

00:00:02:03 - 00:00:17:16

Speaker 1

I enjoyed the honorary committee. We have some people who are here today, representatives of the library, committee members. When I call your name and vote for you to stand back with a longer clause. And so after I have finished the list, everything.

00:00:17:18 - 00:00:22:11

Unknown

Really helpful and I will be able to draw some on the.

00:00:22:11 - 00:00:35:01

Speaker 1

Honorary committee we have with us today and just get the dole who is representing the main office 227 Assembly District.

00:00:35:04 - 00:00:39:21

Unknown

So just sit here today.

00:00:39:24 - 00:00:48:08

Speaker 1

That she was supposed to be here. I mean, she's running a little late. Ruben Morales and the Board of Supervisors for the deputy of County and.

00:00:48:13 - 00:00:59:27

Unknown

Also candidate for state comptroller Ruben. So anyway, all right.

00:01:00:00 - 00:01:05:18

Unknown

Well, let me say, some of you that I spoke with earlier is trying to find a parking place.

00:01:05:20 - 00:01:06:21

Speaker 1

They used to have a parking.

00:01:06:21 - 00:01:12:12

Unknown

Lot that gives sidekick like the people who are.

00:01:12:12 - 00:01:20:17

Speaker 1

Having to cycle.

00:01:20:20 - 00:01:25:12

Speaker 3

Christine Crowley, representing Jim Crane from the 24th.

00:01:25:12 - 00:01:36:07

Unknown

Assembly District, was also one striking out last year, the ruling from the 25th.

00:01:36:07 - 00:01:37:26

Speaker 1

Assembly District.

00:01:37:29 - 00:01:53:03

Unknown

Listen here In my final note from the 23rd in the district, Gloria.

00:01:53:03 - 00:02:03:28

Speaker 1

Sandoval from Glendale, the and the College Board of Trustees, Michelle O'Connor representing hiring chair.

00:02:03:28 - 00:02:09:12

Unknown

State Senator Michelle Judy Cramer.

00:02:09:12 - 00:02:13:01

Speaker 1

Representing Justice Committee and Santa Clara County.

00:02:13:01 - 00:02:18:25

Unknown

Board of Supervisors Meeting.

00:02:18:28 - 00:02:23:06

Speaker 1

Jennifer is also representing Chandler for the 21st.

00:02:23:06 - 00:02:28:06

Unknown

Of this year. Okay.

00:02:28:06 - 00:02:28:24

Speaker 4

And Cisco.

00:02:28:24 - 00:02:31:25

Speaker 1

Snell, one of last year's honorees and founder.

00:02:31:25 - 00:02:41:16

Unknown

Of lunch impeachment. Other people on our honorary committee.

00:02:41:18 - 00:03:01:21

Speaker 1

Include Leo Chavez, chancellor of the Amazon Community College District. Manny Diaz, member of the Santa Fe City Council. Charlotte Powers, also a member of the San Jose City Council. Selena Rodriguez, news anchor for KSAT 48 and Saturday.

00:03:01:23 - 00:03:03:29

Unknown

And Basketball, a.

00:03:04:02 - 00:03:12:21

Speaker 1

California state senator. These are all members of our honorary committee.

00:03:12:23 - 00:03:24:04

Unknown

Ruby Morales is eight, is here. No NBA rules. Welcome.

00:03:24:07 - 00:03:24:19

Unknown

I also.

00:03:24:19 - 00:03:27:04

Speaker 1

Want to acknowledge the fact that we have.

00:03:27:11 - 00:03:39:06

Speaker 3

People who sponsored this event by giving us some very generous, very generous contributions, including Lockheed Martin missiles and SpaceX. Do we have a representative.

00:03:39:06 - 00:03:48:21

Unknown

From Lucky to get the credit for that? And color magic on.

00:03:48:21 - 00:03:56:15

Speaker 1

Demand digital printing.

00:03:56:17 - 00:03:59:10

Unknown

We also have some table sponsors.

00:03:59:12 - 00:04:01:15

Speaker 1

And I'd like to acknowledge them as well.

00:04:01:17 - 00:04:09:04

Unknown

Our Ron Calhoun Center for Your.

00:04:09:05 - 00:04:11:28

Speaker 1

Family Foundation actually want to table Thank.

00:04:11:28 - 00:04:17:11

Unknown

You for their.

00:04:17:14 - 00:04:37:06

Speaker 1

Nordstrom is the Santa Clara County Santa Clara County Office of Education. The redevelopment Agency of San Jose, and the Commission on the Status of Women. We thank you all for.

00:04:37:08 - 00:04:41:17

Unknown

And now I'd like to go towards Ramirez and get started.

00:04:41:19 - 00:04:48:23

Speaker 1

Thank you very much.

00:04:48:25 - 00:05:03:04

Unknown

Get out of the way.

00:05:03:07 - 00:05:09:14

Speaker 1

Good afternoon. Thank you all for coming in and supporting our program.

00:05:09:16 - 00:05:21:02

Unknown

I want to talk to you a little bit about our program in the 1990. I was director of the Child Abuse Prevention Project.

00:05:21:04 - 00:05:28:21

Speaker 1

And I want you to feel as my director and tell her, you know, Latinos, the.

00:05:28:24 - 00:05:33:22

Unknown

Things you're asking that they need parenting classes in Spanish.

00:05:33:25 - 00:05:34:15

Speaker 1

Something that's.

00:05:34:15 - 00:05:43:03

Unknown

Culturally appropriate for them. And cases do it. So I did. And here we are today.

00:05:43:05 - 00:06:06:23

Speaker 1

Today we last year, we served almost 600 people in our parenting classes and was impacted. And we had 30 people graduate from our leadership. We also served 700 people in our family. Our newsletter Monthly. And I think that's a pretty good progress.

00:06:06:25 - 00:06:14:23

Unknown

All told, I think we have about 30,000 people. We have served in 1990.

00:06:14:25 - 00:06:16:04

Unknown

We serve.

00:06:16:06 - 00:06:16:26

Speaker 1

He knows.

00:06:16:29 - 00:06:22:24

Unknown

And policies that help them.

00:06:22:26 - 00:06:24:02

Speaker 1

Raise their children.

00:06:24:02 - 00:06:28:20

Unknown

And perhaps in a culturally appropriate way.

00:06:28:20 - 00:06:48:06

Speaker 1

And when we say that there's a conflict, there's a clash of cultures. When people come from countries are our participants. Most of them come from the RV immigrants and they come from Mexico, from El Salvador.

00:06:48:09 - 00:06:54:09

Unknown

Argentina, Bolivia, Spain and other Latin American countries.

00:06:54:11 - 00:06:56:13

Speaker 1

So we're very pleased that we.

00:06:56:13 - 00:07:02:08

Unknown

Have this program and it's supporting our efforts to get.

00:07:02:11 - 00:07:10:26

Speaker 1

So we as you know, and but she volunteered to be co-chair of this event.

00:07:10:29 - 00:07:32:12

Unknown

And so these welcome came to us.

00:07:32:14 - 00:08:03:07

Speaker 1

It's it's my very great pleasure to introduce our speaker today. And we do go back a long way. Cecilia was named a friend of the YWCA for many years, and we do appreciate each time she says, Well, yes, I'll do that for you. And this is another of those times. So soon. Her first hearing is not only a role model to Latinos nationwide, but a role model to all of us.

00:08:03:09 - 00:08:30:15

Speaker 1

Like many honorees today in her group, she has similar roots. Her parents were immigrants from Mexico. And when they came to the United States, they did the farming. Cecilia Over her career, the three things I picked pick out since the Rams are made is quite long and each is worthy of mention. But she has mentored thousands of young women.

00:08:30:17 - 00:09:12:29

Speaker 1

She served on commissions nationwide, and she's an administrator at the College and university level for 22 years. She was at Stanford University and rising to be assistant to the president and having also been director of the summer sessions, the system provost and the associate dean of graduate Studies in 1994 95. Cecilia is an experienced major changes. She became executive search assistant to the principal of California State University's Monterey Bay and director of Long Range Planning.

