

00:00:02:12 - 00:00:23:27

Speaker 1

Did you go for a pageant? Oh, just always in California. Yeah. Go on. My name is Daniel Garcia. I'm a reporter with the channel 11 news here in Somerset. It's the ABC affiliate, and I'll be serving as your Co master of ceremonies this evening.

00:00:24:00 - 00:00:45:18

Speaker 1

And without further ado, we're going to go ahead and get started. And the first thing that we have is to introduce, the judges tonight. Actually, they're, among the most important people here tonight will be judging and choosing the winner of tonight's pageant. And we're going to start from, this side here, going to introduce first, if necessary.

00:00:45:20 - 00:00:57:01

Speaker 1

and then. Yeah. And then there's the companion who is a, radio personality with, I've got some theories on. So.

00:00:57:03 - 00:01:23:09

Speaker 1

If you're desperate on, Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.. Mr.. Has a lot of experience here in California. Spanish language markets, political science in San Francisco. So glad to have him here tonight. Also, judging tonight is this lovely moment here in the in the red outfit. My dad runs is an anchor with channel 48 here in Somerset.

00:01:23:12 - 00:01:39:16

Speaker 1

And she worked for about six years as an anchor reporter in my lifetime. So we've got to have her here in Somerset as well. next we have another TV personality, Eva Valverde from Corbett TV 28.

00:01:39:18 - 00:01:41:08

Unknown

What is your your.

00:01:41:08 - 00:02:04:21

Speaker 1

Personality as well? And he goes through shows there CNN Mexico Italian lot of western show okay. And our last but not least judge here is going to be our Italy judge. Very important role. It's John Leyva. Many of you know him John is a manager at Fairmont works in the services area. He's a past guy for a member.

00:02:04:23 - 00:02:11:13

Speaker 1

He's also an active member of who like.

00:02:11:16 - 00:02:12:11

Unknown

Order of the world.

00:02:12:14 - 00:02:38:13

Speaker 1

Order of this Lodge for what? You're so, so so you're very active. And, next we're going to do is without further ado, is introduce our outgoing queen, the 1999 GI forum state national Queen Mara open, and she's going to be escorted by David Rodriguez, who is the state chairman. did I forget something? I don't know, Dana.

00:02:38:16 - 00:03:10:14

Speaker 1

And all of them, I guess, will be escorted by him. so if we can have them come on up and have, they'll be there. So let's order now. My dad is from Modesto, and she wants a career in law enforcement. She's a, explorer with the, Vista Police Department. And, she's just passed the California Highway Patrol, entrance exam.

00:03:10:16 - 00:03:12:05

Unknown

She's majoring in excellent.

00:03:12:13 - 00:03:42:11

Speaker 1

Modesto Junior College and in law enforcement. And, it's been, she gave a great speech today, by the way, during the lunch honoring block out of about a very emotional, beautiful speech with a lot of sincerity. her desire is to become a law enforcement officer, to serve her fellow man. So she has a great heart and believes deeply and deserves.

00:03:42:14 - 00:03:43:12

Unknown

Some of the best.

00:03:43:14 - 00:04:05:06

Speaker 1

Some of her best experiences, during her reign, was to meet the three W's who were, in Kosovo. and she also visited Arlington National Cemetery, and she thought those were the highlights of her career. next, I would like to introduce my see who's got a lot of experience doing this. And all of you know her.

00:04:05:09 - 00:04:25:25

Speaker 1

She's a good friend of mine. We worked together many years ago at channel 11, and she's also has a big heart and and is very committed to this community. She's a very good friend. Yolanda Perez 11.

00:04:25:27 - 00:04:47:05

Speaker 3

I know many of you for many, many years, and I think that says a lot when I have to use my glasses to bring them up. Because I don't have an Eleanor Salinas for thinking about inviting me. Thank you to the committee. And this truly is a prestigious event. It's been a while since I've seen, so many of you.

00:04:47:05 - 00:05:04:10

Speaker 3

But I never forgotten that many of you are also my friends as one person. This as a senator. How about let's have fun tonight? Okay.

00:05:04:13 - 00:05:11:23

Speaker 3

And then.

00:05:11:26 - 00:05:29:00

Speaker 3

Okay. We're going to introduce the past queens. I have a couple over two of them with us tonight. Diana Romero, who was the 1997 Miss Sample surgery from Queens.

00:05:29:02 - 00:05:31:21

Unknown

I have been calling from the.

00:05:31:23 - 00:05:38:28

Speaker 3

GI forum Queen as well to speak.

00:05:39:00 - 00:05:43:03

Speaker 3

You know. Well, there you are. Okay.

00:05:43:05 - 00:05:51:23

Unknown

Nikki. Amen. Number 24.

00:05:51:26 - 00:05:52:10

Unknown

She was the.

00:05:52:10 - 00:06:06:19

Speaker 3

1999 the Southeast Valley Jet Forum and the 1999 finish runner up for Miss California G.I. forum.

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

Speaker 3

what youth do we have here this evening? all the youth that are here representing randomization, please. There you go.

00:06:14:10 - 00:06:23:15

Unknown

Thank you. you know how you can.

00:06:23:17 - 00:06:24:03

Unknown

And finally.

00:06:24:04 - 00:06:49:27

Speaker 3

We want to thank everybody who has made this possible for this evening. And every pageant, there is criteria that the contestants must meet. And in the selection process, the queen contestants are judged not only by their poise and personality, but most importantly on their 2 to 3 minute speech that they give us in and they write on a topic of their choice.

00:06:49:29 - 00:07:22:10

Speaker 3

Tonight, the judges will have a tough job in deciding who is the winner. This evening. The breakdown is this way. During the speech count is 60%. This elastic interest, 20%, and the poison personality 20%. The role the Queen for the Miss California American JAG forum is that she represents the organization for four years. Then she also goes on to compete for the national title.

