

00:00:01:28 - 00:00:30:07

Speaker 1

Then to each and every one of us for being here today and supporting us in your in our endeavors. And we want to see more of yours here today. I also have a couple announcements that I want to bring up to you. The youth will be having their elections at 2:00 this afternoon. So it's going to be at the San Jose Hospitality Room 1170.

00:00:30:09 - 00:01:05:05

Speaker 1

So the youngsters who know everybody, make sure that they're there. Okay. Thank you. We have one more announcement that I have to make real fast. Like I want to thank you. I have I want to thank the people from from ship, the Hispanic Professional Engineers. Thanks again for your workshop on computer technology. Our chair goes out. Raul Martinez and Daniel.

00:01:05:08 - 00:01:16:03

Speaker 1

Daniel, what's your last name? Thank you.

00:01:16:05 - 00:01:32:27

Speaker 1

At this time, I want to bring up Diane to say the official prayer, the American G.I. Forum. If you'll all stand up, we'll say the prayer. Thank you.

00:01:32:29 - 00:01:41:26

Speaker 1

At this time, myself, the person to give you the prayer, I decided that is.

00:01:41:29 - 00:01:46:08

Speaker 2

Proper being this a woman's luncheon to have a woman here and.

00:01:46:08 - 00:02:00:10

Speaker 1

One of the most pretty a woman of our state that. Diana, a moment, please.

00:02:00:12 - 00:02:27:04

Speaker 3

Before we say the prayer, I'd like to take a moment of silence. Leo Avila, Avila's mother, died. So can we take a moment to pay our respects to Leo's mother and also to the other soldiers and veterans who have not came back from war, who have passed away.

00:02:27:07 - 00:03:09:22

Speaker 3

Now we'll see the official prayer of the American GI Forum, which is the prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi. Lord, make me an instrument of peace. Where there is hatred, let me feel where there is injury, heart and where there is doubt, Faith where there is despair, hope Where there is darkness light Where there is sadness. Joy O Divine Master Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved, as to love for It is in giving that we receive.

00:03:09:24 - 00:03:16:05

Speaker 3

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

00:03:16:08 - 00:03:46:03

Speaker 4

Amen to this.

00:03:46:06 - 00:03:55:27

Unknown

And when I read that.

00:03:55:29 - 00:04:42:19

Speaker 6

Please continue eating and enjoy your salad. I'm going to introduce the head table beginning to my right and we have the former California state chairwoman, Mrs. Anita Campos.

00:04:42:22 - 00:04:55:14

Speaker 6

We also have a mr. Issue Reese Herrera, vice president on Roch School District.

00:04:55:16 - 00:05:08:11

Speaker 6

We will now go on to the main portion of the program, and I'm going to introduce Mr. Rosenthal Salinas, to introduce our keynote speaker.

00:05:08:13 - 00:05:09:00

Speaker 1

thank you.

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

Unknown

Thank you. Thank you.

00:05:14:08 - 00:05:43:03

Speaker 1

I appreciate it, folks. It's been an interesting couple of days and probably today and tomorrow. Still be interesting. I hope that you're all enjoying yourself and we want to make you as welcome as possible to the convention. But I have the opportunity this afternoon to introduce an individual that I met, about six or seven years ago. And at that time, he impressed me.

00:05:43:05 - 00:06:12:22

Speaker 1

You know, I wish I was maybe a little younger. And as old as he is, we're we're I could have the sentiment to to run a statewide campaign. But it takes time, effort and money. But the reason why I was impressed with him is that it's not because of his party affiliation, because he was elected to the board of supervisors of a particular county and which is San Mateo County.

00:06:12:24 - 00:06:41:28

Speaker 1

When he got elected in 1992 on the borders of supervisors for that county. And in a short period of time, he has accomplished a lot. When when you look at elected officials and you see him sit there and the majority of them don't do nothing and they get reelected, reelected, reelected, and they never do anything, but this person is accomplish a lot in a short period time that he's been elected to the board of supervisors in San Mateo County.

00:06:42:00 - 00:07:09:02

Speaker 1

I mean, how more impressive can it be when when it would be consider a junior member of that board to form a coalition of different local jurisdictions to reduce the murder rate. And he's Palo Alto. He accomplished that. Can you imagine a junior member of the Board of Supervisors got local jurisdiction to participate in law, lower the crime rate.

