

00:00:02:27 - 00:00:38:16

Speaker 1

Hey, my name is Sasso Flores. Mendez. my name is Cesar Flores. Mendez. I believe the Americans you have formed now for 40 years says very, very glad that that they finally got build a permanent location for themselves here in San Jose. And it will establish in the community as community leaders and use it would work very fairly well with the whole community and building better relationships with all that.

00:00:38:18 - 00:00:43:11

Speaker 2

Okay. Just hold it right there.

00:00:43:13 - 00:01:15:07

Speaker 2

You know, opinion. The estamos aqui esta villa for care. Vamos. la Ben. Nice. That tierra. Okay, I'll grab a tierra that I think up by the guy farm. He met me. mucho. I said yes, ma'am. Where you going to start? Aqui para esta. Okay, okay. Comienza la nueva del gi form bond progress. Though estou viendo assisting.

00:01:15:09 - 00:01:31:08

Speaker 2

Though al knows better than most México Americanos, he trusts veteran nurse and friendly Santa Clara. Muchas gracias. Even many of us. I tell them under.

00:01:31:10 - 00:01:57:09

Speaker 2

Well, I think this is a wonderful, beginning for what I hope to be a one of the hallmarks, for the American GI forum nationally. As you know, we started 50 years ago, trying to fight, racism that kept our fighting men from being buried in U.S. cemeteries. But now the GI forum here in San Jose has broken new ground in this, place.

00:01:57:09 - 00:02:25:16

Speaker 2

It'll be also breaking new ground with respect to its own activism within our community. And it's to be congratulated. And the members that have been volunteering in all areas illustrate the importance of working collaboratively with other organizations, with other groups and their members, really feel what it is to be true Americans. And I congratulate the GI forum for that.

00:02:25:18 - 00:02:48:16

Speaker 1

My name is Jojo the Clown. I've been doing this, GI forum with the GI forum parade for many years, to be exact. In 1986, Pete, Gonzalez invited me to do this parade, and I've been here ever since, and I enjoy being with, GI form. They're like my brothers and sisters, and I enjoy being with them.

00:02:48:19 - 00:03:17:21

Speaker 1

every year that I come to the parade, they wish me all the luck in the world. And this year, I don't know where they, got me from, but they. I was having tears in my eyes. Whatever I wrote, read the story. Sounds a San Jose state, was interviewing me about why I'm here today. and I told them that I always do this parade and here I am, doing with the groundbreaking.

00:03:17:23 - 00:03:36:22

Speaker 1

Then they're part of me, and I guess I really like what they're doing, and I always trying to help them out, whatever I could. And thank you again for interviewing me again. But he never gives me any pictures all the time. Thank you.

00:03:36:25 - 00:03:37:17

Speaker 3

Okay. I'll be doing.

00:03:37:22 - 00:03:42:17

Speaker 4

Okay.

00:03:42:19 - 00:04:08:16

Speaker 4

Good morning everybody. My name is Richard Martinez. I'm the commander for the, GI forum, East Valley chapter, our sister chapter. I'm so happy today because it's going to be a history making day since it's the grand opening, or the groundbreaking ceremonies for the San Jose chapter who has waited for years to get this building. And we're all praying and hoping that we don't get rained upon.

00:04:08:16 - 00:04:32:13

Speaker 4

But I want to congratulate, the San Jose chapter for all the accomplishment they have done in the past 40 years, in particular the, building that will be built here and will be, one of the best, if not the best in the country. And I want to thank the San Jose chapter for their invitation to, to our chapter in, we're with you all the way, 100%.

00:04:32:15 - 00:04:39:07

Speaker 4

Thank you very much.

00:04:39:09 - 00:05:08:13

Speaker 2

Yeah. the, commander of the Modesto chapter and also state chaplain, it's an an honor to be here and, wishing God to help us on this new building that's going to be dedicated today. And it'll be, good thing for the whole community in our showplace for the state of California. So I'm very pleased and honored to be here with my wife, Gracie.