00:07:22:12 - 00:07:34:09

Speaker 3

The Queen serves as a role model for the youth, and she also gets to present at various events throughout the year.

00:07:34:12 - 00:08:02:28

Speaker 3

Many of you probably realize that this is a very important pageant tonight. It's something that they wait for all year long, work hard for all year long, submit their applications, and are screened and are accepted. This pageant really emphasizes scale and women's role in the community, and it gives her the opportunity to be the spokesperson for their immunization for full year award.

00:08:03:00 - 00:08:14:27

Speaker 3

Now, let's begin with the Miss California Deformed Pageant importation part. Understand that the removal.

00:08:14:29 - 00:08:29:02

Speaker 3

Doesn't happen. Our first contestant is miss who leads the softball.

00:08:29:04 - 00:08:32:29

Unknown

Testimonial by the East Valley Chapter chairman said.

00:08:33:01 - 00:08:43:05

Speaker 3

Now, Miss Caldwell. Miss out on the 17 years old and will be attending San Jose State University.

00:08:43:08 - 00:08:55:28

Speaker 1

Okay. And our second contestant is Miss Jennifer Martinez. And she is escorted by Oceanside Chairman.

00:08:56:01 - 00:09:02:01

Unknown

Thank you. Thank you, Mr..

00:09:02:03 - 00:09:15:17

Speaker 3

And multiple smiles. Our third contestant is miss Erika has been very that.

00:09:15:20 - 00:09:17:07

Unknown

She has come to the finals.

00:09:17:07 - 00:09:28:21

Speaker 3

And if you are former chairman, Robin can get up. Miss us three. Pointer is 17 years old and attends Mount Pleasant High School.

00:09:28:24 - 00:09:37:29

Speaker 3

Let's get them out of.

00:09:38:01 - 00:09:56:27

Speaker 3

Our first contestant. I'm going to read their bios presentation. Introduce you to them a little more in depth. You have 419, 20.

00:09:56:29 - 00:10:02:08

Speaker 3

No.

00:10:02:11 - 00:10:31:02

Speaker 3

Okay, well, let me start from the my point of the. You know, bio. Before we start softball, this is, introduce Jennifer, second contestant, Jennifer Bailey. My fetus is miss Oceanside, American Geo Gorman. He's not the born. She is 17 years old and recently graduated from high school. She enjoys the outdoors, playing sports and being with her family.

00:10:31:05 - 00:10:57:28

Speaker 3

Some of her accomplishments include Miss Congeniality in the Oceanside pageant, Golden State Exam honors in reading and literature, and named to the Who's Who among High Schools in America. She's a four year varsity softball player, softball player of the year for two years and Coaches Award and Most Inspirational, and was named to the first team All North County League two years in a row.

00:10:58:00 - 00:11:30:12

Speaker 3

She's also been the captain of the softball team and a member of the University Club. In the future, she plans to attend San Diego State University, where she will major in medicine or education. I think medicine hope she hopes to make a difference in others lives. Lastly, she gives all her thanks and love to her from India. Where's the fun media?

00:11:30:15 - 00:11:35:07

Speaker 3

Okay, cool Lisa, to our first contestant.

00:11:35:10 - 00:11:42:15

Unknown

Oh yes ma'am. The recent graduates of Mount Pleasant High.

00:11:42:15 - 00:12:13:01

Speaker 3

School and will be attending Tulsa State University in the fall. As a senior in high school, she endured a very demanding class schedule that included honor courses such as Advanced Placement for Language and Spanish Literature. Miss also received the student of the Year Award and the Foreign Language Award. With all of this, well, Lisa still found time to serve as a secretary officer of the mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Club and was a four year member of the Latin Student Union.

00:12:13:03 - 00:12:37:29

Speaker 3

Also, she has shown hard work and dedication to her many athletic accomplishments. As a freshman, she was chosen to be part of the varsity soccer team and softball teams. In softball, she received first team all league and also served as an assistant coach to junior high school students. Even though much of this time was taken up by sports and academics, she unselfishly devotes herself and her talents to tutor young children.

00:12:38:01 - 00:12:48:02

Speaker 3

Through her helping children, she decided to aspire to become a pediatrician. Another doctor.

00:12:48:04 - 00:12:50:02

Unknown

She realizes that medical school is.

00:12:50:02 - 00:12:55:07

Speaker 3

Challenging and demanding, but believing that by believing in herself and in the love that she has for.

00:12:55:07 - 00:12:56:01

Speaker 1

Children.

00:12:56:04 - 00:13:06:01

Speaker 3

She knows that she is ready to pursue her career ambitions. Her current important responsibility is fulfilling the role as the new East Valley Youth. G.I. forum.

00:13:06:01 - 00:13:07:25

Speaker 1

Chairman.

00:13:07:27 - 00:13:17:08

Speaker 3

I just don't.

00:13:17:10 - 00:13:26:06

Speaker 3

And our last contestant is medical aspirant with the.

00:13:26:08 - 00:13:56:07

Speaker 3

General and I speak with Our Lady here tonight. Where are you? Yes. Welcome. And she's a senior next year at Mount Pleasant High School. She holds a leadership position in school and is actively involved in the community. Her school commitments include Secretary of the Christian Club, historian and member for Mathematics and Engineering Science Association. Meza, the California Scholarship Federation, the Literacy Society, Helping Hands and the National Honor Society.

00:13:56:10 - 00:14:20:03

Speaker 3

When do you find time to rest? Erika is an active member of the Latino Student Union and presents colorful dances very familiar to many people. We get to see that later and even participated in the junior ROTC program on the rank of sergeant. She is a member of the Mount Pleasant Parliament and has been playing the trumpet for seven years.