00:09:13:02 - 00:09:51:16

Speaker 1

She lost her husband to cancer and she picked up a great deal of care for her parents, who were in their eighties and late nineties, as well as her children nationwide. She has been appointed by three of presidents, two different commissions. She was on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights during the Nixon administration. She was one of 40 created by President Carter to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Women, and he was selected by President Clinton for the White House Initiative on Education Excellence for Hispanic-Americans.

00:09:51:19 - 00:10:21:10

Speaker 1

But the two things, the bottom line is the job. I spent a lot of time to volunteer in her community. She was on boards for the YMCA, the Red Cross, United Way and many others. And she always found time for her students, especially the coffee shop where she and Toni were housed for many years, along with the dog and the children, and in their words, the three things.

00:10:21:12 - 00:11:09:15

Speaker 1

When I went through her packet of information, I'd say Son Cecilia was the three words that kept coming up to me. Whether she made the students feel familiar, they were part of the family and pride in being Chicano and Latina. So despite being on the front lines in Russia, thank you. You know, she feels that, you know, she will never retire.

00:11:09:17 - 00:11:39:10

Speaker 1

Whenever you get into the U.S. like that and will always wish that your children were there to know your mother is and the introduction is lovely. It was out. It took me all the way back. The only one correction is the only two presidents have been actually active in terms of nominating me for a position. And they both the Democrats.

00:11:39:13 - 00:12:00:06

Speaker 1

It is true that I worked at the US Commission on Civil Rights, but it was at the tail end of the Johnson era and it was very hard to locate being sent to the rest of the country that I happened to be there. And so that really wasn't until death a clear moment. Can you come from a different perspective?

00:12:00:11 - 00:12:07:18

Speaker 1

Yes. And so is my family, My father, you know, 100 years old.

00:12:07:21 - 00:12:12:20

Unknown

Mother is mother.

00:12:12:23 - 00:12:37:13

Speaker 1

Is 87. And last weekend I saw them for a day and a half on my way back from seeing my daughter on the East Coast and the meetings in Washington, D.C. And my father at 100 when I walked into the house, said almost directly out of the world. And actually I had seen to hear that I had seen Al Gore.

00:12:37:13 - 00:13:04:19

Speaker 1

He made a very big point of telling us how much of a hero his wife was. And it was just amazing to see your father still connected to the country's political life. I'm going to begin with you. Join us now. We were just you know, I want to take the part of that small little kid. How are you?

00:13:04:22 - 00:13:45:17

Speaker 1

Just to show you how the language, a second language conveys much more than just words in Spanish for me to say. But as a job is one of the women's marches for saying, I wish you many good afternoons, many good mornings, many good evenings. And in English we say good afternoon. Good morning. Good morning. When the generosity of the language is loses out in every race, in every conceivable way, and it oozes out.

00:13:45:17 - 00:14:21:12

Speaker 1

For example, when you say I love you in English, on a word between you and me, you do that. I love you. That's why you have mouthwash, Senator. So I can see it in Spanish. Is I can you love your think in your day from person to person. Simple things like in in this country we are always running late from o'clock.

00:14:21:14 - 00:15:05:19

Speaker 1

Once in English, people. The clock is running in Spanish in New York and the long what? So every time I'm running late for a meeting, I have to laugh because I have to remind myself I'm walking through the city. I want to simple everyday examples of how the duality in a second language a very language important, which the second language opens up entirely new vistas.

00:15:05:21 - 00:15:37:04

Speaker 1

And I have never planned to say that again. We came to Kay's introduction, telling you a little bit more about my own background. As I grew older, I realized I was grateful to parents who insisted that it was only Spanish and English people, and their parents made us bilingual in a very natural way. Finally, I becoming parents for the future.

00:15:37:06 - 00:16:10:07

Speaker 1

And I've learned to be very lucky because today is not about the state, it's about England. And I support and I really am humbled to be invited by the one because of all of the organizations that I have had the privilege to work with in the White with. It's been in the system for over the 25 years that I have been a part of.

00:16:10:10 - 00:16:39:00

Speaker 1

When I arrived on a while to work and are 25 years ago already. For a long time we had initiatives at Stanford in the international desk when we were village area Irish students who were working full time. And then I heard about this initiative that the White House to end racism dealt with the initiative they passed way back in the seventies.

00:16:39:03 - 00:17:21:24

Speaker 1

And of course, you laughed at it. Was that. But how does an organization make its way in this way? So while the rest of us have been so little, it was a Philips in America party and they made internalized inclusion, outreach and really concern for all of the community. It was pretty amazing because it was during the time when feminism was hard for more important in women's eyes.

00:17:21:27 - 00:18:01:18

Speaker 1

In kindergarten, you just had convening who hope you never allow to retire. The honoree is standing there and cannot tell you how much needed this is. My community has felt so much rejection in the past three years. You now. I started trying to I try to be to get out from my own sense of loss. And as you get out, here comes your affirmative action bill, anti-Republican action campaign against the anti-immigrant bill, not all immigrants.

00:18:01:18 - 00:18:34:12

Speaker 1

You notice it's really directed in a couple of mine in particular just about getting up. Here comes the and pay my legal bills. It's been a hard time for this community and I have many good friends who say, Cecilia, don't take this personally. And then they try and dissect each one of the movements. And it's not about the particulars of the movement as much as it is about the overall sense of rejection that we are feeling from our Californians.

00:18:34:14 - 00:19:14:06

Speaker 1

It has marked our children. The rejection does more for our children. And so it is even more important to women to not give up and that they rise to the threats facing our community. We come from a legacy. This I noticed about a year ago, a tiny little article in the San Jose Mercury. It said 5000 indigenous women each year of us all dressed in white with a white Band-Aid across their mouth, protested the injustices against the indigenous in Mexico.

00:19:14:08 - 00:19:54:11

Speaker 1

5000 women. I remember reading that, wanting to know much more about it and thinking why is this going to make those guys really pissed? And sure enough, six months later there was a massacre in which 26 were murdered. It was not surprising to me. About 18 of them were good. So the power went out. You can see it again over and over again in history and achievement in Argentina, in Peru, in Guatemala.

00:19:54:13 - 00:20:26:18

Speaker 1

It is true that once you experience the wrath of women, you can then get out of the way to. And so our roots come from empowering women. And now it's sort of the end of my talk comes from being a native Californian and leaving with everyone in the audience, women and men. Just some questions I have about what's been happening in California.

00:20:26:21 - 00:20:56:18

Speaker 1

When I was five years old and raised in Southern California, California ranked fifth in terms of its standing as investing in elementary school children. Now that I am over 50, how can it be that we ranked 47th in terms of our investment in elementary school children?

00:20:56:21 - 00:21:00:26

Unknown

How can it be that in Silicon Valley.

00:21:00:29 - 00:21:52:05

Speaker 1

Down the street where we produce computers for the world, California's school children ranked 50th in terms of computers. The child in the classroom, the happiest people in Hollywood. That makes all the movies for the world. Our children ranked 50th in terms of audio visual improvement in the classroom. How can it be that in a state that boasts of 104 community colleges, 21 California state universities, nine, maybe ten UC campuses, our children ranked 50th in terms of library books per child in the classroom.

00:21:52:08 - 00:22:00:08

Speaker 1

How can it be that the sixth largest economy in the world California.

00:22:00:10 - 00:22:06:10

Unknown

Has allowed this to happen? How could it be.

00:22:06:13 - 00:22:43:21

Speaker 1

That you can be a prison guard? With every school decreased and within a year the earning more than 12 million teachers? But we pay California prison guards almost 70% more than any other state does. This governor got 21 prisoners since 1994 and only one in State University like Cal State Monterey Bay built mine because it was free. The Department of Defense gave us the land, gave us the buildings.

00:22:43:23 - 00:23:13:21

Speaker 1

And so all of this is to put in context, that is, women. They have much work to do to save their children. And I, as a native Californian, had to apologize to the children in this room because we have cheated you. We have put everything else priority. But you, and yet we're going to judge you and I guess the rest of the country for not not making the grade.