00:05:08:16 - 00:05:29:27

Speaker 2

And so, as I said, we're here, we're brothers partners that this is one of the, nine months of our state. And then a lot of people would be very proud of, we'll we'll be reaching out to the community to help the need it and the poor. So what this is what the GI forum is all about.

00:05:30:00 - 00:05:57:05

Speaker 2

That's what Doctor Garcia wanted to see. So that's the reason why we are here. Gathered with a lot of older brothers, sisters and or young people. Also, they're here very important to us because they will be the leadership of our, future. Yeah. the GI forum. Thank you. Yeah.

00:05:57:08 - 00:06:15:08

Speaker 2

Greetings. I'm very honored to be here today, for this this project, I think that, it's it's a new beginning for the forum. you know, in the community in the past, they've they've been instrumental in the community politically, socially and in rehab, rehabilitation and, over with the house, over on Quimby Road.

00:06:15:15 - 00:06:31:08

Speaker 2

But now, when this facility is done, I think they're going to take the next step up and be able to contribute to the community even more with the facility. So I'm happy to be here. I'm honored to be here and look forward to seeing the project through. since everyone had their share of doing a lot of hard work and getting this, project completed.

00:06:31:08 - 00:06:42:26

Speaker 2

Thank you again. hopefully, you'll fill me again and see me again when we're done. Thank you. Okay.

00:06:42:28 - 00:07:13:16

Speaker 5

Good morning. my name is Billy Contreras, and I'm the treasurer of the San Jose GI forum. And I'm very happy to be here on this great occasion. Groundbreaking for a building that we've been waiting 40 years to do. But, everything is going to be, all right from now on. And, we hope that everybody and with the help of all that are here today and, people around that, we can start on our building and finish it and completed so we can have our first Coronation Ball there in April.

00:07:13:19 - 00:07:20:29

Speaker 5

Thank you. My.

00:07:21:02 - 00:07:54:17

Speaker 1

I am Joe Rodriguez. I am with the Office of Cultural Affairs in charge of the city's cultural development programs, and I'm here to be part of the wonderful celebration and also recognizing the accomplishments of G.I. forum and what is happening today. So I'm really pleased on behalf of city to be here today. Thank you.

00:07:54:19 - 00:08:04:28

Unknown

I think it.

00:08:05:01 - 00:08:24:15

Speaker 4

Looks like, like this. Okay. Hi, my name is Tom Kato. I represent Sumitomo Bank, and, we're very happy to get involved in this very important project. in the form of, construction lender.

00:08:24:18 - 00:08:40:26

Speaker 3

No, I just, you know, they call us if we don't agree. I formed one, but, I don't know. And as well as not to say anything, say hi. Graduates here. I know there's two behind me. There's another.

00:08:40:29 - 00:09:08:28

Speaker 3

It was, you said that the tiny but significant, sitting on, off of alum Rock and Ken, president. And a place that back then I remember as a place that changed young lives because it inspired people. I talked to a neighbor of mine last night who remembers, receiving the the award for a scholarship award for \$500 back in the 70s.

00:09:09:00 - 00:09:30:13

Speaker 3

But as in my case, when when I got the grant form scholarship, it was \$50. So times have changed, he remembers, as I do, the fact that it was not the impact that the monetary donation did for us, but the fact that it inspired us because it was such a tremendous vote of confidence, to, to young people.

00:09:30:16 - 00:09:59:16

Speaker 3

Then and now. And the fact that you have continued to do that through the years, through the decades, and now we'll have a tremendous facility in which to continue fulfilling your dream is something for me personally special because I have such a long, long bond, educationally, personally, going back to to when I was, when I was a young man and, as a citizen of this community, as somebody who has always admired what to do, I want to solidify very, very, sincerely, thank you for making me part of your celebration early on.

00:09:59:19 - 00:10:06:01

Speaker 3

You know, that's what I gotta excited about.

00:10:06:04 - 00:10:31:17

Speaker 3

As in so many cases, commander, who is also, called upon to MC several events, we all we more often than not receive a scripted item rather than and just bluffing it like some newscasters do. So if this script turns out to be excellent, I'll take the credit. If it doesn't, we'll blame channel five.