00:14:20:05 - 00:14:56:23

Speaker 3

When she was on the Mount Pleasant soccer team, she demonstrates devotion to her community by spending her spare time mentoring younger children through her Huskies training program, Erika has participated in various college prep seminars in South Dakota. University administrators at Fullerton and Foothill College. Erika served as an intern for the Diamond Corporation. Her mission is taking AP and honor classes, has received high honors on the Golden State Exam in Spanish and recognition in geometric Geometry and Writing, and was nominated twice for the award of Who among high school students in America.

00:14:56:25 - 00:15:14:09

Speaker 3

Currently, she is serving as an intern at NASA through a program called sharp, conducted research in wind tunnels and working with rockets. Her goal is to graduate from a four year university with a double major in political science and business, and complete law school. Next year, she will be participating.

00:15:14:09 - 00:15:14:23

Speaker 1

In the Mock.

00:15:14:23 - 00:15:33:28

Speaker 3

Trial, which is a speech law and debate pass and trial simulation. She hopes to inspire other Latino women to strive for excellence and to follow in her footsteps. Thanks to.

00:15:34:00 - 00:15:46:24

Speaker 3

All right, let's take one last look at the young Queen. Contestants from the Hollywood Miss California American G.I. forum. Ladies.

00:15:46:27 - 00:16:07:10

Speaker 3

Lisa Soto.

00:16:07:12 - 00:16:42:16

Speaker 3

Now, I'd like to introduce our Miss California American G.I. forum past Queen Mary. Mother often will come up here to do her farewell speech and has a few words for the girls. She has provided the G.I. forum with excellent service to the organization, and she has been truly a role model for.

00:16:42:18 - 00:16:44:01

Speaker 3

Evening.

00:16:44:03 - 00:16:49:07

Unknown

Know? Yeah, I know.

00:16:49:09 - 00:17:01:25

Speaker 3

Has been there for a little bit in this episode. You can read it in the G.I. forum program. We have two state conference.

00:17:01:27 - 00:17:55:09

Speaker 3

Set up. So, like, every year before. well, so we meet again and meet again under, making. Similar circumstances. Very similar circumstances. However, this time I am the queen. And, to tell you the truth, a year ago, standing on the stage in Modesto, I, my goal was to get to the ninth, collapsing on the stage

and just to get through the night, to be very honest with you, I was so scared, I was trembling, my leg was like thumper and his demons jumping, and, I didn't know.

00:17:55:09 - 00:18:25:10

Speaker 3

I didn't know what to do. I didn't know how to walk. I didn't know how to talk. The only thing I did know, though, was my speech. And if you remember my speech from last year, it was about veterans and serving veterans and veterans, right. And I tell you, and the one thing I guarantee you, even though I didn't know anything, I knew my speech and I put my heart into it, and I gave it with everything I knew and all that right went away.

00:18:25:12 - 00:18:48:19

Speaker 3

Right. Came right back as soon as I said, thank you and God bless. You know what? I remember standing right there, and I remember that table right? There was a man in Class A's country, class eight, with a Congressional Medal of Honor around his neck. His name is Richard Bronco. And I remember right after I said, thank you.

00:18:48:19 - 00:19:14:23

Speaker 3

God bless. He stood up. He wiped his eye, persuaded me, and he started clapping. And as I was. That's it. Can I get off the stage now? Can I go? Because to me, that was the best song that anybody can ever have. Anybody. I don't care if you are a queen. He and I was it. That really was it for me.

00:19:15:00 - 00:19:40:20

Speaker 3

And, definitely that that wouldn't have happened if I chickened out or or, if I didn't go through with this. And I'm obviously to the GI forum, and from there I was crowned Miss California. Definitely a shock. I think if you ever seen a videotape, you asked my family. I think there's so much emotion. I never show it to my mom.

00:19:40:20 - 00:20:07:13

Speaker 3

I was sitting there crawling on the stage, and, from there, it was just a huge snowball. I went to Nebraska, and Nebraska was very competitive, and it was a totally new experience. And I was afraid. Well, you know what? Again, I believed in my speech, and I got up there and all three went away again. And I poured my heart out into it, and I got a standing ovation.

00:20:07:16 - 00:20:35:04

Speaker 3

And there again, I didn't care because I got my message across, because I still believe to this day that veterans are the sole reason why we are here, why we do have the freedom of speaking. Why would you have the freedom of being able to hold an organization for something we you believe in? Because in many countries that is not allowed, especially as we all know, coming from Latino backgrounds, that definitely is not allowed because there.

00:20:35:07 - 00:20:53:00

Speaker 3

Yeah, the way politics are, the way the military are, is totally different. And I think that we should still to this day think it better and keep fighting for the rights.

00:20:53:03 - 00:21:25:25

Speaker 3

They noted earlier, when I was walking up, a highlight was going to Washington, DC and meeting a group from Kosovo. That was the. That was really we have tables mounted in this. And you know what? They see this no one dragon over there. They seen us. They seen my sister Marie. They seen Mariana in local. And I and they came to sit next to us and we started talking.

00:21:25:28 - 00:21:51:27

Speaker 3

I was talking to one of them about, Texas A&M Aggies baseball, was talking another one about college. And, it was just great. We that that itself. How many times can you say that you actually sat with a hero? How many times can you say that that you sat with the survivor, something that great. And I just thought about, you know, this.

00:21:51:29 - 00:22:02:20

Speaker 3

This surpasses anything I've ever could have even imagined. And, from then on, I knew that.

00:22:02:22 - 00:22:26:03

Speaker 3

My purpose and what I was saying is, is true. It is true. It just it doesn't just stop there because I know I'm rambling. Excuse me, but beyond there it goes on for second. You know, we always think veterans, we're thinking about people that are way in the past. But that's not true. They're still here. They're living right here in this room.

00:22:26:05 - 00:22:43:28

Speaker 3

Like I said, you walk past them in the store, you walk past them walking down the street sometime. You never know that. And when you see them walking down the road, you're driving, you see somebody hit the car and long, baggy, dirty clothes because he doesn't have a home to live in. You know what? Maybe he's a veteran.