00:23:13:23 - 00:23:52:11

Speaker 1

But before, you know, you go on blaming the children, blaming our children and with women, that's a very personal issue. Look at the system. We need more veterans. We need more like Hondas. We need more spigot of it. And I hope that in the future, Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, don't jump on the illegal alien bandwagon this quickly, because until we sort of change that kneejerk reaction, they really don't have my vote.

00:23:52:14 - 00:24:27:01

Speaker 1

And that's the other thing is we're that we now are beginning to be in areas where we can, in fact, discern who's serving the community. And in fact, we have not so much serving the community. But today is really about honoring the lack of paralysis, honoring action. And now here I'm in Monterey, next to the ocean. I use this story for all of you for it.

00:24:27:01 - 00:24:53:22

Speaker 1

And I apologize, but I think it's a story that sort of fuels me. Maybe it'll help you as you recognize your own work. It's a story about starfish, about walking along the beach. California, as a young native boy is part of the picture of starfish, throwing them back into the ocean. Several times a year, thousands of starfish wash onto the beaches.

00:24:53:24 - 00:25:25:05

Speaker 1

And if you don't save those starfish by putting them in nurturing water again, they die pretty quickly. So this young boy is walking along the beach and a tourist is sitting there drinking his craft for your safety. So whatever your favorite toys and watches, these young men walk along the beach. So he keeps drinking. A spear finally says to the young boy, Hey, why don't you just come over here?

00:25:25:07 - 00:25:52:19

Speaker 1

You're not going to save them all. Look at thousands of what are you wasting your time for? Come on. Over the summer here and the young man sort of looks at him, looks down, reaches over, picks up the starfish shirt and throws it in the water and says it made a difference to them. And so we make a difference to that.

00:25:52:21 - 00:26:31:10

Speaker 1

Each and every person we nurture, each and every person, we somehow throw them back into the water, enable them in some way. And the ride actually is the ballerina of this world. The Y gives you a new name. Marguerite now is like godmother, and you have been a godmother as an organization and as individual. When you are a mother and you have saved a lot of starfish who in turn regenerate and growing strong and continue to have starfish.

00:26:31:13 - 00:27:06:16

Speaker 1

So thank you, Kate. Thank you. The Y and now the transition to the real purpose for being here. We have eight women today. One is your body, hers and her. But we're going to honor seven additional women who have contributed in art, health, social service, education and, of course, business. I'm going to ask and this is what happens in your honor.

00:27:06:16 - 00:27:23:27

Speaker 1

You never get to finish your lunch. I'm going to ask Keanu Reeves to please come and join us along with Lynda Isadora, the DCA babysitter.

00:27:24:00 - 00:27:56:15

Unknown

I go, Hey, now, before you go, Dr. Garcia got telling you, Do we have a meeting? And hopefully everybody okay.

00:27:56:17 - 00:28:47:06

Speaker 1

Nobody told me 6 hours on alphabetical. Here we go. I should have done that. No mean that. Outside the is a youth specialist. And you can see from the program that she's had over 20 years of dedicating the mind to the future. As a believer of youth empowerment, she's organized teen councils, young Mothers Club Girls Clubs, Project Pride, which reaches out to youth involved with gangs, motivated you to work with the homeless?

00:28:47:10 - 00:29:01:15

Speaker 1

Some who say that their basic goals for young children are food for the Second Harvest Food Bank for the Community Empowerment. She's earned the title of the D.A. Her coworkers in the streets.

00:29:01:17 - 00:29:07:29

Unknown

She tries to rescue effort and great honor. I've been with them.

00:29:07:29 - 00:29:09:01

Speaker 1

For a little over 20.

00:29:09:01 - 00:29:18:12

Speaker 4

Years. That started in 1976 directly, and I was given the chance to work.

00:29:18:15 - 00:29:23:06

Speaker 1

In the community first. And when I first started working in the.

00:29:23:06 - 00:29:29:22

Speaker 4

Community centers, I was a little scared going in. But when I got there, I realized.

00:29:29:22 - 00:29:35:23

Speaker 1

That these children that I was working with were the same children that I was when I first came to.

00:29:35:23 - 00:29:42:28

Speaker 4

Town. They had the sixth grader coming in from Morgan Hill with my little cowboy boots.

00:29:42:28 - 00:29:57:02

Speaker 1

At the start of the first school I went to with the Americans and I had of thought, fact and growing a fact. But then I was initiated into the game.

00:29:57:04 - 00:30:00:16

Speaker 4

And from there I just kept.

00:30:00:18 - 00:30:07:22

Speaker 1

I don't know how I made it through school, but the recreation department that we had in our little community and the.

00:30:07:24 - 00:30:10:04

Speaker 4

Leaders gave me the care.

00:30:10:06 - 00:30:12:25

Speaker 1

And showed me that I could be so one.

00:30:13:01 - 00:30:19:12

Speaker 4

Night to do something and I could get away from these gangs and from that. So that day.

00:30:19:12 - 00:30:21:09

Speaker 1

On, I started.

00:30:21:11 - 00:30:24:22

Speaker 4

Doing the same thing, giving back to my community, working.

00:30:24:22 - 00:30:27:00

Speaker 1

With these girls and young men.

00:30:27:02 - 00:30:35:12

Speaker 4

And I developed those young men and young ladies that feel really good looking these 20 years that some of them have changed. I have one that's a captain of.

00:30:35:12 - 00:30:36:22

Speaker 1

The fire department.

00:30:36:24 - 00:30:41:18

Unknown

That I was even proud of, and I brag about being one of those so-called.

00:30:41:18 - 00:30:47:09

Speaker 1

Cheerleaders, but I knew it was something. I knew it would be a good one.

00:30:47:12 - 00:30:48:06

Speaker 3

And some of my.

00:30:48:06 - 00:30:53:24

Speaker 4

Coworkers that I'm working with be in the same position that I am. We're also those kids.

00:30:53:26 - 00:30:54:25

Speaker 1

And I'm really proud.

00:30:54:25 - 00:30:55:28

Speaker 4

Of them because now.

00:30:55:28 - 00:31:01:21

Speaker 1

They're blossoming and doing the program a little, I think much better than what I'm doing.

00:31:01:21 - 00:31:05:26

Speaker 4

But I do look over to them and I always ask them for new ideas.

00:31:05:28 - 00:31:10:14

Unknown

And I'm really proud of all of six of the guys that have made it.

00:31:10:14 - 00:31:14:15

Speaker 4

And young lady, I if it wasn't.

00:31:14:15 - 00:31:23:26

Speaker 1

For the Department of Parks and Recreation, I wouldn't be here. But I enjoyed my job. I got to be in my mind, those children of my life, I known as Mom.

00:31:23:26 - 00:31:25:16

Speaker 4

And every center I go to.

00:31:25:18 - 00:31:29:05

Speaker 1

I'm proud to Mom. So say recreation.

00:31:29:07 - 00:31:40:28

Speaker 4

And no matter where I go, you know, I want to take anybody with anything and not be scared. I'm scared about people are scary teens.

00:31:40:28 - 00:31:46:25

Unknown

I don't care what they are. No matter where I go, I always let them know that the.

00:31:46:25 - 00:31:53:05

Speaker 4

Department of the City of San Jose has a recreation center. Where did you where do you live? Where do you hang out.

00:31:53:05 - 00:32:02:14

Speaker 1

And want to try out your Senator Hillary or Hank Lopez or senator? It's just me. I'm recreation now and I enjoy it.

00:32:02:17 - 00:32:05:07

Speaker 4

And I want to thank you. I feel very honored that.

00:32:05:10 - 00:32:07:00

Speaker 1

I was honored for this position.

00:32:07:01 - 00:32:11:20

Speaker 4

I was really shocked the first day that I got a phone call.

00:32:11:22 - 00:32:55:13

Speaker 1

And I thought I thought it was a joke, you know, because it's my job and it's something that is just natural, thanks to Thanks anyway. Letissier is an artist and from Mexico. She's definitely from America. Still has, I imagine, still practices given her band. Sorry. Tonight I'm jealous of and also studied dramatic arts. And it was risky, right?