00:10:31:19 - 00:10:54:27

Speaker 3

And then go check on, I think I know a good 90% of you, but, for those of you who might haven't had the pleasure of it, it is indeed a pleasure. I'd like to welcome all of you on behalf of the American G.I. forum. As I will say on this very special occasion, today, we will initiate the groundbreaking for the construction of a new facility, which will serve as the main headquarters for the American Jazz Forum.

00:10:54:27 - 00:11:19:17

Speaker 3

Facility will offer a variety of services and benefits to not only the Hispanic community and Hispanic businesses, but the community at large. beyond the borders of, of Santa Clara County. To better express the message of the American GI forum, allow me to read the mission statement, which will better inform you of how this grant facility will benefit this place we call home.

00:11:19:19 - 00:11:51:10

Speaker 3

It is the mission of this ongoing state chapter of the American G.I. forum to preserve the dignity and cultural, diverse Latino community, to encourage educational achievement, and to and to develop productive community leaders. This mission statement holds strong promise and a common commitment to strive for a promising future. The American GI Forum's existence strives for a better tomorrow by assisting our communities today.

00:11:51:12 - 00:12:06:10

Speaker 3

Today at our groundbreaking ceremony, we'd like to pay a special tribute to Doctor Hector Garcia, founder of the American G.I. forum.

00:12:06:13 - 00:12:34:26

Speaker 3

When he founded the very first chapter of the American G.I. forum 50 years ago, he had a dream that other parts of the country would also establish their own chapter with one shared goal. Today, there are chapters in over 30 states, meaning that his dreams were realized throughout the passage of time. We feel that this is the perfect day and occasion to pay a special tribute to his everlasting memory.

00:12:34:29 - 00:13:08:18

Speaker 3

Today, on September 26th, 1998, the son of the Guy forum shares the same feeling and pride of realizing his dream. But it shouldn't stop here. Allow me to ask you to think of the future and dream. Think about our social, economic and political status today. Then dream of a better tomorrow and how you can contribute to the future of our families and our communities with these thoughts and dreams of our future in mind, let's stand together hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, and with total respect.

00:13:08:20 - 00:13:36:05

Speaker 3

Let's take a minute for the memory of Doctor Hector Garcia, a dreamer. Let's take that minute.

00:13:36:07 - 00:14:12:16

Speaker 3

Thank you, Doctor Garcia. Leadership and contribution as a man symbolizes humanity, kindness, and compatibility amongst the people from our country's city halls to our country's homes. A great leader blossomed within the American G.I. forum. And in his spirit as a great man, continue flowing in our paths. And may many great leaders soon blossom from this new facility to be as greater or greater leaders of our communities, in our homes, here in this city and beyond.

00:14:12:18 - 00:14:27:28

Speaker 3

With the support of the American G.I. forum represented here today, meet that dreamer icon Garcia, to live on forever.

00:14:28:00 - 00:14:40:28

Speaker 3

At this point, it's my honor to introduce to you the chairman of the American G.I. forum and a good friend, David Rodriguez, who is one of those high bulldogs I mentioned.

00:14:41:00 - 00:15:00:24

Speaker 3

I don't know if this is indicative of the passage of time, but when I ran for office in high school, David was in my class, and I asked him if he voted for him, and he says he doesn't remember that. He's an outstanding Hispanic community leader representing the G.I. forum nation wide. And we'll say chapter is one of the most powerful organizations in the nation.

00:15:00:24 - 00:15:17:01

Speaker 3

And David has rendered unlimited support in the building of the new facility and his product and service community with loyalty and indefinite dedication. Ladies and gentlemen, to know that one of the biggest.

00:15:17:04 - 00:15:24:25

Speaker 4

Thank you all for coming on the big, And I have to say that I do about how we.

00:15:24:25 - 00:15:28:24

Speaker 3

All come and enjoy our groundbreaking.