00:22:44:00 - 00:23:02:26

Speaker 3

I work at the police department. I see those people every single day. You know it. Those people. I respect them no matter what they look like, no matter where they live, even if they don't have a home to live in. And a lot of times it just it takes all of us to actually sit there and come back and say, you know what?

00:23:02:28 - 00:23:27:18

Speaker 3

If they're here, they are here. They we need to start doing it before it's too late. And the younger people do here. We just had a young man was yesterday, I just graduated from boot camp from the Army. That's that's a veteran right there. I did 20 days of service as a better and then a couple weeks ago, my, one of my parents are stationed over in Germany.

00:23:27:18 - 00:23:57:21

Speaker 3

It was his birthday, and he called me, and, he's real sad. He's real sad. He didn't have anybody to celebrate his birthday with. You know how sad he was home was five years ago. Imagine not seeing anybody you love and you can only care about for five years. Imagine not even being on free soil. The soil he's fighting for for five years.

00:23:57:23 - 00:24:23:00

Speaker 3

Now. That's sacrifice. That's stuff that just goes, really. I'm unaware of and unappreciated every single day. You know, it really hit me and I had to bring it up tonight because I thought about it and I thought, wow, these are the people that I'm representing, you know? Yes, yes, he's over there. He's only 23. He's only three years older than me and he hasn't seen his parents in five years.

00:24:23:00 - 00:24:46:16

Speaker 3

Can you imagine them? That's something that we really need to think about. And as far as a young lady's remember last night, I told you, I don't know what to say to you. And if anybody ever knows me, that's really very, very rare that I do not have anything to say. You not know how to express it. But,

00:24:46:19 - 00:25:12:24

Speaker 3

Pretty sure I you to kind. And all I can say to you is. Just like I did with my speech. I gave my heart. I put everything that I believe and everything I love, everything I respected and everything I knew about it, into it. And I succeeded. Obviously, somewhere along the line, you guys have done that too, because you're here tonight.

00:25:12:26 - 00:25:39:11

Speaker 3

You've already been established as the leading lady. Just keep doing that. You put in your heart into it. You believe in what you believe and keep doing what you have to do because you know what? You're already on each of you. Your individual ways, your success. You're always going to be a special person. And I want you to know that tonight you night and you live for all its worth and make it your night.

00:25:39:11 - 00:25:58:19

Speaker 3

Whoever walks away with the Miss California power. Not because you know what? You're all winners. You're all queens, you're all fine. Examples of the youth we have today. And you're the reason why I tell the older generation that you know what you have. Go first because we're here and we're going to take care of you and you are in good hands.

00:25:58:19 - 00:26:25:25

Speaker 3

I can guarantee you that right now. And as for you, older generation, thank you very much for everything you've taught us, even the times we disagree and the times we fight. The times are stubborn. We gain a lot of those things from you.

00:26:25:27 - 00:26:39:21

Speaker 3

But deep down, we know that you're right. And sometimes I think you know that we're right here. Even. Even though it's hard for you guys to let us grow up sometimes.

00:26:39:24 - 00:26:57:29

Speaker 3

It's okay because we have to. And we're going to do. We want to, and we're scared of ourselves, and we know we can do it, you know? And I know this because we interviews are examples.

00:26:58:01 - 00:27:01:23

Unknown

So we're set up.

00:27:01:25 - 00:27:13:22

Speaker 3

That speaks for itself. So we just keep following your footsteps. You paved the road to some for us to know we're going to keep it going.

00:27:13:25 - 00:27:16:20

Speaker 1

And to as far as you can go.

00:27:16:22 - 00:27:52:29

Speaker 3

Until we reach, who knows? Heaven. If we're all the people that fight and selfishly have ever fought. Thank you. Thank you for the opportunity. Really. I mean, from the bottom of my heart. I remember telling you guys, it is the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press and is a soldier, not the poet who has given us the freedom of speech and then is a soldier and not the campus organizer who carries a flag.

00:27:53:01 - 00:28:17:13

Speaker 3

You guys remember that? I still believe that to that day, to this day, I still do. I have it on my computer and I look at it every day and I think, wow, this speech went way more than I ever can imagine. But you know what? It touched a lot of people, and that made me feel so proud.

00:28:17:15 - 00:28:40:10

Speaker 3

Not because I got acknowledgment for it, because I actually got to say thank you publicly. And again, I just want to say thank you. Thank you to the American GI for thank you to my parents, my family, all of you guys, to any of you who have ever come in contact with individually despite any of our circumstances, despite the way we met.

00:28:40:12 - 00:29:05:19

Speaker 3

Thank you. I'm glad our paths crossed and I've taken a positive edge from all of you in every aspect. Everything happens for a reason, so they speak. We're proud that from the beginning, the time we began to acknowledge the world, and I believe that's true to this day, you guys, with everything, there's good in everything. You look back, there's a good.

00:29:05:19 - 00:29:09:22

Speaker 3

And I guarantee you.

00:29:09:24 - 00:29:36:00

Unknown

In the. Kind of like really.

00:29:36:02 - 00:29:40:05

Unknown

I have places on my back, and, I think.

00:29:40:05 - 00:30:13:28

Speaker 3

I think I've rambled enough for all three of my impromptu speeches. Like the this past two days. And so, again, just thank you. I love you guys. All. I really do. And again, the purpose of this organization is great. It's wonderful. Is it true reason why we can call ourselves Americans, not Mexican Americans? Americans. Okay. Thank you. To uphold our ethnicity despite whatever problem we are creed, race, religion and for the younger generation.

00:30:14:00 - 00:30:15:27

Speaker 3

Don't worry, we got a code.

00:30:16:00 - 00:30:33:18

Unknown

All right. God bless you for.