00:32:55:16 - 00:33:24:09

Speaker 1

Right. Not not resilience. Right. So I have music and drama in the background. I studied at the National University of New Mexico. I think, you know, now she is a children and art or shark eater and continues also to work with children. She produced a television program called the Mountain Variety and works with several groups like Fania, which is the gathering place for us.

00:33:24:10 - 00:33:55:04

Speaker 1

It really helps in the world economy, not promoting problem, not to come and see me eat them so little. The creators of children's songs, she does all of this and in addition it's during probably equally important no more important work raising three children. You know I think if you have you have to go watch the.

00:33:55:07 - 00:34:28:28

Speaker 4

Good afternoon. My name is Sally Singer. I am from a drug in Mexico. Even signs I made the baby shoot that decision to dedicate my talents to the needs of our community. I have focused on developing social awareness. I need directions. The peace has come to me because I'm more sure of myself as a women. I also commit to realize my own benefits are both fashion and my personal opinion.

00:34:29:01 - 00:34:58:10

Speaker 4

The aftermath easily was important factor in caring our produce and dreams and our personal aptitude is a factor that can help us understand and balance our emotional needs. Meet the quality of social aspects, the challenges we face every day. I would like to thank you for the resignation of my role in the community. For me, it is like harvesting song for the fruits of work.

00:34:58:10 - 00:35:29:06

Speaker 4

I have been so with all of these years I feel afraid, responsibility to go to my community and society. I believe that each one of us can solve these ways for ourselves, the best of our human qualities, and enrich and grow them. Human are words. My beliefs are grounded in the enduring values of captivity, intelligence, and solidarity with our fellow people.

00:35:29:08 - 00:36:00:29

Speaker 4

We all have something about our way that we can come to. We let us share these things together so we can better understand our service and our human condition. Thanks for doing so. My husband taught

support during 19 years on my three children for two made me put Mother. I will speak in Spanish. No where, not me. Nobody is easier, Easier.

00:36:01:02 - 00:36:40:08

Speaker 4

So you can not even meet your again. It is like the economy, the money that it is. I really love me. I will see you soon enough. And so be me. The gay marriage. And I'm against the of in the name Muslim for human society. That is to say all men but I mean attitude Islamic work for women that you want to to Australia to the nice provider you got to do it family mental illness are you are going to learn but to be emotional and that idea they want to see me to focus on you so seriously and I give you but as yet for women to say to me that our only value

00:36:40:11 - 00:37:06:16

Speaker 4

but to me is not for money like go. But they love cause they took in the way some but my country, they don't have that responsibility. So see that we will be able to cut out more for them also not only for the most organismal, but I can only way for video means to some voices and I going to do whatever it is I see and I forget to give you the delegates here and everything you have to to.

00:37:06:17 - 00:37:30:11

Speaker 4

So my country's got a woman. Also the animals that go by those of the competition combatant over boys. Yes innocent in the name on that one with us personally that is you know Sonya's a year of this crisis of a total this under before you to the next one in I to believe in where we are and you you see they manage similar if they do not want their responsibility you get us is a little will always you.

00:37:30:13 - 00:38:14:11

Speaker 1

That thousands sufficient not good enough Antonio is happy to have trouble with my brother not because I knew I got it. Not when they were both much younger. She was a student at Stanford and just to see what she's contributed to the community in the 20 some years. But I have seen seeing her is just amazing. She lives in East Palo Alto, although now she is a teacher in the emergency room in Nepal Unified School District.

00:38:14:14 - 00:38:41:02

Speaker 1

She is a champion for families and children. She's worked with battered women. She's worked with the homeless, with The Hunger Project. She worked in the Ravensworth City School district as a manager of an even start literacy program for families in a bilingual education center. Palo Alto was very fortunate, very fortunate to have stolen her way from the East Palo Alto School District.

00:38:41:05 - 00:39:07:09

Speaker 1

She earned her teacher credential at Notre Dame and has even worked with KQED. And I know that when I see her several years from now, she will be a principal and then a superintendent. And who knows the next superintendent is more running.

00:39:07:11 - 00:39:20:10

Speaker 3

And that's one of my roles outside of being a teacher, a mother and a wife is as a board member, most recently in a hidden villa in Los Altos. A team of us there has been working on. One of the issues closest.

00:39:20:10 - 00:39:23:12

Speaker 1

To my heart Dialog operates.

00:39:23:14 - 00:39:33:06

Speaker 3

A series of meetings where we hope to gather a diverse group of individuals for a meaningful dialog and action in improving race relations in our communities.

00:39:33:09 - 00:39:36:01

Speaker 1

Certainly a role similar to the ones.

00:39:36:04 - 00:40:05:10

Speaker 3

In our preparation. Team members have spent time reflecting and discussing ways race and racism has impacted our lives. For me, I have rediscover the painful rescue of growing up Hispanic in a society that is often rejected through ignorance. My people and my ways and my parents as immigrants raised us to see. This spoke in a strange dichotomy. When we stepped outside our home, we were made or.

00:40:05:10 - 00:40:09:04

Speaker 1

And told to dress and groom and act in ways that.

00:40:09:04 - 00:40:29:08

Speaker 3

Would not cause people to conclude negatively about us. We were basically told to blend in and hope it was the opposite. We could only speak Spanish. I'm grateful to all our meals. Traditions and values remain. Those of our native culture. As a teenager and young adult, I had a lot of.

00:40:29:08 - 00:40:30:29

Speaker 1

Processing and recovery to go through.

00:40:30:29 - 00:40:45:28

Speaker 3

To redefine more than once. There were times that the mirror became my only clue to my roots as I looked at my dark Indian features today, the honor bestowed upon a deer reinforces.

00:40:46:05 - 00:40:49:29

Speaker 1

That recovery of who I really am 100%.

00:40:50:01 - 00:41:12:11

Speaker 3

So it is with pride that I accept this honor, which recognizes that it is a challenge to survive and thrive in society and certainly a great challenge for Latinos. I am proud of the languages that I command, the different cultural values and traditions that shape my daily being. And I'm proud to have my own capital with my husband and.

00:41:12:14 - 00:41:14:28

Speaker 1

Two children celebrating not only.

00:41:14:28 - 00:41:26:21

Speaker 3

Mexican traditions, but now also our homes and as well as in this country. I am thankful today for the parents of children in my classroom for.

00:41:26:21 - 00:41:29:21

Speaker 1

The Spanish immersion program, the join me here today.

00:41:29:23 - 00:41:45:15

Speaker 3

I respect and honor the choices you have made to have your children join with mine in learning diverse languages and cultural traditions so that theirs might be a more tolerant, inclusive future. And I also give thanks to many Hispanic women.

00:41:45:15 - 00:41:48:09

Speaker 1

Who try to create inspiration and support for.

00:41:48:11 - 00:42:16:01

Speaker 3

Many to an intervention, but certainly to must mention, Cecilia, it's quite appropriate that you're in Monterey Bay because to me you have been like a lighthouse in a very stormy environment. And I often look to you for inspiration, certainly in the alien environment. The Stanford University was and for years thereafter, even as years passed to see you, you served to inspire me to persist.

00:42:16:06 - 00:42:18:18

Speaker 1

Through challenges I worked for.

00:42:18:21 - 00:42:20:01

Speaker 3

To work for what I most passionately.

00:42:20:01 - 00:42:20:14

Speaker 1

Believe to.

00:42:20:14 - 00:42:32:09

Speaker 3

Be right to parents who were here from Spanish origin know that their system is very necessary. And if I were still uncertain to Danielle, I promise, is here today also.

00:42:32:09 - 00:42:48:21

Speaker 1

My best friend and confidant for your encouragement, support in ensuring comfort and unconditional love. Even on this really bad days and just a few weeks short of the 10th anniversary of her passing to not.