00:07:09:07 - 00:08:00:16

Speaker 1

And he's Palo Alto. The reason why is so unique, because these Paul, these Palo Alto is a small community and it was known as the murder capital of the world. Impressive. But that's not one of the things that impressed this individual to me while being on the board of supervisors. He helped charter a school that was in a Latino district and created extended hours, brought technology in to that school, and has improved the education of Latinos in that community.

00:08:00:18 - 00:08:34:26

Speaker 1

To this, this individual comes from a long history of our own culture, our own hands, you know, for for an individual to. I know you heard Cruz Bustamante speak last night, and he was impressive. And I believe Ruben Perales, our next state comptroller, is going to impress you this afternoon. Let me introduce the most liberal well.

00:08:34:29 - 00:08:40:29

Speaker 2

I've heard Cruz Bustamante speak, so don't get your expectations up too high. I know Cruz.

00:08:41:01 - 00:09:18:12

Speaker 4

Very, very much. So much for allowing him to do. Thank you on the panel for what Governor? Great.

00:09:18:14 - 00:09:22:17

Speaker 1

Thank you for all of you.

00:09:22:19 - 00:09:43:25

Speaker 4

Thank you to.

00:09:43:28 - 00:10:04:28

Speaker 2

Probably die in Redwood City if I don't die on one of those planes that takes me around the around the state. And I want to be the next state comptroller and state of California. I want to be along with Cruz and two others who are running statewide, credible candidates, Latino candidates for statewide office in the state of California in 1998.

00:10:05:01 - 00:10:11:02

Speaker 2

And with your help, I know I can do that.

00:10:11:04 - 00:10:35:06

Speaker 2

Now, when I go down to Southern California, I know some of you are from Southern California, Miami, where they're not that they say go home, but you're a mexican, right? Blue eyes. Right, right, right. Well, so sometimes I have to explain you. My father came to the United States for a little time during the Presidio program, quite frankly, when some of you maybe were were fighting for this country or some of your relatives were fighting for this country.

00:10:35:09 - 00:11:05:09

Speaker 2

My father and others from Mexico came to California to work in that program. And he went back to Mexico. Yeah, he was from a little ranch outside of there, from Mexico City. And and he left the ranch, you know, came back and married a young girl from Mexico City. She longer, I think she they call him and they and they they came to what my father said is the best place in the world for a working family.

00:11:05:11 - 00:11:39:06

Speaker 2

And that's to California in the Bay Area. And my mother and father started, like so many immigrants to this country, with nothing, no education in Mexico. They worked in factories, factories, all kinds of plants, cement plants. My father eventually got into construction and he worked as a roofer, mopping tar and nailing shakes and shingles. And eventually in our garage, he started our little company, our roofing company, and I grew up with him.

00:11:39:12 - 00:12:03:00

Speaker 2

Miserable existence for a little kid that wants to do anything but rough. But people ask me sometimes, How can you run a statewide office? It takes four statewide. It takes so much energy and commitment and money. And I said, It beats roofing anything. Beats roofing in the sun, especially as the sun is out again. And yes, we did wear hats.

00:12:03:02 - 00:12:23:19

Speaker 2

And my mom, who worked in the factories as I was growing up, she eventually started a little restaurant in our in in our little area. And if you're from Redwood City or, you know, Redwood City, I'm so proud to be from Redwood City East Side. She started a little restaurant on Middlefield Road in that area, North Fair Oaks unincorporated, called a little shotgun.

00:12:23:21 - 00:12:44:29

Speaker 2

You know, many people from New York on there. And she started a little restaurant where all the roofers would go and have breakfast. And so I grew up in probably two of the toughest businesses for a kid to be involved in with their parents. But I worked side by side, and Spanish was our first language at home. But in many ways, business was the language of our family.

00:12:45:03 - 00:13:16:13

Speaker 2

I mean, my my parents were very, very motivated. I'm glad to do better and to do better, not so much so that they can enjoy a better life, although obviously they have a better life here than they did in Mexico, but so that we could and they were great models for me and my brother and sister and I grew up my ambition as I was growing up and going to school, Garfield School in Redwood City was to be was to build the braless empire in East Redwood City.