00:15:28:26 - 00:15:33:28

Speaker 4

And, I just got, Francis of Assisi,

00:15:34:01 - 00:15:36:24

Speaker 3

Like a picture from any of the couples.

00:15:36:26 - 00:15:45:07

Speaker 4

That she got it from. and, know, and, of course, is going to go to where I will be. And I wanted to thank her for that.

00:15:45:10 - 00:15:49:28

Unknown

from the heart.

00:15:50:00 - 00:15:56:21

Speaker 4

And I'm sorry. Anything else. But I got it together, and, of course, Canada. And here is Italian.

00:15:56:23 - 00:16:00:14

Speaker 3

And she gave me that, it's going to be put in our office in this country.

00:16:00:16 - 00:16:03:23

Speaker 4

And, I'd like to welcome you all. And thank you for coming.

00:16:03:24 - 00:16:13:23

Speaker 3

And I hope you have a good time here.

00:16:13:26 - 00:16:43:00

Speaker 3

Thank you, David, very much. There are I now to briefly introduce them at this time. And as we introduce, they will we will ask them to stand, so we can properly recognize, a young lady who has brought tremendous pride to this community, especially in the last few months. But throughout her educational career, because she has been, so successful scholastically, Senator Peters is a freshman at UC Berkeley studying corporate law presents.

00:16:43:00 - 00:16:49:09

Speaker 3

Are you and the future of the uniform Reforms, the local chapter in the California Department.

00:16:49:13 - 00:16:54:04

Unknown

Of the word?

00:16:54:07 - 00:17:04:29

Speaker 3

Thank you for and it is an honor to have her here today. Continued success. Go bears.

00:17:05:02 - 00:17:26:20

Speaker 3

Would like to give a special tribute to the past chairman of the town's Education Forum. As chairman, these are people who have dedicated a lot of time and effort. They've been strong community leaders and their efforts have been appreciated in the past, and their impact goes well beyond today. They've been instrumental in every phase of the GI Forum's goal.

00:17:26:22 - 00:17:47:00

Speaker 3

We thank them for helping not only to jack for them, but the community at large, and to continue an ongoing green light to introduce and David's hero, David Berkeley. Frank Carrero.

00:17:47:03 - 00:17:52:12

Speaker 3

Abel Cota.

00:17:52:15 - 00:17:59:02

Speaker 3

Pedro Gonzalez.

00:17:59:04 - 00:18:10:18

Speaker 3

Humberto Garza that's with the note to Victor. I would have said considerably wiser and more experienced.

00:18:10:20 - 00:18:36:26

Speaker 3

Here, I would also like to introduce to you the Manana San Jose GI forum. You. Thank you for joining us. Your presence here is very important to us because each of you, our community leaders, are part of that.

00:18:36:28 - 00:19:10:22

Speaker 3

We are all here today to celebrate in an accomplishment. This dream is a result of a lot of hard work, time, dedication, teamwork, community, and political support. Do you have forum building Committee deserves a lot of credit and eternal gratitude. Therefore, I'd like to introduce to you the members of the Building Committee at this time. Building Committee Chairman will contact.

00:19:10:25 - 00:19:17:25

Speaker 3

The committee members first time I know.

00:19:17:27 - 00:19:27:12

Speaker 3

Probably. By the way. Yes. Gus Lerma.

00:19:27:14 - 00:19:32:14

Speaker 3

Frank Caballero.

00:19:32:17 - 00:19:37:14

Speaker 3

Jack o Weiner.

00:19:37:17 - 00:19:47:09

Speaker 3

They will be with us. And David Sierra.

00:19:47:12 - 00:19:51:07

Speaker 3

Pete Gonzalez.

00:19:51:10 - 00:20:01:11

Speaker 3

Just a good sidebar, but, but, Jack, going back and, May of 1970.

00:20:01:14 - 00:20:21:28

Speaker 3

After I closed down a small business, I had, at the time, right after college, I find myself in need of a study of one I wasn't. I realized that, eventually I was going to go into, into broadcasting. I'd have to have a bit of money saved in the bank. And, having my small income tax business wasn't going to cut it.