00:42:48:23 - 00:43:12:00

Speaker 3

Ready to Go is, in the words of artist Carmen quotes. My mother was the one that inspired me. She may have not been to see her regular dreams, but she also laid out the best imaginings of the future and must follow the path of Universal. He reminds the girls, How much do they have to do? We have the swimmers in almost.

00:43:12:03 - 00:43:16:18

Speaker 1

Never to do so. To all of you here today.

00:43:16:19 - 00:43:31:14

Unknown

Which is this The.

00:43:31:16 - 00:44:11:26

Speaker 1

Legacy of your nana is also born in Mexico to the wonderful and director of the Children Service and Father John Technology. She has really she really and I hope, especially the folks in the legislative areas and families remember, Yolanda, that because she is the expert in child care and preschool programs and has served over 25 million children that range in age from 3 to 12 in 113 classrooms with a \$13 billion budget, she is reaching Marla.

00:44:11:28 - 00:44:46:29

Speaker 1

She turned bachelor's from UC Santa Barbara and then master's degrees from Chicago as well in the San Francisco stage. She is a faculty advisor to university students and also works on the Farm Foundation and at the Center for the Study of Families, Children and Youth on behalf of the one and took this. This is indeed an honor to be recognized for contributing to community service.

00:44:47:01 - 00:45:18:20

Speaker 1

Thank you. I thought long and hard about why you bestowed such an honor on me. When asked about the criteria for nomination of selection, I frankly was stunned when I consider my work and the results that I have accomplished. I honestly know that I represent thousands of colleagues parents and

community individuals that hold the same values as I do and believe in dedicating their lives to community service.

00:45:18:22 - 00:45:51:22

Speaker 1

I need to acknowledge a few of them that are here today because without their assistance I would not be able to stand before you. There is honor to here Johnny Colon could have worked with me for 20 years. My most recent colleague, Audrey Munoz, in the audience. On my left, a friend and supporter of Head Start, and Mike Honda, who many years ago walked the neighborhoods, will be looking for facilities to house that starts services.

00:45:51:24 - 00:46:14:08

Speaker 1

And of course, all my friends and colleagues at the city of San. So to continue to do this, to support the work that is very important. I must also acknowledge that my accomplishments are the result of receiving institutional support. I have been privileged to work with families and children in Santa Clara in San Benito Counties for 18 years.

00:46:14:10 - 00:46:45:03

Speaker 1

I am very proud to represent the County Board of Education, the County Office of Education. I've received the confidence and trust to work double time, overtime, extra time because our work is never done. I'm always supported to choose to seek new opportunities to learn and grow. I'm particularly honored to recognize my boss in great support. Dr. Bob Burr, Assistant Superintendent Services.

00:46:45:06 - 00:47:15:25

Speaker 1

I am grateful for the love and constructive criticism that I receive in healthy for my daughter. But even though I'm privileged to receive support for my sister, Sonia Garcia, who as a professor and director of teacher Education at South Dakota University, serves as a great sounding board professionally and personally. I've also considered the relationship that I've had with the YWCA over the years in Santa Clara County and throughout my life.

00:47:15:27 - 00:47:38:10

Speaker 1

Let me indulge a bit since I have a microphone by sharing a very significant experience that I think you will also enjoy. I was raised in Ventura County when I was about 13 years old. I was invited to participate in a week long camp to mount General fires. This is one of my first experiences camping far away from home.

00:47:38:12 - 00:48:08:00

Speaker 1

My mother, supportive of all learning experiences, was encouraging and helped me prepare for a long excursion. My mother dutifully drove me to the meeting place, the YWCA parking lot. We came upon a huge flatbed truck similar to those that were used to transport cattle. no, I thought, This can't be the mode of transportation to camp. Guess what it was.

00:48:08:02 - 00:48:33:26

Speaker 1

Since all my friends from school were coming, I figured we could manage this trip instead of being humiliated. I began to feel excited as we finished the accounting of all of our belongings and counting heads to my home, one of the leaders of the camp began fastening a huge sign on the side of a truck that read San Francisco or Bust.

00:48:33:28 - 00:49:08:20

Speaker 1

Gasps were heard throughout, hoping no one would see us take off for a trip. We all slithered down on the benches alongside the truck to hide as we departed. Needless to say we quickly forgot and began enjoying the California sun and each other's company. Early that evening, we approached San Francisco. Can you imagine who the wide eyed young girls in a huge flat bed truck cruising up and down the hills of San Francisco and through the narrow streets of Chinatown?

00:49:08:22 - 00:49:29:02

Speaker 1

Many of the girls had not been to Chinatown. We scout for a delicious dinner, and of course, we forgot our embarrassment of being herded through the city in. The scout truck. We finally made it to Mount Chino for the evening and settled in for a long filled week of hiking and swimming. So why do I share the with you today?

00:49:29:04 - 00:49:57:03

Speaker 1

This joy filled experience that I have as a girl is similar to this experience for me. I share the excitement of the event. I don't really know what to expect and don't know all that's involved in choosing us to come before you today. We trust that this is important experience and we're humbled by it. Most recently, I've had the opportunity to work with the YWCA and some say to serve young, low income children and afterschool programs.

00:49:57:05 - 00:50:28:02

Speaker 1

The County Office of Education has acted as an intermediary to enable organizations such as the YWCA to provide services to children most needed in our community. I hope that the children that are served have at least one opportunity like I did, although I believe the mode of transportation has now changed. I know that the YWCA is an organization that provides services daily, but also offers special fun learning experiences for young girls and women.

00:50:28:05 - 00:50:54:18

Speaker 1

I congratulate you. I want to reflect briefly about the importance of standing before you. Today. We recognize the success of successful Latinos, but does that mean to me it means staying true to family values? Those who have traveled on the straight path of community service for long term life. It means respecting the language and the culture of all the children and families in this rich and diverse community.

00:50:54:20 - 00:51:35:07

Speaker 1

It means respect for community institutions. I have the responsibility for representing my family. There have been educators here and in Mexico for generations. Lastly, it means continuing the legacy that my father left as an educator and as a community advocate. I'm proud to continue to serve my community and humbly accept the son he has endured under founding President.

00:51:35:09 - 00:52:17:00

Speaker 1

Lyndon Johnson is no stranger to our community. She is the founder of the Hispanic Women's Council and has a lifelong, really involvement with education in our community. She's been a redevelopment specialist for the redevelopment agency the Council in San Jose. She founded the Hispanic Women's Council in 1992. And I actually have the personal knowledge of government because of her involvement in giving us the opportunity to be noted as a portrait of success the year before my husband died.

00:52:17:03 - 00:52:49:14

Speaker 1

She herself has received the Women of Achievement Award in 1989, as well as the women the virtue of success in 1991 and the Women of Distinction award in 1993. So I'll be happy for any women that you have mentored and moved together in the YWCA on the initiative.

00:52:49:17 - 00:53:20:28

Speaker 1

Good afternoon. The staff of the YWCA of the Netherlands, the sponsors, friends and family together to my daughters, along with their son, David. They're here. My boss, Joan Weiss, and my friend and my niece and all my friends from the Hispanic Families Council. They're very dear to me. The group that I brought together in 1992, I was thinking, you and mine successful.

00:53:21:01 - 00:53:57:03

Speaker 1

Or maybe I'm just fortunate. I was thinking that that is meaningful. I came to this work 55 years ago for the third 1943. I was chosen to lead the group of 20 boys and girls that were going to be doing their first communion. I was five years old and later on my mother told me that I was determined to do that at that age because I wanted to do my first communion together with my older cousin.

00:53:57:05 - 00:54:40:02

Speaker 1

She says, You memorize the catechism, you memorize every single thing. So what? The Godfather, The madrigal said that I was going to lead that group. I was successful. I think I was very determined. But one of the things that I put to characterize me is that whatever I wanted to do or feel like doing, I did it. And in 1992, after my mother had died, I said, What am I going to do now that I know I'll go to San Diego and fly back in forward looking for her, caring for her, and my mother in law, who is also very skilled with Alzheimer's.