00:13:16:16 - 00:13:38:08

Speaker 2

So I went away to college, I went to UC Riverside, and I was the first in my family to go to college, first in my family to graduate from the university. I came back to be probably I can say this, although I haven't done the research, but I was probably the best educated roofer on the San Francisco Peninsula and I was so proud.

00:13:38:08 - 00:14:04:08

Speaker 2

I was young and single at the time and, you know, working hard, but you're making good money. And at that time, even then, what then was in the late eighties for me is kind of recent history for some of you is maybe not so far back but I was able to save enough money, work again La Familia. I mean everybody helping out was able to save enough money, buy a house, a house I couldn't afford today because of the housing market and all.

00:14:04:10 - 00:14:26:27

Speaker 2

And and I and I thought I had I thought I had it made a college degree. I was just married and just a wonderful family. You know, if I had my way, I would have bought the house right next to my parents.

But my wife had a different idea and said, well, so so we compromise. And we were a couple of blocks away, which, you know, to me is fine, But.

00:14:27:00 - 00:14:46:08

Speaker 2

Well, I was working on the roof and I got involved in nonprofit organizations and events has been has been involved in non-profits, housing discrimination. I would hire people to do checks. You're familiar with that to make sure that people were not discriminated against people because of ethnicity or any other reason or having because they have children. And I became more and more involved as a volunteer.

00:14:46:14 - 00:15:05:22

Speaker 2

And and one day in it was, well, ten years ago in December, my father had a terrible act and he fell off the roof. And my father has had a number of accidents over the years. But this one was this was it. I mean, he he he's with us still, but he's no longer the man that I knew growing up.

00:15:05:24 - 00:15:26:02

Speaker 2

You know, his body, except for his legs. He can't use his legs is strong. But it really it changed our family. It changed me and it it changed my focus in terms of what I wanted to do and to accomplish. And as I was thinking more about what I want to do and getting more involved in my community, I decided that I wanted to try to influence what was happening in my neighborhood.

00:15:26:02 - 00:15:52:02

Speaker 2

East Redwood City is no different than East L.A. or Del Paso Heights or Chula Vista or a number of communities I've seen in California, in minority neighborhoods, Latino neighborhoods that are tough places for kids to grow up. And they're somewhat neglected in terms of the roads and the schools and and just keeping up the area. So in my area, that unincorporated area, the board of Supervisors is in charge.

00:15:52:04 - 00:16:09:00

Speaker 2

And I said and I was 29 and I didn't know any different, I said, I want to be on the board of supervisors because I want to contribute to my community. So I ran for the Board of Supervisors and I won. I was the youngest person elected and the first Latino elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in the history of that county.

00:16:09:02 - 00:16:37:23

Speaker 2

I didn't know until after I won that I wasn't supposed to win, but it was because we worked hard. We worked hard. I they call me Landslide Morales because I won by 50.1% of the vote. That shows you. It shows you that every vote counts. And I reminded my mother, who at the time was not a citizen, still after being here for 30 years and she didn't didn't then did become a citizen afterwards.

00:16:37:23 - 00:16:54:26

Speaker 2

But every vote counts. And I appreciate all of you who who express your support, because it really does matter. And I know sometimes it's easy for people to think my vote doesn't matter. There are millions of people that vote. Very few people vote, quite frankly, in the state of California. And your vote really carries a lot of weight.

00:16:54:28 - 00:17:14:12

Speaker 2

Well, on the Board of Supervisors, I've focused on a number of things. Obviously, the financial issues, which I'm very much interested in involved in, worked on our retirement fund and our investment portfolio in the county. Proud to say that we diversified those funds. We have a much safer pool today. San Mateo County has the best bond rating. It shares it with one other county in the state of California.

00:17:14:12 - 00:17:34:04

Speaker 2

And I'm proud to have been a part of putting that together in terms of the financial picture. But there are two issues that for me have been important as a father and as a as a supervisor and just as a member of the community. And I know they're important to the GI Forum, to your members, to you. That's education and public safety in our neighborhoods in California.

00:17:34:06 - 00:17:57:05

Speaker 2

And as Vince mentioned, East Palo Alto, which is in my area of the county, was the murder capital of the United States of America in 1992. I don't know how many of you familiar with these Palo Alto. I just came back from from East Palo Alto right now. That's why I was late coming here. We finally today, of all days, we broke ground on a new commercial retail center that we're going to open up in East Palo Alto.