00:20:22:00 - 00:20:42:11

Speaker 3

I went to look for a job and called on my good friend Martinez, who then was the executive director of operations, said operations had at that time had an office on East Court about 101 and one in South Second Street. I remember a lot of faces starting from that time, as I said, so there is a job.

00:20:42:12 - 00:21:04:15

Speaker 3

There is if there is an opening. But the board, for this particular position is insisting on conducting interviews at the board level. so stop by to tonight at 730 and go for it with the board. I got there and there was another then also a young man standing on the sidewalk waiting for his interview.

00:21:04:17 - 00:21:31:01

Speaker 3

And that and so in conversation is what struck a friendship that has lasted ever since. And that young man was one Jack Elmer. We were interviewing. We were interviewing for the same job in May of 1970,

interviewing for the same job. I don't know how Jack did because I did okay, because I got the job. But in retrospect, he must have done very well.

00:21:31:08 - 00:21:51:20

Speaker 3

He got the job also. They opened up another position because it couldn't turn either one of us down. for those of you who know us, we may have talked him into fatigue right back up. That's only the minor part of my story about Jack of the language. Those of you would not personally know that this is a man with.

00:21:51:22 - 00:22:04:07

Speaker 3

Western European background. And yet he only looks that way. He is old when amigo.

00:22:04:09 - 00:22:12:26

Speaker 3

As you know, Jack o.

00:22:12:29 - 00:22:27:27

Speaker 3

This point I'd like to introduce April 4th. the chairman of the building committee for over 40 years. The members that we have some nice things to say about.

00:22:27:29 - 00:22:51:23

Speaker 3

For over 40 years, the members of the G.I. forum have dreamed of having their own building. Whenever I became chairman in 1994, he pledged to the members of the organization would have a new home during his administration. His dream did not happen quite that fast. But dreams don't always materialize as fast, as fast as we wish when term as chairman expires.

00:22:51:26 - 00:23:22:15

Speaker 3

He continued as chairman of the building committee and moved ahead. His efforts as head of the building committee were recognized by the members of the G.I. forum in 1987 and 1998, when he was voted by his peers at the out as the Outstanding Member of the year. With the support of all the members and with headstrong persistence, dedication and leadership, April took the bull by its horns and showed us the way to realize our dream table represents the GI Forum's ideals, goals and dreams at City Hall.

00:23:22:17 - 00:23:35:24

Speaker 3

He was a strong man, admired, which is here feared. But it's all good because that is always in the interest of our community. Ladies and gentlemen.

00:23:35:27 - 00:23:42:26

Speaker 7

Mr..

00:23:42:29 - 00:24:08:13

Speaker 7

Oh, you have to excuse you. I have a call, but I'll be very brief. I think that I'll spend my little time that I have given you a little background. Back in 1971, we had the opportunity to get funding from the National, GI forum through the National Veterans Outreach Program. At that time, the membership, refused to buy a building, that, we figured we could use as our first headquarters.

00:24:08:13 - 00:24:51:25

Speaker 7

So 11 members of the G.I. forum personally out of their own pocket, took \$100 out and and put the down payment for the building that is now our headquarters, the 1680 alum Rock Avenue. This, I guess, was the first step in our economic development. Here we have something in the GI forum. it was just fortunate that, when I was executive director, during 1979, that at that time, again, we were blessed again with the fact that Dan McCorquodale, at that time, County Board of Supervisors, chairman of the board and Jack Wanger, which was at then has eight offered the G.I. forum, the possibility of getting funding to run

00:24:51:28 - 00:25:18:27

Speaker 7

the the Nueva knuckle recovery home. And at that time, the forum said, well, let's go forward. We don't know anything about alcohol, but I'm sure we can hire somebody, however we do consulting. So, we took that chance and, we got funded, and then the Cork and Dales efforts and Jack Langer, then, of course, that building that we bought for \$150,000 is not worth, almost 750,000.

