

00:00:02:11 - 00:01:09:07

Unknown

By the on of them. By the other. Eventually they'll be mad. And this will be one of the open up.

00:01:09:09 - 00:01:16:16

Unknown

Day. But let us be a little bit of. You want to a.

00:01:16:19 - 00:01:25:17

Unknown

Follow. Because you don't want to have a look at that.

00:01:25:19 - 00:01:37:19

Unknown

You.

00:01:37:21 - 00:01:46:08

Unknown

You look at it.

00:01:46:10 - 00:02:06:23

Unknown

Look at. It.

00:02:06:25 - 00:02:12:26

Unknown

Oh, no. Oh!

00:02:12:29 - 00:02:28:21

Unknown

No.

00:02:28:24 - 00:02:30:06

Unknown

If you could see the.

00:02:30:08 - 00:02:41:20

Speaker 2

The disciples that right before me. I'm very, very pleased to be here tonight as your master of ceremonies. And I have the wonderful challenge of projecting my.

00:02:41:22 - 00:02:43:20

Speaker 3

Without my responses to appear.

00:02:43:26 - 00:02:46:24

Speaker 2

This is for the camera.

00:02:46:26 - 00:02:48:25

Speaker 3

Because I know.

00:02:48:28 - 00:02:53:19

Speaker 2

I'd like to welcome you all to this very, very special.

00:02:53:22 - 00:03:01:21

Unknown

And I'd like to especially acknowledge.

00:03:01:23 - 00:03:09:07

Speaker 2

Assemblyman.

00:03:09:09 - 00:03:18:25

Speaker 2

We have Cindy Chavez here today. She's running for city council. Where are you? Cindy?

00:03:18:28 - 00:03:27:22

Speaker 2

Sergio Casanova of the Mexican Council.

00:03:27:25 - 00:03:38:06

Speaker 2

We had Fred Coca of the GI forum, California state chairman.

00:03:38:09 - 00:03:46:01

Speaker 2

Mariana Tinoco, state chairman, chairwoman of this GI forum.

00:03:46:03 - 00:03:49:21

Unknown

You have been there.

00:03:49:23 - 00:03:58:20

Speaker 2

We also have Charlie Trujillo, publisher and writer, with us tonight.

00:03:58:23 - 00:04:09:09

Speaker 2

Gilbert Morales, the publisher of El Observateur.

00:04:09:11 - 00:04:18:07

Speaker 2

We have Sonya Saavedra, Miss Fremont, Newark with us tonight. So.

00:04:18:10 - 00:04:26:24

Speaker 2

And Senator Perez, I saw around here somewhere. There she is.

00:04:26:26 - 00:04:38:23

Speaker 2

So now that San Jose's GI forum and California State GI forum, Queen.

00:04:38:26 - 00:04:50:00

Speaker 2

I'd also like to take a moment to introduce the board of the GI forum, including Robert Guerra, vice chairman.

00:04:50:02 - 00:04:58:06

Speaker 2

Billy Conte, Billy Contreras, treasurer.

00:04:58:08 - 00:05:06:07

Speaker 2

Maggie Madsen, your special projects director. Over by the door.

00:05:06:09 - 00:05:14:21

Speaker 2

Lydia Delgadillo, administrative assistant. Is she here?

00:05:14:24 - 00:05:36:21

Speaker 2

Able quarter direct executive director. Able. And last but not least, I'd like to introduce David Rodriguez, the chairman, who's going to come and share a few words with you.

00:05:36:24 - 00:05:52:27

Speaker 4

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I'm really happy to you. we're able to come down to our, our, Grand masters reception. there's a few things that I want to say that, I hope that you will be able to, come to some of our other functions that we have on the 26th of September.

00:05:52:27 - 00:06:17:09

Speaker 4

We're having a groundbreaking for our new building, and it's going to be on, on Roberts Street and, Story Road right behind Super Kmart. I'm happy that you were able to come. And I hope you enjoy yourself. And, I hope you have a lot of fun at our festival tomorrow. Thank you.

00:06:17:11 - 00:06:29:07

Speaker 2

I apologize, I neglected to mention Alviso via Lobos. Who? The chaplain of the GI forum as well.

00:06:29:10 - 00:06:53:08

Speaker 2

before I continue, I guess I should let you know. There are fliers about Latino 98 around the room. There will be a drawing later for two tickets to this, as well as some of these lithographs that are on the walls.