00:54:40:04 - 00:55:07:24

Speaker 1

I had nothing to do but to bring together a group, professional Hispanic women who would gather with me, bring to fruition a mission. And the mission was to empower Hispanic women. And we have done so the conferences and workshops. And I have a table here that I think I'm very, very proud of of all the people that stood behind me and they're standing behind me.

00:55:07:26 - 00:55:37:06

Speaker 1

I have often wonder, you know, it was my grandmother that showed a lot of trust in me, my teachers, my peers, my classmates and my colleagues there always said, well, Carmen didn't do it. And I guess I never said I couldn't do it. I thought later, I wish I could have just maybe 40 hours more, that I could do more.

00:55:37:08 - 00:56:14:19

Speaker 1

I have come to learn that some success is really to accept our limitations, to make peace with our paths, to dream our passions. So there our future may unfold according to her divine plan. Success, to me is to recognize our talents are gifts and to share them with others. It is to validate the pain of those in need, offering them a smile a touch, a kind word.

00:56:14:22 - 00:57:05:21

Speaker 1

And they believe in success to me is just one or one two fold. One is to recognize that being is just as important as doing and doing for others is what gives pleasure and meaning to my life. And like I always say, let's get this show on the road. Thank you for this summer and calendar. There takes a deep breath in how I was receiving the award in the area of health, and I think I need to talk to you about many of the areas that you're working on.

00:57:05:23 - 00:57:32:14

Speaker 1

She's at the Gardner Family Health Network, and health issues are her area of expertise. She was born in Texas, but That really doesn't count because she's here for the rest of her life here. And so she is in

California. And the Mountain View has been her home ever since. She has really familiarity with all of the critical areas of health that touch our lives.

00:57:32:16 - 00:58:00:23

Speaker 1

The Cancer Society, Lupus Foundation, American Red Cross, Red King, Breast cancer. And I know she was in the home. So there was a litany of areas that she's worked in with us, though she has talked in the media is kind of native plants in the bodies is the name of the bulletin for that. She says that she has two grandchildren.

00:58:00:26 - 00:58:14:25

Speaker 1

And so you have to kind of reshape, you know, a face. Your if she does.

00:58:14:27 - 00:58:15:15

Unknown

Thank you so.

00:58:15:15 - 00:58:19:04

Speaker 1

Much. And please, no shortage of.

00:58:19:07 - 00:58:23:03

Unknown

I was going a problem on one.

00:58:23:05 - 00:58:24:12

Speaker 4

And this is on the scene.

00:58:24:12 - 00:58:53:11

Speaker 1

With your little baby girl. I am truly honored and so surprised to be here because my work with the community is never been a dodge and it's always been one community after another. That meeting the wonderful people that I have known throughout the years is just very terrific. And to be in the midst of these wonderful ladies and so successful ladies.

00:58:53:11 - 00:59:24:22

Speaker 1

And I was a shock when the wife first called, I thought, my goodness, you know, I must be an honorable mention of some sort. That's plenty for me. That's that's wonderful. Thank you very much about it. The list of your women are so. So being here is really I am truly honored to my family. I am so a child of migrant workers, and my family came to California in 1939.

00:59:24:24 - 01:00:03:10

Speaker 1

My father and like Miguel, came looking for work from Texas over here. And my father and uncle found work. And one of the very first camera camera was in Palo Alto, which was chuckles. It was quite shocking at the time. And being in this area and following all of the migrant work who discovered that war veterans discovered that Stanford, Santa, right where the residential apartments are now, was a big migrant camp at Chapel Hill.

01:00:03:10 - 01:00:25:06

Speaker 1

Camp cleaned, wash and cook for all the single men that came from all the different parts of the country the United States, Mexico and South America to come to work in migrant camps and would wash and cook for them. And they started their own business there and they helped my father. And it became, of course, a big family business.

01:00:25:06 - 01:00:45:13

Speaker 1

All my aunts and uncles and everybody would would help out. So one thing that my mother taught me was that I was a little afraid to work that hard. I was never to work in the fields. I was never to wash and cook for anybody else. I was going to go to school on and as much as I could.

01:00:45:15 - 01:01:03:07

Speaker 1

And she always bridge that throughout my whole life. So I never can say that I had to work hard in the fields. But the one thing she didn't teach me was that I it we're going to show you how hard it is to work in the fields. So summers they used to send me to cut the apricots and pick for me.

01:01:03:07 - 01:01:33:15

Speaker 1

And so I don't have to do this. This is hard work. So when I was a student at Los Altos High School, I was one of three Mexican-Americans of the high school class of 62. I must have been there for my school or something, because I really cannot say that prejudice was not a problem because we were there for the three of us.

01:01:33:15 - 01:02:04:22

Speaker 1

You know that in later life, I think after I was out of school, I discovered this was a problem and many of our people had gone and endured a lot of this treatment and depression as throughout. As a matter of fact, my senior years and when I discovered that I knew I was a minority, I had one science teacher told me was he was going around the class and telling everybody, well, what are you doing?

01:02:04:23 - 01:02:33:08

Speaker 1

You know? So were you both of you doing? And then he came to me and he goes, how are you doing, sir? I guess you are married and have two kids. And everything that I knew was that when my mom told me and I and you know, how dare he that person in the station didn't write out or say anything back to a teacher.

01:02:33:08 - 01:03:15:03

Speaker 1

So they would be on the phone and they were like, Can you read the paper? That's me. And the teachers don't realize, we have a bunch of kids, and you just don't realize just one one word, my book. What do you mean? By the way, I was at the time, the particular teaching, you just don't realize what power they have over a child.

01:03:15:05 - 01:03:42:10

Speaker 1

And this is one of the things that is always been interesting to me as far as religion. You can, you can me with you. I work with you and, you know, on the east side and the animals set the tone, well, don't even walk on the same side of the street as again or walk across the street or whatever to get to work individually.

01:03:42:13 - 01:04:19:08

Speaker 1

And you meet these children on a 1 to 1 basis with, you're surprised that you from one to the one, 1 to 1 basis and help them listen and find out where they're coming from. You find that not only were they neglected by poverty and police by social workers, by us, and we can look into it as much as we should.

01:04:19:10 - 01:04:53:17

Speaker 1

People in many agencies. I have to thank for being one of these, the American Red Cross for monetary policy procedures, the dedicated people that work for us, that are ready to go anywhere, any time at the drop of a hat are just people that need to be commended. All these things. One thing they forgot to tell me was that for once you get to a disaster area, you're supposed to be in marine mode and you forgot to tell me that you have to adapt.

01:04:53:17 - 01:05:35:21

Speaker 1

And then what is occurring around CREDO that you have to adapt and improvise and all. And I found myself doing that for the American Red Cross. It's been really interesting. The Women's Health Alliance Initiative program, that's been one of the programs that was in my name, was very instrumental in helping us start things in the area. And the people that I've met there, the women, and a very concerned professional women from all walks of life that were interested and ready to make change and meet all the challenges in regards to women's health is absolutely astounding.

01:05:35:23 - 01:06:07:29

Speaker 1

From the Children's Health and Disability Prevention program that I volunteered for in such a high tech area that we live in the amount of more help and challenge for children. Sometimes we as volunteers are the only voices of children, and if we don't have more volunteers for children, we're making trouble in this high tech area that we have here, Just trying to get businesses and other agencies to help with the children.

01:06:07:29 - 01:06:31:27

Speaker 1

That is is sometimes very difficult. So volunteers such as there are in the different agencies are women who do not take no for an answer. The Lupus Foundation, which I was honored to be in, is it the lupus? Lupus is a disease of the immune system attacking young women in the prime of their life for 15 to 25 years of age.

01:06:32:00 - 01:06:55:16

Speaker 1

It is more prevalent than muscular dystrophy. And some of us don't even know that. I know this because I lost my daughter to lupus. We lost our daughter to live this in 91. And it was certainly devastating that the amount of people who don't know about this, but we need to keep going and following them. There is just so much to do.