00:25:18:27 - 00:25:42:26

Speaker 7

So and then again and again during my administration, I'm so fortunate. In 1983, blank Colorado, I don't know where they'd been. The other side if I was a representative. I got a phone call from her from, City Council. She said, hey, you know, this, parade of festival has done different than, do you think the forum can, you know, help us?

00:25:43:01 - 00:26:06:18

Speaker 7

we don't want to lose it and all that. So through the efforts of Blanca and, we really thank God that we were able to salvage the fiestas, but also, the parade paid off the \$10,000 debt that was owed to the city. And that made us a little bit of money, which we put away in our kitty, and that all that money that we've been saving, through the fiestas and through our programs and all of that is what led us to this building.

00:26:06:20 - 00:26:28:29

Speaker 7

So I just wanted to give you a little, history because everybody in the forum has played a part in it. I and even our, our city council, the Board of supervisors. And so I figure with that, I've said enough. And I hope you enjoy this today. Thank you.

00:26:29:02 - 00:26:40:22

Speaker 3

Didn't if you didn't over here block. When? When. And it was mentioned that she came out of nowhere. I came out of the East side.

00:26:40:24 - 00:26:48:24

Speaker 3

came in from the phone company.

00:26:48:27 - 00:27:18:18

Speaker 3

As you know, to take on a physical structure and the cost and all and all of that entails, obviously, you need financial backers and representing. We have individuals representing the two, banking institutions involved in this project. First, we'd like to welcome from Sumitomo Bank, Tom Prado up here.

00:27:18:21 - 00:27:44:24

Speaker 4

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I want to start my speech in a very nice piece of joke that many of Americans speak. I do, it's just I'm a Japanese. I don't have any. A nice joke to tell you. Is there the Japanese way is to start with the apologies. I have two apology to make. one of my physical interviews and the hiring Japanese.

00:27:44:26 - 00:28:16:16

Speaker 4

like I said, that you may have some difficulties understanding it. Second, apologies. I have to rely upon this script because all I can do is that it is. It is Japanese speech. But, I just, it doesn't make sense to you, so please allow me to get up on my script. Seriously, I want to thank you for this opportunity to to express Sumitomo for this appreciation for taking part in this wonderful and groundbreaking ceremony.

00:28:16:19 - 00:28:48:04

Speaker 4

Sumitomo is proud to be the construction vendor for the GI Forum's new headquarters building and assembly hall at Sumitomo. We value our partnership with Jack forum, who is working diligently to improve the quality of life for the residents of San Jose community. We are fully committed to investing in our local communities because as the, thriving community is a key to California's future, we commend the forum for bringing to fruition.

00:28:48:08 - 00:29:32:11

Speaker 4

It is a dream of a headquarters building and assembly hall to serve as a vital resource to some of the communities, not only with the this Development and Housing Forum's important programs and services. It will also provide much needed space for minority owned businesses and other nonprofits working to address critical and supportive. Sumitomo. Its goal of strengthening communities and realize the partnerships with essential nonprofit, community based businesses like GI for and congratulate Gia forum on this significant community initiative and look forward to the grand opening celebration of this development.

00:29:32:17 - 00:29:38:16

Speaker 4

Thank you very much.

00:29:38:18 - 00:29:56:07

Speaker 3

Thank you, Mr. Doctor, very much. As as, someone born, in Mexico, I believe, has that we should never apologize for our accent. I love you right here.

00:29:56:09 - 00:30:19:23

Speaker 3

And being in, in, visible media and one that gets into his share of criticism, we actually get calls and things. I get calls about having an accent people are hung up on. And so it's nice things is good, but, I don't hesitate to share with the callers who are upset by your accent that, our obligation to the English language is to speak grammatically correctly and we have an accent.

00:30:19:23 - 00:30:43:00

Speaker 3

Then the rest of it, for the first time that. I'm also reminded of, the caravan I worked with, in fact, covered the Mexico City earthquake with him and another brother trying assignments. Michelle Campbell is, is French. I was a cameraman who worked on many, many important assignments with me. Was was born in France.