They're lovely. So when you have a chance, come and look at them. And who would be the contact for people to get tickets?

00:06:53:10 - 00:07:03:19

Speaker 2

Gus Lerma okay, there he is in the red shirt. The only man with a red shirt on tonight. So go get him.

00:07:03:22 - 00:07:15:28

Speaker 2

Three tickets. Two. Two free tickets. Very important word. For.

00:07:16:01 - 00:07:52:20

Speaker 2

drawing will be held for door prizes courtesy of the Lockheed Martin Latino Mentoring Network. As well. I'd like to share a few words with you this evening. with regard to why we have joined together today. Today we have joined to celebrate the strength, dignity and spiritual sense of community that permeates the Mexican Independence Day holiday of 188 years ago, on September 16th, 1810, the people of Mexico waged war against the Spanish oppression.

00:07:52:23 - 00:08:34:07

Speaker 2

Miguel Hidalgo y Castilla rang his church bell that Sunday morning, summoning the townspeople to witness his grito de dollars. What began as an individual cry for independence evolved into a collective cry for freedom. Miguel Hidalgo echoes was captured and killed by Spanish troops in 1811. The war raged ten more years until 1821, when Mexico announced her independence. Tomorrow, over 150,000 spectators will jam downtown San Jose to celebrate this historic event.

00:08:34:09 - 00:09:07:27

Speaker 2

The San Jose American GI forum, the largest chapter on the West Coast, is the sponsor of this tremendous event, organized in 1959 by a group of San Jose police officers and other community activists, the GI forum has been on a mission to preserve the dignity and culture of the Mexican-

American community, encourage education, and develop responsible Mexican-American community leaders.

00:09:08:00 - 00:09:31:03

Speaker 2

This will be a big year for the GI forum, as well, as they will be breaking ground on their new social hall and office building in East San Jose on September 26th of this year. I have been fortunate to be a part of the Board of Directors of the GI Forum Scholarship Foundation for the past ten years, as the Pacific Bell Corporate Representative.

00:09:31:05 - 00:09:49:03

Speaker 2

Since 1972, when the foundation was established, over 1000 students have been awarded more than \$1 million. That's something to be very proud of.

00:09:49:05 - 00:10:23:23

Speaker 2

I encourage each one of you to consider providing your support to this very, very worthy cause. Finally, I'd like to introduce a very important person this evening. It's the guest of honor. Our grand marshal was born in Edinburg, Texas. We won't say when. He was one of 11 children of a migrant farm worker family, was highly decorated as a combat veteran and a recipient of the Purple Heart.

00:10:23:25 - 00:10:58:11

Speaker 2

He has a BA in sociology and Ethnic Studies from Western Washington University, an Ma in Sociology and Anthropology from Western University, U.S. Department of Education PhD fellowship awardee in 1974. He's a recipient of the Stanford University National Endowment for the Humanities Research grant. He's a community college and university professor for over 20 years, national vice commander and member of the GI forum since 1970.

00:10:58:11 - 00:11:24:05

Speaker 2

And I'd like to introduce to you the now National Commander of the American GI forum of the United States, Grand Marshal of the 1998 Fiestas Patriots. Francisco F Evar.

00:11:24:08 - 00:11:31:07

Speaker 5

Thank you.

00:11:31:09 - 00:12:05:10

Speaker 5

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I'm gonna try and move this mic a little bit out of out of place here. I, really appreciate the warm welcome and your applause. I, also want to, acknowledge, a few people, that are here that are friends of mine. But, before that, I do want to acknowledge one very large group that helped me, get elected and become the national commander of the American GI forum.

00:12:05:12 - 00:12:16:13

Speaker 5

And that is the California delegation.

00:12:16:15 - 00:12:38:28

Speaker 5

Thank you. like, at this time, I'd like to acknowledge, some very special friends of mine, Doctor Luna and his wife, who came here from Fresno. Doctor Luna and I go back, many years back. That's where I started my teaching. was at the University of California State University, Fresno. Doctor Luna and his wife.

00:12:39:00 - 00:12:55:19

Speaker 5

Also, I'd like to introduce another very good friend of mine, Mr. Simone Salinas, who is from Salinas, California. He is the, Monterey County supervisor there. Someone.

