *External Services*, Javier Mendez, *Director of Parks and Recreation* and Harlingen City Staff, Javier De Leon, *Greater Chamber of Harlingen President and CEO*, Alondra Sanchez, *Director of Social Media & Marketing*, Liz Davila, *Director of Membership & Retention* and Staff, Orlando Campos, *Harlingen Economic Development Corporation CEO* and staff, Isabell Saucedo, *Museum Coordinator* and Staff (*Art Show*).

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