00:30:33:20 - 00:30:42:28

Speaker 1

And if you see me on the highway. Pull me over. Remember me? Your CHP officer.

00:30:43:01 - 00:31:08:02

Speaker 3

I might be in the car with him. I remember we took it. All right, let's go back to our contestants and hear from them for their 2 to 3 minute speeches. Let's start with our first contestant this evening. Lisa Soto.

00:31:08:04 - 00:31:30:27

Speaker 3

And many of those. I am proud to stand here today to talk about Latina representation for Latinas in higher education. We are bilingual in my culture, we can have the best of both worlds. As well as deciding a to week, we all want to accomplish something important. So why are we slacking in terms of going to college degrees?

00:31:30:29 - 00:31:56:08

Speaker 3

Many say it's the lack of role models that makes the education seem unimportant. This is unfortunately true. Only a few Latinos aim for higher education. A small percentage make it through a four year college. At what point in our lives do we begin to deny education? Is it when you can agree? A teacher tells you you may only speak English at school or in the third grade with a simple ABC due to difficult social studies, or in junior high rates.

00:31:56:08 - 00:32:20:06

Speaker 3

Because I tell me six different courses or maybe high school. All the temptations of sex, romance and marriage are dominant. What is it? These another obstacles have to be overcome. Other ethnicities got the same experiences and they are determined to make it. Overcoming any unpleasant situation is the mark of a strong person. And we have heard the word the American dream of over.

00:32:20:08 - 00:32:41:27

Speaker 3

But what exactly is the American Dream? We know it begins with an education and ends with a successful position, which means having a healthy bank account, a nice home, a new car, extra for entertainment, good health care, security, time and fact. This marriage should be the same. I don't get my education is not a party. College may not be the juice for everyone.

00:32:41:29 - 00:33:06:26

Speaker 3

It's a challenge. It's years of tough courses, high competition, long hours of serious learning, and most definitely financial stress. It takes a lot of courage and hard work, but all I ask from Latina women is to take control of your life, share your gifts and talents, work with dedication and selflessness, and have really high expectations for yourself. Make every challenge into an opportunity.

00:33:06:28 - 00:33:24:14

Speaker 3

I know a Latina women can and will always make it. We don't need to settle for the early marriages. The large families depend on the support of a man. The chance the Hispanic dream to come true is real. And I know that because I consider myself one of those brave women I have worked since I was a little girl.

00:33:24:17 - 00:33:47:02

Speaker 3

Scratches, causes, bruises all over my body. You name it, I've done it. I am a young lady who's not shy or ashamed of her own sweat. I can cook, I can clean, I can style have been a pretty face. I can change an oil, fix a flat. But most of all, I can stand up for myself. I want to be known as a hardworking person that has never given up and is bound to be successful.

00:33:47:05 - 00:34:08:01

Speaker 3

And I look at the contestants of tonight, and I know that each and every one of us has a personal distance from every success, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with all wanting success, health, wealth, love and happiness. We will be more apt to have it all. We know what we want and are willing to risk work and sacrifice to accomplish our goal.

00:34:08:03 - 00:34:35:22

Speaker 3

I want to be remembered. I want to be recognized when I was born, everybody in the room smiled and I was like, when I die, I want everybody to be quiet. I'll be smiling. We'll just ask for support from our continent. I the sound one of the.

00:34:35:25 - 00:34:38:00

Unknown

I don't even know if this is actually part of.

00:34:38:00 - 00:34:55:17

Speaker 3

The talking amongst themselves or any. They're the only one, and so forth will hardly. Next, our second contestant is Jennifer Martinez.

00:34:55:19 - 00:35:24:04

Speaker 3

Bienvenidos. Senoras. Senoras. Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, judges and members of the American GI. Everyone in this room. I'm sure you ask yourself these simple questions every day. What time does the game come on tonight? Do these shoes go with these pants? Well, I win that \$7 million lotto today. Yes. These are examples of daily life and they are national anthem.

00:35:24:07 - 00:35:46:24

Speaker 3

Nothing wrong with them. But what we need to do is spend time thinking about the relatively important questions, the ones that will lead to better living, the ones that will lead to the right track to success or make a difference in their lives. My whole life, these virtues, this is how I set standards for myself, and I'm able to live up to that in my everyday activities.

00:35:46:27 - 00:35:53:25

Speaker 3

The one virtue that has pushed me to where I stand today is perseverance. Perseverance is something that lies.

00:35:53:25 - 00:35:55:03

Speaker 1

Within us all.

00:35:55:06 - 00:36:20:14

Speaker 3

But if so, then why do so many of us give up? I'll tell you what tired is the fear of failing. You don't have to be rich about about a valedictorian, the most intelligent or even famous in order to succeed. Why do you want to be a doctor, a teacher, or even an Olympic swimmer? Work hard and never quit.

00:36:20:16 - 00:36:45:19

Speaker 3

Michael Jordan, for example. He played for the Chicago Bulls. Did you know that he was cut from his high school basketball team? But today he is NBA's greatest player of all time. I just read that a girl who moved for medical four years ago at the age of 14 just to Oceanside, my city, not knowing a single word of English, she was ridiculed.

00:36:45:22 - 00:37:11:00

Speaker 3

She encountered racism and others around her told her she would never make it. And just last week, she graduated an honor graduate and will now be attending Stanford University. So you see, life isn't just all about winning. Much of life is about losing. It is something we do over and over again. We fail and we fail until we succeed.

00:37:11:02 - 00:37:38:01

Speaker 3

I recently graduated, and as I look back on those four years, I see that I was faced with many challenges, encountered obstacles, and made mistakes. And of course, there were times when I wanted to walk away, give up, throw in the towel, the perseverance, that voice inside. That's it. First, you don't succeed. Try and try again. Listening to this voice is an important part of growing up without ever experiencing failure.