00:12:55:21 - 00:13:22:20



Speaker 5

There are two individuals that I want to, also acknowledge. Tonight, before I begin to talk a few words here about, the direction I think we should be going and the history a little bit about the GI forum. several years back, I lost my parents. and it's very hard for me. And, it took me a long time to get over that, but, I've been very grateful that I was able to, meet these two individuals.

00:13:22:22 - 00:13:46:28

Speaker 5

And they have met and still mean a great deal to me. They are very special to me. I admired them, and I have a lot of respect for them because I consider them as part of my family now. And, I would like for you to please acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Vasquez.

00:13:47:00 - 00:14:15:23

Speaker 5

I've done a lot of traveling in the last few days, and I was in Corpus Christi Wednesday, Thursday last. Yesterday I was in Dallas. I flew in last night. this week I will be flying back to Seattle. as you know, the American GI forum has, an AI bond that we are promoting throughout the country with the Department of the Treasury regarding, our founder, Doctor Hector P Garcia.

00:14:15:25 - 00:14:41:05

Speaker 5

We have a, an AI bond that, we will be, promoting nationally. So I have to be back in Seattle on, Thursday to do that. And then on, Saturday I fly to Washington, DC, and then Sunday we have, as you know, our annual, gala for honoring Hispanic veterans in Washington, DC. Monday, I will be at the, Hispanic Heritage Awards.

00:14:41:08 - 00:15:04:18

Speaker 5

Tuesday, I meet with the Veterans Administration people to talk about the American GI forum and how we can, create partnerships and move our organization forward. Wednesday, I meet with a Hispanic caucus. And Wednesday evening, I think, is the, as they say, the voting, Vice President Al Gore has invited me to have dinner with him.

00:15:04:21 - 00:15:27:24

Speaker 5

and I'm going to talk to him about the GI forum Hispanic community and how we can work together, put together partnerships, create coalitions, and move forward. as a population that is going to hopefully support the next president of United States, al Gore.

00:15:27:27 - 00:15:59:26

Speaker 5

As I travel across this country, and I do a great deal of traveling, I am often asked, what is the American GI forum? And most often the answer to that is that we are a Hispanic veterans family organization. But I think we're more than that. I think the American GI forum is an American institution. I think that the American GI forum, along with the founding, the Constitution of the United States, have something very well in common.

00:15:59:29 - 00:16:26:26

Speaker 5

And that is the same principles are applicable to the American GI forum. We're about democracy. We're about freedom, and we're about equal rights. In fact, to tell you a little bit about our history and some of you already know about it. In 1949, when Private Felix Longoria was returned from the Philippines for burial in his hometown of Three Rivers, Texas, the funeral chaplain, the chapel director, refused.

00:16:26:29 - 00:16:54:24

Speaker 5

his family and the burial of their son and three rivers, Texas cemetery. at that time, we, of course, our founder had, already put in place the American GI forum. And this is what happened. This is a little bit of the conversation that took place during that time. This is a conversation between Doctor Hector Garcia, the founder of the American GI forum, and Mr. Tom Kennedy, the owner of the chapel.

00:16:54:27 - 00:17:15:20

Speaker 5

Mr. Kennedy, this is what Mr. Garcia says to him. Doctor Garcia, I have just or this is Kennedy saying I just have to do what the white people want. The white people just don't like it. Doctor Garcia, this man is a veteran. I mean, a soldier who was killed in action. And he is worthy of our greatest honors.

00:17:15:22 - 00:17:23:24

Speaker 5

Doesn't that make a difference, Mr. Kennedy? No, that does not make a difference.

00:17:23:26 - 00:17:55:10

Speaker 5

Learning of this injustice and realizing that the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars would not take action to correct this wrong, Doctor Garcia gathered the newly elected officials of the American GI forum and demanded that Private Felix Longoria be buried there. Unfortunately, things did not go as well as they had planned, but with the help of Lyndon Johnson, who was then state representative, Felix Longoria was buried at Arlington Cemetery with full military honors.

00:17:55:13 - 00:18:22:29

Speaker 5

This was the beginning of the American GI forum 50 years ago, and we are still today trying to correct some of the things that are being done wrong to our community. The American GI forum is about who we are as a people. To me, it is equally important to be an American as it is to be Mexican. When I was growing up in a small rural town, I would often ask my father guest instead.