00:17:57:08 - 00:18:16:04

Speaker 2

We're going to bring over \$1,000,000 of revenue to that city that needs the help, that really needs the help. And it's a great accomplishment. And I was going to leave early there to get here on time, but they had a plaque for me they wanted to give me. So I just had to because, you know, when you work on something so much, put so much of yourself into it.

00:18:16:06 - 00:18:47:08

Speaker 2

You want to try to celebrate the good times because it's been hard. But in East Palo Alto, it's much as small as a small community, but it's about 20,000 people, not too big. In 1992, there were 42 murders in East Palo Alto, 42. Imagine that per capita, there's no community that even came close and in the truth is, it was mainly Hispanic kids and black kids shooting each other, stabbing each other, killing each other on the streets of that neighborhood there.

00:18:47:10 - 00:19:11:08

Speaker 2

And and the truth is, it wasn't just a tough neighborhood in 1992. It was in 91. It was in 90, as I was growing up. It was becoming tougher and tougher. And I saw that there wasn't an attention or a focus on trying to do something because, you know, it was on the east side, it was on the other side of the freeway and, you know, maybe some of the people got what they deserved or maybe because they're a minority, there's no attention.

00:19:11:08 - 00:19:32:14

Speaker 2

I mean, all the excuses you want, you want to mention, because they're their own city now. So the county doesn't have responsibility. None of those to me, made any sense. And so working with many, many other people, we were able to put more sheriff's deputies and other law enforcement officers on the streets. We went from 42 murders in 1992 to just one murder in 1996.

00:19:32:17 - 00:19:54:04

Speaker 2

We made a great difference. We made a great difference in a in a in a community. And again, a community is becoming more and more Latino. And I've got a whole I could talk to you for hours about, you know, political empowerment in the Latino community, because even though it's becoming more and more Latino, there are still no Latino members of the city council yet.

00:19:54:06 - 00:20:11:27

Speaker 2

But it's an example that we can do. If we set our mind to do something, we can make it happen. If we set a goal that we want to make a community safe, we can make it happen. And we have the resources. We're in a great economy now. But this happened when our economy was going down and our board was cutting budgets just like so many boards and city councils throughout the state.

00:20:11:29 - 00:20:34:16

Speaker 2

But if you have a focus and you want to work with others to make something happen, you can make it happen. That's the lesson I learned that I learned in East Palo Alto, that if we want our neighborhoods to be safe, the tough neighborhoods again, that by some coincidence, happen to be Latino neighborhoods in black neighborhoods that are the toughest, that have the highest crime, we can make them safer.

00:20:34:19 - 00:20:55:12

Speaker 2

And a state controller. One of the things I said I will do is to make sure that public safety dollars are spent on public safety, make sure that the money that we spend is taxpayers. And they may just be numbers or acronyms to you, but Proposition 172, money or TAN if funds or any other monies that are dedicated for public safety, we need to make sure that they're used for public safety in the neighborhoods that need them.

00:20:55:19 - 00:21:18:13

Speaker 2

And, you know, you can't take for granted that it's just going to happen because I fought that battle for six years on the Board of Supervisors. And that's and that's what I want to do as comptroller. The other

issue is, is education. And over that, you have a form that is a major issue because that's the only way that and I know I'm not speaking only to Latinos, but that's the only way that I know that Latino community is going to is going to advance here in the United States.

00:21:18:15 - 00:21:51:13

Speaker 2

So as a supervisor, I went back to my elementary school, Garfield Elementary School, and we created one of the first charter schools in the state of California. Now, some of you may be familiar with charter schools. Some of you are not. Charter basically allows you parents and teachers and other interested people to take over the school, the school working with the school board, ideally, and trying something different because Lord knows we need to try different things to help kids because, again, you compare test scores throughout California and generally speaking, the lower test scores happen to be in our neighborhoods.

00:21:51:15 - 00:22:11:19

Speaker 2

Again, you know, I don't want to get into philosophically or socially why that is. I'm just somebody who wants to do something about it. So we formed a charter charter school. I'm on the board. The majority of board members are parents. We also have teachers on the board. And we did things like a longer school year and smaller class sizes at Garfield School.