00:37:38:05 - 00:38:12:18

Speaker 3

Will you ever get the taste of success as a Latina in our society today? I know I will need this virtue and order to keep myself going in order to further myself. I want to be an example to all other Latinos and Latinos. I want to show that you can further your education. You can be something. This being the new millennium, our time is here to increase the number of Hispanics in all categories medicine, politics, business, entertainment, military.

00:38:12:23 - 00:38:38:03

Speaker 3

But to get there, we have to persevere. We cannot give up. Everyone is brought to the line, everyone tested. There will be occasional bumps in the road, times when the path seems too steep. When the race is hard in the face, the perseverance overcomes that. Of course, persevering may not guarantee that prize you're after. You may do all the drill and still not win that championship game.

00:38:38:06 - 00:39:03:26

Speaker 3

Do all the homework in studying and still not giving that on the test. But you come out a better, stronger person at all who are ready to go after the next prize. So fight to the end. Never give up. If you have the perseverance the garners, you will succeed. For life is a journey of striving, seeking, learning from our mistakes and failures and setting a new, higher goal.

00:39:03:28 - 00:39:34:26

Speaker 3

And perseverance begins again. When life knocks you down, you have two choices. Stay down or get up. All that you dream of, you shall someday gain whatever goal you're seeking. Keep trying an answer by saying seek. Stay within grasses.

00:39:34:29 - 00:39:47:29

Speaker 3

Now let's bring up to the podium our last contestant. Many of us believe Michael.

00:39:48:02 - 00:40:07:14

Speaker 3

The needles. He went out to watch it. It is an honor to stand before you. And I'm sorry, I. I had the opportunity to represent the Latino community tonight. I would like to thank the judge for. For giving my consent to the voice. The reason I stand before you today is because one of my concerns is that the suspect.

00:40:07:16 - 00:40:28:20

Speaker 3

I would like everyone to please take a moment and to think about what is happening to me. A Latino is a person who does not wait for tomorrow seeing action. Why in West pride in his or her roots? And most importantly, why do we never take no for an answer? These are the key elements for Latino success. I have learned this from my family.

00:40:28:23 - 00:40:39:11

Speaker 3

In 1970, my father gave us paper that immigrated to the United States seeking a managers and opportunity. As the oldest of six children.

00:40:39:14 - 00:40:44:24

Unknown

My father was expected to help this family survive. As a result, my father.

00:40:44:24 - 00:41:06:27

Speaker 3

Sacrificed many things for the well-being of his family. Lifelong dream was to go to college, but because of lack of money and family commitment, his dream never became a reality. However, his dream does live on through me. My father would say, me have you can accomplish anything you set your mind on? Because we are the descendants of great builders.

00:41:06:28 - 00:41:35:02

Speaker 3

There's mathematicians, scientists and lawyers. My fathers taught me that there is no waiting for tomorrow to take action. As a Latina, I have faced many obstacles in my life and I've come across many countries enticing educational statistics say Latina. I'm not expected to graduate or to continue my education for college. I have also noticed Latinos are recruited for lower status to succeed in honors or AP courses.

00:41:35:04 - 00:42:00:10

Speaker 3

Now is the time to prove these damn strong Latinos can accomplish anything we set our minds to see, it tells us, must no longer fight the constant battle of discrimination. No, no. But together, in this real life, the only way to succeed in life is to night in with my mentors, to guide us and help us learn. Doctor Garcia, the founder of the GI forum, has paved a path which we should follow.

00:42:00:12 - 00:42:21:23

Speaker 3

Now is the time to step up to the challenges of our everyday lives. Why wait for tomorrow when you have today to take action? Our future is in our hands and we must make the most of it. Who was there for role models like this at Tavis? The notice that and doctor, I thought, I've come to fight our beliefs and to never take no for an answer.

00:42:21:26 - 00:42:46:22

Speaker 3

My dream is to continue my education and to prove to my father that his laborious efforts have inspired me. Finally, I would like to recite a poem by Luis that called Wake Us Up. This poem has encouraged me not to wait for tomorrows take action, wake us up. When yesterdays gone and manana Yanez has been come. For he who wakes tomorrow only for he who is now to morning.

00:42:46:25 - 00:43:20:26

Speaker 3

Now he will see tomorrow. Maria de la Raza. Let him sit down. Move it out among us. Our tomorrow is. Boy. I'll be back. Give you a la Raza. Me here. Our people for freedom. When? Now. I'll leave that. It's gonna come again. And always. Because there is no tomorrow. There is only today. We should thank.

00:43:20:29 - 00:43:42:01

Speaker 3

Thank you. Have a difficult, difficult time. I thank you for joining you. The winner is going to read tonight. What about you? Share a little story with you. We all know Colombia have Latinos are all presidents. Do you think they walk away? You cannot make up for the moon landing. Except for that. I'm kind of Latina and I like to show true story with really?

00:43:42:05 - 00:44:04:11

Speaker 3

This is a true story. I took a trip to Mexico. I think it was a while while I had, And, this woman caught my eye. She had unique features and her coloring was beautiful and I couldn't distinguish from her accent from one if she was from, you know, Colombian or spent one hour somewhere else and then, you know, into.

00:44:04:13 - 00:44:37:15

Speaker 3

And so I couldn't figure it out. I was wrong and I think I'll go after them. So I approached her and very cautiously, and I asked her, are you love Latina? And it really meant that I got this thought. She answered me really sincerely, and that's my love, you know? So I love one of my.

00:44:37:18 - 00:44:42:02

Speaker 3

Anyway, so of you.

00:44:42:05 - 00:44:48:14

Speaker 1

And the joke is she's never been a vehicle in an entire life.

00:44:48:16 - 00:45:14:25

Speaker 1

All right, well, now that you, the judges, have the toughest job down on the side, and that's going to be our winner tonight. parents, there's not going to be any personal lobbying of the judges. You have to stay away. And in the meantime, we're going to have, David Rodriguez and the man come up to present, the awards for outstanding number as well as the award for Outstanding chapter.