01:06:55:16 - 01:07:23:00

Speaker 1

I never really thought of volunteering as a job. It's always like I say, when somebody nominees for committee after committee, it's just something you just do. The senior citizens group and I've had the honor to work with and it's been my honor to volunteer with some of the most kind and learned senior citizens and the experience and wisdom that this group has to offer and has not been capped.

01:07:23:03 - 01:08:04:16

Speaker 1

I witnessed a kind and gentle 80 year old lady bring a so-called gang hardened gang member to his knees and take off and stand down and say, Yes, ma'am, and thank you to this lady just by her regal presence. It is just amazing and so rewarding to meet so many of these people in wearing hats. The American Cancer Society, this group of dedicated ladies, again taught me how to organize and how to make sure that everything gets done on a timely basis or else it's not written down.

01:08:04:16 - 01:08:28:25

Speaker 1

It is so. And then lastly, that I'm most grateful to my husband and my sons, my mother and my sisters, they've been most understanding in all of this. My husband and my sons who have had to start a lot of dinners without me and my mother, who and sisters who have had to do all the holiday talking and everything.

01:08:28:25 - 01:08:30:29

Speaker 4

That I was supposed to do. But a busy afternoon.

01:08:30:29 - 01:09:25:10

Speaker 1

A meeting or something. I really like to thank them. And truly, it's just an honor to be here. Thank you so much. Dania Ramirez has gone into a truly ground breaking career area for women. She is in construction and was smart enough to take her native community to spell factory. So it becomes the Sarovar Corporation. She began business in 1994 with three people, and it's now grown to feed 15 employees and is not doing badly economically.

01:09:25:13 - 01:10:01:02

Speaker 1

If you're a rich or programmer, it's nationalizing government work, which is great and has been working with the U.S. Geological Survey and with the IRS. Now, some of our money is going directly to mom, and she credits she credits going into this field really because of the principles instilled by her father. She gives back to the community and to scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,000 going to Notre Dame High School, which is probably where you went right then and your mother.

01:10:01:05 - 01:10:40:17

Speaker 1

Amazing. And also another scholarship to an organization here. the Personal Management Association or plan? That's right. That is a professional organization. And I imagine you work with their entrepreneurship group. But I don't know. You don't regret it. Definitely get you involved in an entrepreneurial activity. So, Sylvia, on behalf of the YWCA and my Irish contribution, we honor your.

01:10:40:19 - 01:11:08:14

Speaker 1

Hi. Good afternoon. Well, this is a really big surprise to someone who usually walks out of a job site. And not that my staff's looking at me going with that girl, doing hair, and she signs her checks. I have this business with my cousin and partner who I love dearly. We have a very profoundly deep relationship that is based on trust and respect and integrity, and we have no egos in our relationship.

01:11:08:14 - 01:11:28:08

Speaker 1

It's just the most amazing relationship, and that is the foundation of our company. It's based on integrity. It's based on clear communication, and it's based on telling the truth, even when it's not comfortable. And I'm really proud to be in a position to be able to start changing the dynamics of how business is being run, especially in construction.

01:11:28:08 - 01:11:54:10

Speaker 1

A lot of times, as you know, very difficult situations where we're our business is demonstrating that it can be a win win situation for everyone involved. How I got into this business is a long story, but I'll give you the Reader's Digest version. Second time five years ago today, or actually this week, when my father passed away of a sudden heart attack from vacationing in Costa Rica.

01:11:54:12 - 01:12:13:16

Speaker 1

And I had been working for his company who was working in San Pedro since 1970, Domino Builders, as was my cousin. We received that shocking news and he had about \$2 million worth of contracts going. And we went back and the very next day the business said, okay, how are we going to make this work? What are we going to do?

01:12:13:19 - 01:12:45:15

Speaker 1

Because is what he taught us. He taught us about never giving up about that. You know, the work camp does not exist in your vocabulary. You can't do it. You can't find way. And we did. So I want to share this with my father, Henry. And I also want to honor my mother whenever Stone does. And my very good colleague, Joanna Douglas.

01:12:45:17 - 01:12:46:20

Unknown

And my stepfather call.

01:12:46:20 - 01:13:21:13

Speaker 1

Us back to the room. And I know Dad still thinks he's the CEO because he has a very profound influence on our business. And actually, we're just finishing \$6 million of work our fiscal year, September 30th, and we now have about 20 bodies, which is an astonishing start from absolutely nothing. When we started the company, but we we we just had a vision to continue.

01:13:21:13 - 01:13:42:15

Speaker 1

First, we had a vision to complete my father's business with integrity and honor as he lives. So we could finish that and started the company. The first one of the first things that happened was there was a fire in the back of the office that we were renting, and luckily my grandmother had gone with some holy water and she had left it.

01:13:42:17 - 01:14:07:20

Speaker 1

So my heart was saved. And I told the firefighter writer there, when I got there, I thought it was crazy. And so we we made it. This was like 2:00 in the morning, you know, Friday night was 4th of July weekend, 1994. And my cousin was on his annual trip that he takes up with this lake. And I there's only one cell phone I called.

01:14:07:20 - 01:14:27:02

Speaker 1

His roommate was like, I got my I got my assistant and her husband over. We are close to fourth Street Bowl, like four in the morning on a napkin. I'm going. Okay, Plan day, Plan B, plan C, We're not. Stop it. It's just a plan. So? So then I called my cousin's roommate on a cell phone of this trip.

01:14:27:02 - 01:14:47:21

Speaker 1

I said I really believe in vacations. I think he should stay. I can handle this. But we've had a plan. So he's back. You know, within about 4 hours, we moved into his garage and we set up shop and we immediately hooked up our backs and phone lines. And we worked for the federal government, GSA, IRS, you know, Corps of Engineers.

01:14:47:24 - 01:15:13:07

Speaker 1

And people were calling they didn't even know we had fire. And then I saw a really beautiful office that I'd seen years before when I was working with my father, trying to find an office for him and luckily had been empty for a long time. And the man heard our hard love story, Tony Dallas. And he said, okay, the place is yours, and gave us to us 4/5 of the price to let us get going, put our name on the door and serve our started.

01:15:13:10 - 01:15:46:20

Speaker 1

And we started, like I said, with no money. So our first employee said 5 hours and said, Pay me when you can. Well, that took six months that he worked basically for free until we could start paying him back. And we lived off our savings. And that was, let's see, we started getting cash in 1995 and our first big project was a big project of the IRS service center, which was great experience, and it was for \$600,000 and now it's 1998, which is under 6 million and has 20 employees.

01:15:46:20 - 01:16:17:11

Speaker 1

And it's just astonishing. It's great. But I was thinking about what I could leave you with today and what's important to me. And I would like to share something that I read that really moved me. And what it said was it was a quote. It was unnamed. So I don't know who to attribute this to, but it said, if you can see the invisible, you can do the impossible.

01:16:17:14 - 01:16:40:11

Speaker 1

And to me, what that means is that if you have enough faith and hope and love, that you can love anything into existence. And that's what we've been able to do. We've been able to do what we're doing through love and faith and hope And my wish for each and every one of you here today is that you have enough faith to let your dreams and existence thank you.

01:16:40:11 - 01:17:28:16

Speaker 1

Thank you very much. U.S.A. The last honoree is Rosalind Viegas, who has gone into the area that is so critical to our community as well. And it's counseling. She is director of the prevention Services and alum Rock Counseling Services, and she has and she's been the only one in her family to graduate from college and has worked with other women to overcome the barriers and has lots of nonprofit agency experience.

01:17:28:18 - 01:17:56:22

Speaker 1

She's director of that center and she is working with low income and ethnic minority families. She has been a member of our family. She's worked the YWCA in the past Turning Point women's program, the Latino Pride Program, and the Role model program. She's currently on the Commission on the Status of Women in Santa Clara County. That means that she's probably doing a lot of work for the Hispanic Charity Ball and all of the other United Way committees.

01:17:56:24 - 01:18:33:08

Speaker 1

She will try. I'm very happy to say that she was elected to the board of trustees for the Free Community College District and has both bachelor's and master's degrees from local universities. That is telling that not only she has two children, but she has two teenagers. So extra credit goes to your son in that. On behalf of the YWCA, graphic, thank you.