00:18:23:01 - 00:18:51:21

Speaker 5

What do you identify yourself as a Mexican or in American history? His answer was really, quite direct and precise, and he would say, so Americano better? Do I look better? Yes. También soy mexicano. Yes. Well, I understood what he's done. What? He was telling me that he was an American and he was willing to die for this country, but I had a hard time trying to figure out at that age what Scotch was meant.

00:18:51:23 - 00:19:17:15

Speaker 5

But I guess today we would say that he was Mexican to the max. And my father was right. I think we need to remember our roots. I think we need to remember who we are. We need to appreciate our culture, value our family structure. And that is why I think that the San Jose chapter should be commended for having celebrations such as Cinco de Mayo and today's the.

00:19:17:15 - 00:19:47:14

Speaker 5

As you say this at the emblem, I think these are celebrations that are historically meaningful and symbolic. They symbolize our pride. They symbolize our vitality, our courage, our valor, our cooperation and our empowerment. The American GI forum is also an organization that values education on rispetto, respect in our elders, respect in our community, our community, respecting our parents, and also educational attainment, as you know.

00:19:47:14 - 00:20:18:21

Speaker 5

And it's already been mentioned, the San Jose chapter provides thousands of dollars for scholarships for our youth, and so does our national office of the Hispanic Educational Foundation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In fact, our motto is education is our freedom and freedom should be everybody's business. So I ask you to make education your business. I ask you to please support our efforts, our scholarship efforts locally and nationally.

00:20:18:23 - 00:20:44:12

Speaker 5

We are a family veterans organization that values the contributions that have been made by our Hispanic veterans. The Hispanic soldier has served in every campaign, peacekeeping mission, police action, and war that we have been called upon. In fact, according to Raul Marine, among the valiant Hispanic population, veteran population and proportion has received more medals of any other ethnic group.

00:20:44:15 - 00:21:25:19

Speaker 5

38 Medal of Congressional Medal of Honor 13. Alone in Vietnam. This history has a very proud history, but it's also a history of great sacrifice. We had high casualty rates in World War Two, Korea and in Vietnam, 5.2% of the total casualties were Hispanic, compared to 1.8 the casualty rate of non-Hispanics. And ladies and gentlemen, if you ever go to Washington DC and you take advantage of going to the wall, I have to tell you this 23% of the names on that wall are Hispanic.

00:21:25:21 - 00:21:41:23

Speaker 5

It's a very high price. We paid. So they should not question who we are. In fact, they should value what we have to do and what we contribute to this society.

00:21:41:26 - 00:21:44:19

Unknown

We are about we are about inclusion.

00:21:44:24 - 00:22:09:28

Speaker 5

The American GI forum is about inclusion and respect and diversity. If you look around here, you'll see that we value and encourage participation by our women and by our youth, and also by non-Hispanics, and we value their participation because this makes our organization stronger. It creates our membership as far as goes for our family, a unit, and we value that greatly.

00:22:10:01 - 00:22:38:08

Speaker 5

We're about community, as you know, and I don't have to tell you that the Hispanic community is going to change the face of America. In fact, many, many metropolitan areas throughout the southwest and in California now have over 50% of the population being Hispanic. But group. But growth the numbers do not necessarily correlate with educational attainment, economic power, and political power.

00:22:38:10 - 00:23:09:12

Speaker 5

To ensure this correlation, we need to help our youth in our community complete their education, have them registered and vote, encourage opportunities for economic investment, and help elect the politicians who support our initiatives and our community. The American G.I. form has a proud history of advocating, advancing, and addressing civil rights. Since 1948, we have been involved with school desegregation, voter registration, and confronting media stereotypes and distortions.

00:23:09:15 - 00:23:27:10

Speaker 5

And so now we come to California. And in fact, I was in Texas and my friends were telling me, gee whiz, I thought California was a liberal state. But all those initiatives that are being passed seem to hurt our community. And I think we need to change that. And I think that the American G.I. forum has to take the lead on that.

00:23:27:12 - 00:23:38:07

Speaker 5

And I'm willing to to support you as your national commander on that.

00:23:38:09 - 00:24:07:00

Speaker 5

Let me leave you with these thoughts. Ironically, approximately 30 years ago today in Vietnam. I and my friends ran into an ambush. I lost four of my friends that afternoon, and I was almost killed. I was scared, I was exhausted, and I had very little motivation. After a while, though, my mind began to wonder and I remembered my father's words.