00:45:14:27 - 00:45:24:27

Speaker 1

So why don't you come on up, guys, whenever you.

00:45:24:29 - 00:45:37:06

Speaker 1

And while the judges are making the decision after they finish the, the presentation of awards, we will have, I guess, a musical interpretation.

00:45:37:08 - 00:46:02:03

Speaker 1

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. We have quite a few chapters in the California desert. to win, to be the greatest chapter of California. We have, many, many chapters throughout the United States. Here in California, we have to pick one. I know that the chapters, that did not apply deserve to win. some of the chapters in the chapter members are too modest.

00:46:02:05 - 00:46:30:25

Speaker 1

And, I know that the chapter that long has done a lot of work in the community. We were really glad to see this chapter apply because of the fact that, since the beginning, when they organized, when they started, they started work in the community, started working for parents for you and for programs. Here's just a short glimpse of what they have done in the last year to merit this outstanding, chapter award.

00:46:30:27 - 00:46:57:28

Speaker 1

They've helped start the National League of Cities in the City of Modesto workforce Development Project for Reduction of Poverty. They have helped to start a Modesto Veterans Outreach clinic. And he and I, we'll have, talked a lot about the clinics. And we have a clinic in Santa Maria, and they have started this clinic in Modesto. And, of course, they have a lot of help.

00:46:58:00 - 00:47:12:17

Speaker 1

They work with Congressman Condon on various collaborators, veteran collaborators, to help expand services for veterans. And Stan was also counseling this chapter in their members. is ever great, great, applause that they have. But that's the chapter that has won them.

00:47:12:19 - 00:47:18:17

Unknown

point.

00:47:18:20 - 00:47:19:28

Unknown

The fact that they were the.

00:47:19:28 - 00:47:24:28

Speaker 1

Seniors at this time with a shot being printed, their name printed on it.

00:47:25:00 - 00:47:31:08

Unknown

And I think.

00:47:31:10 - 00:47:40:11

Speaker 1

I'd like to introduce the other part of the committee that worked, on the,

00:47:40:13 - 00:47:43:24

Unknown

your. Private morning.

00:47:43:25 - 00:48:14:21

Speaker 1

And we have, we have a three member committee that worked on this committee. The other is for the outstanding member, not I like to introduce the two other members that worked on this committee, this afternoon for this or to select this, award. And the other members of council, Alvarez and one of the the hundred.

00:48:14:24 - 00:48:49:17

Speaker 1

In introducing our. Last year's recipient who will be presenting this year's recipient with the merit of my, leadership forum year of the year award. a couple of things about one. So on what is, while looking at that in the chapter, he's our editor for, he does research, analysis and tries to make sure that we have the correct information regarding our veterans, the services that are delivered or not delivered to them.

00:48:49:19 - 00:49:17:25

Speaker 1

he just completed his master's degrees, and he's, one of our young veterans knows that that he has joined us and is a hard, hard working person. And he was, last year, 1999. Larry, in my, leadership forum here in the year recipient. And I give you one thought to give you this year's recipient.

00:49:17:27 - 00:49:43:20

Speaker 1

When I was first told that, I was nominated for this award last year, I immediately thought of ways to get out of go nuts or something nomination, because I never saw myself as a leader. and but, I guess that's one of the reasons why he didn't ask me for something. He just came up to me and told me that I was nominated for one of the award.

00:49:43:22 - 00:50:11:06

Speaker 1

But, it's was sort of I was looking forward to giving up this award because of what it stands for. Because of what our present, you know, so to describe, Larry Meyer as the third person to one to be the first automatic person that always wanted to be out there, doing the groundwork.

00:50:11:08 - 00:50:25:18

Speaker 1

I never saw myself as a leader because I always, I always saw myself as someone who was there to do the job and done needed to be done.

00:50:25:20 - 00:50:58:26

Speaker 1

And the reason that I was kept giving up this award is because of what it stands for. And this year, not only has this report on to to another person, but I'm also not I'm not only passing a lot of the work from a customer, lot of people myself. And in the essence of passing along a part of each and every one of us that has just been with the work and Jeff Warren and what it stands for.

00:50:58:28 - 00:51:27:16

Speaker 1

Going along with the description that was given the, the description of, Larry Meyer being the first sort of person that got the job done. I just want to talk a little bit first about, this year's recipient of your work, the recipient of this year, the, nerd. My. On YouTube or has been a member of the San Jose chapter for over 30 years.

00:51:27:18 - 00:51:50:08

Speaker 1

He has been a board member and chairman, approximately three times. he has been the national sergeant at arms for the Jeff Warren has participated on the scholarship committee. for over 20 years.

00:51:50:10 - 00:52:11:27

Speaker 1

This year's recipient of the year award goes to Franco Europe.

00:52:11:29 - 00:52:17:29

Unknown

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

00:52:18:02 - 00:52:22:11

Unknown

He was. He was \$100. My.

00:52:22:13 - 00:52:49:26

Speaker 1

When we first, decided to go into business. Besides of other people that, share in the in the donations and the money that he's been involved in so long and definitely deserves this. And this is a great honor, because there you go. My, it's a really great, great person. And if anybody ever had a chance to meet him, you were walking with a man who was almost like the president of the United States, like Cesar Chavez.

00:52:49:28 - 00:53:06:19

Speaker 1

He was he was a person that was out there to to do good and to get things change for the Hispanic people. And this is a great honor.

00:53:06:21 - 00:53:16:04

Speaker 1

for the first time in my life, I'm like donkey.

00:53:16:06 - 00:53:42:29

Speaker 1

I to bring respect this. And I appreciate. And, I don't know if if it was the chapter that, submitted my name and got me this persisted award winner in my office. Me and him were real close. Me. And they went all over the United States together. I think I did. I did for two that straight.