01:18:33:10 - 01:18:59:15

Speaker 1

I'm honored to be acknowledged to this event today so often that you're given the opportunity to think about accomplishments through the YWCA event today. I have had the opportunity to do just that, and I'd like to thank the YWCA staff and volunteers for giving me this opportunity. I come from a simple family. My father was a warehouse truck driver and my mother worked in factories and then eventually she worked as a teacher's aide.

01:18:59:15 - 01:19:27:21

Speaker 1

For quite a few years out of five older brothers. I was the only one in my family to formally graduate from high school. Any graduation ceremony at all. Each one of my four aunts and uncles on my mother's side extended 12 children on my father's side. The families were a bit smaller, ranging from 4 to 8 children. All that leads to the fact that I I'm one first cousin and one second cousin completed a four year college degree.

01:19:27:23 - 01:19:57:12

Speaker 1

That always made me wonder what was different about me, that I moved from Los Angeles to Northern California. And then I pursued Higher education have always come to the same conclusion. My mother, I've heard that several times today. She never questioned my ability to meet the challenges of college. She never questioned my capabilities. She knew it was just to give it to her.

01:19:57:14 - 01:20:23:27

Speaker 1

Even when my high school counselor told me that I was not college material, she didn't skip a beat she said, That's not your decision. I want her to have college prep classes. And so we're sure she did that in such a gentle manner that it just seemed so natural. And I never really understood the impact that she made on me in terms of doing that.

01:20:24:00 - 01:20:49:17

Speaker 1

As I matured, I finally understood the huge impact that she had made for both the counselor and me. There was choice in the matter for this. I will always be grateful to her. I thought my destiny was college and I never question that. My mother made me believe that I take many of my challenges this way. I don't let doubts get in the way of my goals.

01:20:49:19 - 01:21:13:22

Speaker 1

I think everyone that sets path deserves all the necessary tools to get there. I guess this has been my lifelong goal is to make sure that each individual gets the support they need to have a good life. Social work just seemed a natural career choice to accomplish that ideal, and it has been. And I am too humble person to ever have admitted that I possess greatness.

01:21:13:24 - 01:21:41:00

Speaker 1

However, I remember someone saying that if you want to achieve greatness, surround yourself with great people. I have been blessed to have always been surrounded by great people, people in my life who radiate power through a sense of well-being, invoke great ideas and maintain a sense of humor during the most difficult times. I have chosen people in my life who are full and healthy life, and I have learned from them.

01:21:41:02 - 01:22:05:09

Speaker 1

I have chosen people will always be there for support. I don't ever remember making a phone call to someone to say, I need support, I need help, and I have been turned down. I'm very blessed for that too, and that I think that people in my life are rich in giving you how to be around them. For me, one of the most important ingredients to success reciprocation.

01:22:05:11 - 01:22:25:07

Speaker 1

I believe that as a Latino I have, that is one of the core cultural values I have really carried forward. It's critical, and that is to give back, to not be afraid, to give oneself, to not be afraid to care, and not to be afraid to help others certainly answer that everyone needs to know what their limits are.

01:22:25:07 - 01:22:55:01

Speaker 1

That is when too much is too much. This is a personal thing, and I think that we all have to challenge that for ourselves. You know what feels secure and what does not. I would be less than honest to say that fear has never entered my path. Boy, has it. It would probably be more correct to say it based on record lately, it has always appeared to me from the outside that many people, when they reach for the challenge, get excited.

01:22:55:03 - 01:23:18:06

Speaker 1

But I don't know if I get stomachaches. This is usually my resistance showing. And again, it's my self determination and my circle of support that pushes me forward when I think I have been limited. It is

my husband or my friends or my relatives that don't let me quit. The support I have in my life helps. Me clear, clear and honest.

01:23:18:06 - 01:23:42:26

Speaker 1

And boy, do they. Many of them are here today in my honor and I guess be strengthened that you see validation. As young people tell me, they come up to me and tell me that I have been a role model for them as well as pride. And it was important how important it is to for a young person to be told, You can do this, I know you can do this.

01:23:42:29 - 01:24:01:18

Speaker 1

And it is really a beautiful accomplishment to receive feedback on too from others to let to let me know that I have touched them in this way. And I'd like to finish by saying it is the two young men that I am raising that I hope I influence the most. They are beautiful.

01:24:01:18 - 01:24:02:20

Speaker 4

Humans.

01:24:02:22 - 01:24:42:26

Speaker 1

Teenagers, that they are the world of potential ahead of them. My goal is to be like my mother, even if I see them now. Thank you. As we transition to the next part of this program, I do want to, on behalf of the women being honored, I would like their children to stand and then their husbands.

01:24:42:29 - 01:25:14:16

Unknown

And best friends and all of you who have come to support you and.

01:25:14:18 - 01:25:25:19

Speaker 1

Well, I can see that you enjoyed this afternoon. Earth is a great bunch of women up here.

01:25:25:22 - 01:25:27:11

Unknown

In our classes, in our leadership.

01:25:27:11 - 01:25:48:00

Speaker 1

Classes. We in the last session, it's always full of tears and people, you know, not wanting to leave. And it's a wonderful time. And it always goes over the 3 hours that we planned. But during at the very end, we like a candle for each of our honorees that are leaders. And we want to do that for our honorees today.

01:25:48:03 - 01:26:14:16

Speaker 1

We want to give them a candle and I'm sure you all heard that saying it better to light one light and to curse the dark darkness. And I think that's what these women members and they represent, living there, their being, their existence is alive, light. And each one of the communities of equal or to whoever they come across.

01:26:14:18 - 01:27:04:09

Speaker 1

So we are going to light the candles right.

01:27:04:12 - 01:27:29:16

Speaker 1

Good afternoon. My name is the Desert Rodriguez Gleason, and I'm one of the co-chairs of this event. So I really want to thank you for being with us this afternoon. I know sometimes it takes a little bit to get here. And I also want to thank the honorees for really coming toward us and being here for us. I was on the selection committee and it was a very humbling experience to see all the applications that they came in.

01:27:29:16 - 01:27:50:15

Speaker 1

We were a little overwhelmed with the response we got from the community. And even after we had made the selection, a lot of people called and said, can I nominate? So now I missed the deadline, but I really think she deserves it. And for us that was like, wow, especially for me. It was like, wow, all these Latinos that I don't know that are just outstanding.

01:27:50:15 - 01:28:13:10

Speaker 1

I read every application and it was such a hard decision. Sometimes it was like, you know, let's well, let's offer a hundred. But we couldn't do that but that's what we're here. And I also and we also have certificates from some people for them. We have certificates from Rubén Morales, Mike Honda, Ted Lambert, Fire Insurance, Joseph Smeaton and Anna Ascher.

01:28:13:10 - 01:28:31:28

Speaker 1

And they'll see this at the end. And before I leave, I want him to say, You're enough. Everybody is the co-chair of the YWCA, present board of directors and name. Thank you, Teresa. I want to thank you for and the committee for putting on this wonderful event, and I think they deserve it.

01:28:31:28 - 01:28:38:18

Unknown

I can and maybe No.

01:28:38:18 - 01:28:59:03

Speaker 1

Sweetie wouldn't be here this weekend. I'd like to thank all of you for being here and showing your support. Not only to the YWCA, the Peninsula, but all these wonderful women, and I hope, like me, all of you have been humbled, inspired and moved by what you've heard this afternoon. I certainly have. And I was brought to tears a lot of times.

01:28:59:03 - 01:29:24:28

Speaker 1

It's just wonderful to hear. And believe me, as a woman and a woman of color I'm strengthened by the work you do and I'm very proud of what you're doing for us and for our children. And the work is not done. We need all of you and women like these to continue the work that words start. We started and we continue to do so.

01:29:24:28 - 01:29:32:21

Speaker 1

Please join the YWCA and all of these women in working towards that goal to empower women.

01:29:32:27 - 01:29:34:04

Unknown

And to eliminate racism.