00:24:07:03 - 00:24:35:05

Speaker 5

I could see it in your nose, they told me. The two married to Piease get in. Mexicano. And so I ask you tonight to remember this, to remember your principles, to remember your commitment, and to remember your convictions. And that you never give up on this country, that you never gave up on yourself, that you never gave up on each other, and that we never gave up on the American GI forum.

00:24:35:10 - 00:25:07:17

Speaker 5

Thank you.

00:25:07:20 - 00:25:31:24

Speaker 2

I think we have all been very moved and motivated by Mr. Obama's very pointed speech. That helps us to remember who we are, where we come from, and what our charter is, and how we can all make a difference one by one, one day at a time. I've been asked to introduce Senator Perez to come up and say a few words to us.

00:25:31:26 - 00:25:48:04

Speaker 2

Did you know this, Senator? You look surprised. Oh. Oh.

00:25:48:06 - 00:26:09:28

Speaker 6

Had I known that I was going to be speaking, I would have prepared something. But, first of all, I'd like to thank the National for you out to your. Your words were beautiful. And I really want to thank you for being here with us this weekend and celebrating our Mexican independence. I'm honored to be here. And, last time I was here was Cinco de Mayo, and I was in San Jose.

00:26:09:28 - 00:26:29:03

Speaker 6

And a lot has happened since then, and I've gone. I went to California and I went to California title, and I went to nationals, and I represented you very well. I got first runner up. And, I'm really happy to be here today representing you and this weekend. And, I look forward to speaking with all of you tonight.

00:26:29:03 - 00:26:54:21

Speaker 6

And if you have any suggestions, comments or anything, I really would like to hear them. If you if you'd like me to speak for anything, I'd be wonderful. So, enjoy your, evening, and I'll see you all tomorrow.

00:26:54:23 - 00:27:18:19

Speaker 2

I know that everyone here is very proud of Senator and her accomplishments in representing the GI forum from San Jose. Very well in California, and also in the national chapter. She went to school with my daughter in high school. So I'm particularly proud because I've seen her on the stage many times. And with that, I'd like to thank you all for coming, invite you that there's lots of food and the bar is still open.

00:27:18:19 - 00:27:21:03

Speaker 2

Please enjoy the evening.

00:27:21:05 - 00:27:34:05

Unknown

You can go.

00:27:34:07 - 00:28:31:08

Unknown

Out.

00:28:31:10 - 00:29:00:19

Unknown

00:29:00:21 - 00:29:08:12

Unknown

Thank you.

00:29:08:14 - 00:29:13:18

Unknown

I.

00:29:13:20 - 00:29:21:00

Unknown

Have.

00:29:21:02 - 00:29:32:17

Unknown

No.

00:29:32:19 - 00:29:47:07



Unknown

00:29:47:09 - 00:29:55:14

Unknown

Harry.

00:29:55:17 - 00:30:06:02

Unknown

Nobody.

00:30:06:05 - 00:30:10:16

Speaker 4

Lobo. Voice on Miguel Lobo. For. For San Miguel.

00:30:10:19 - 00:30:16:17

Unknown

Lawyer -210.

00:30:16:19 - 00:30:30:22

Speaker 4

Oh, yeah? Whose damn you got it all wrong? Oh, my God damn! You hit it on your thumb. You will live on the end. How? Garo kills Tamiya facility.

00:30:30:25 - 00:30:35:25

Speaker 3

And the event practices.

00:30:35:28 - 00:31:08:06

Speaker 3

We are very rapidly developing the downtown core neighborhood. This is a new phenomenon. We have not had a densely populated area in the core and the beginnings of it. The very recent times. Then creates an atmosphere that it must be dealt with, because now we're dealing in an area with people's homes. We've seen merchants begin to return downtown trying to become viable.

00:31:08:06 - 00:31:37:13

Speaker 3

You it's important that we continue to encourage them and nurture because it's part of the family. The critical mass is a factor to any event planning. I don't think common sense would lead us to believe otherwise, because if it does, we're going to make some great mistakes. And and I planning. Festivals and cultural events along the core of the city.

00:31:37:13 - 00:31:57:02

Speaker 3

That's the heart and soul of the city is at its core. And to extract those homes from it leaves voids in the core that can't be filled. Whether there's a consequence, I think, of, at least for me, these events have been.