00:53:43:00 - 00:54:07:22

Speaker 1

Thank you very much.

00:54:07:24 - 00:54:25:14

Speaker 1

Robert, get, We can have you come over here for a second, please.

00:54:25:16 - 00:55:20:15

Speaker 1

Okay. There won't be a musical interlude because the judges have arrived at their, decision as already. And, one of the ones that actually was decided, before by, the contestants was actually Miss Congeniality. And the winner, Miss Congeniality of year 2000 is Miss GI for Oceanside. Jennifer.

00:55:20:17 - 00:55:27:02

Speaker 3

Congratulations.

00:55:27:04 - 00:55:36:28

Speaker 3

Not up! The second runner up.

00:55:37:00 - 00:55:41:13

Unknown

With the John. No. Yeah.

00:55:41:16 - 00:55:42:05

Unknown

By the way.

00:55:42:11 - 00:55:54:13

Speaker 3

Everybody knows that you just. Mendez. Just want to see if you're awake. And here we go. The second runner up. Move.

00:55:54:15 - 00:56:11:05

Unknown

Miss Oceanside, Jennifer Martino.

00:56:11:08 - 00:56:12:17

Unknown

By the ocean side.

00:56:12:22 - 00:56:26:02

Speaker 3

Children.

00:56:26:04 - 00:56:32:18

Speaker 1

by the way, I want to mention it. Cynthia mendez organized this whole thing, including the decorations here in the hall.

00:56:32:20 - 00:56:38:19

Unknown

And I had a of.

00:56:38:22 - 00:56:46:22

Unknown

Listening.

00:56:46:25 - 00:56:52:13

Speaker 1

Please, miss. East Valley, Julissa Soto.

00:56:52:16 - 00:57:05:28

Unknown

Oh.

00:57:06:01 - 00:57:13:10

Unknown

How many? Second runner up and first runner up.

00:57:13:12 - 00:57:17:29

Speaker 3

Anybody want to guess who the Queen.

00:57:18:02 - 00:57:30:13

Unknown

Oh. Okay, bring your team down. This is not into any form. Let's welcome this. Officer Erica.

00:57:30:14 - 00:57:31:16

Speaker 3

Has 34.

00:57:31:19 - 00:57:41:05

Unknown

Oh.

00:57:41:08 - 00:57:56:14

Unknown

No, we got welcome. I think I got one more thing on.

00:57:56:16 - 00:58:05:29

Unknown

Frazier.

00:58:06:01 - 00:58:12:27

Unknown

Oh.

00:58:12:29 - 00:58:21:04

Unknown

I think.

00:58:21:06 - 00:58:38:25

Unknown

The Orioles.

00:58:38:27 - 00:58:47:26

Unknown

Don't. We're to be winning.

00:58:47:28 - 00:58:53:19

Unknown

Right.

00:58:53:22 - 00:58:57:27

Speaker 3

Let's do this again.

00:58:57:29 - 00:59:03:22

Unknown

Hey!

00:59:03:25 - 00:59:07:15

Unknown

Who?

00:59:07:18 - 00:59:17:04

Unknown

00:59:17:06 - 00:59:28:29

Unknown

Oh. Okay.

00:59:29:02 - 00:59:44:02

Speaker 3

Congratulations to all three of you. Please take your walk down the ramp.

00:59:44:05 - 00:59:59:21

Unknown

Oh.

00:59:59:23 - 01:00:14:06

Unknown

I don't want to.

01:00:14:08 - 01:00:25:26

Unknown

Stop!

01:00:25:29 - 01:00:29:15

Unknown

Oh! No.

01:00:29:17 - 01:00:32:19

Speaker 3

She does. She's beautiful, isn't she?

01:00:32:21 - 01:00:38:25

Unknown

Oh. I mean, just thank you, Germany, for.

01:00:38:27 - 01:00:53:00

Speaker 3

Taking the time to be with us this evening. We do have a special presentation, and I do not want you to leave her. Anybody, please.

01:00:53:03 - 01:01:01:11

Speaker 3

You beautiful. She wants braces from someone.

01:01:01:14 - 01:01:08:12

Speaker 3

I can relate. That makes you a queen. Then I want you.

01:01:08:15 - 01:01:30:13

Speaker 3

All right. At this time, we would like Marla Upton, 1999. Queen, we have a special presentation for you for.

01:01:30:16 - 01:01:46:04

Speaker 3

Her for.

01:01:46:06 - 01:02:18:27

Speaker 3

The past queen is going to be presented by a before, with a special gift by the contestants and by the current queen and your queen.

01:02:18:29 - 01:02:41:05

Unknown

If you.

01:02:41:08 - 01:02:52:13

Unknown

See this.

01:02:52:16 - 01:02:56:22

Unknown

Nice.

01:02:56:24 - 01:02:59:16

Unknown

I have you chapter terms.

01:02:59:19 - 01:03:42:11

Speaker 1

Come up so they can do this for people. The winners of the stage.

01:03:42:13 - 01:03:58:14

Unknown

Are.

01:03:58:17 - 01:04:04:22

Unknown

You guys.

01:04:04:25 - 01:04:13:19

Unknown

There.

01:04:13:21 - 01:04:27:25

Unknown

On.

01:04:27:27 - 01:04:37:16

Unknown

Your.

01:04:37:19 - 01:04:43:27

Unknown

Congratulations, ladies. Once again.

01:04:43:29 - 01:04:52:06

Unknown

Thank you all for joining time. You let us guys know what's happening. Come out.

01:04:52:08 - 01:05:02:11

Speaker 3

Thank you. Judges. Thank you. Committee. You all have a good time tonight. You have a part. I love you all.

01:05:02:13 - 01:05:03:19

Speaker 1

Thank you.

01:05:03:22 - 01:05:04:12

Unknown

It was a lot of fun.