00:22:11:21 - 00:22:35:03

Speaker 2

The parents insisted that we do uniforms. The hope filled elementary school in this East Side Latino school. I call it Latino because 96% of the kids there are Latino, most of them recent immigrants. It's a get us up and up quartile, of course, in California. That's our whole focus. We told our principal, your job is to make sure the kids get in the top, top quartile of test scores.

00:22:35:10 - 00:23:00:24

Speaker 2

And our teachers, as we hire them, say, this is what we're doing. We're working as a team and our whole focus is getting the kids into the top quartile test scores. A lot of people say you can't do that. You know, some Mexican or some ballplayers, they come from broken families or whatever. And we say when a kid comes to us with big open eyes in kindergarten, and for us somehow to say, well, we don't expect you to be one of the top performers in California, I think that's a crime.

00:23:00:24 - 00:23:15:19

Speaker 2

And enough of us thought that's not acceptable. So you know what? Maybe they'll write ultimately. Maybe there are too many things working against us and we're not going to succeed. But it's not going to be for lack of trying. We're going to do it and we're going to measure our performance. We're in our fourth year and we're seeing great results.

00:23:15:24 - 00:23:43:14

Speaker 2

We're not there yet, but we're measuring how we're doing that. That is that is, I think, the way to go. And what I learned at Garfield School, not that I didn't learn a lot there going as a student, I learned my ABCs. But what I learned at Garfield is it's going to take us, all of us, around these tables and some of us who maybe thought we've done enough, we've worked, maybe we're retired, enjoying the good life.

00:23:43:17 - 00:24:02:25

Speaker 2

Those of us who are still working or building careers or families, you know, it's going to take us. There's no there's nobody that's going to come and talk to your group or any other group that to be elected governor or comptroller or city council member or school board member, that is going to change education in California to make it to make Latinos succeed more in California, it's going to be us.

00:24:02:25 - 00:24:19:05

Speaker 2

I mean, each and every one of us taking responsibility, even if it's a little bit you don't have to serve on a school board or a school site. But being more involved in your local school or in your school district, whether or not you have children at your local schools, because that's what it takes. That's what I learned is it takes a lot of people to focus, to say we want to try to achieve.

00:24:19:11 - 00:24:37:19

Speaker 2

So like the Kiwanis Club has made a commitment to us. Businesses around the area have made commitments to us. And you know what? You put all those together and all of a sudden kids in this neighborhood school say, Wow, people care about us and there's something there's something about

putting the light on something like that and telling kids that they're important and we're going to spend money and time and effort to improve education.

00:24:37:24 - 00:25:02:28

Speaker 2

We can do that. One of the things as controller that I talk about is doing an audit of the Department of Education in California because I want to make sure that more of our tax dollars are spent in the classrooms, allow our school boards and local school sites to have more money than we than they have now. And I think one of the ways to do that is to do an audit of our State Department of Education to make sure the money moves that way.

00:25:03:00 - 00:25:20:08

Speaker 2

I'm I'm going to conclude I won't I won't bore you too much, but Vince alluded to something. Whenever I speak to Latino groups, I feel it's like a disclaimer I have to give. And I don't think it's always been this way, but you know, I've got it. You have to face the reality. I happen to be a Republican.

00:25:20:10 - 00:25:39:28

Speaker 2

And now when I was fighting crime in East Palo Alto, even though they laughed and they joked with me, but nobody said, well, you know, well, we'll only reduce crime if you're a Democrat. And when we started the process at Garfield School, it didn't matter what party, although for some for some it does matter. But I'll tell you, I'm a Republican mainly because I believe in free enterprise system in America.

00:25:40:00 - 00:25:57:07

Speaker 2

I mean, I know it's the only reason that my family has been able to achieve anything is because we had an opportunity to work hard to build a business. And I want to see America remain strong and support those small business people that have an idea or say they want to they want to control their own destiny and give them the opportunity to do that.

00:25:57:09 - 00:26:16:03

Speaker 2

That's why I'm a Republican. That's it. But let me but let me tell you, I mean, I'll be I'll be honest. I'm fighting a fight in my own party. And it's not just Republicans either, because I tell you, there were plenty of Democrats that voted for these initiatives that are often mentioned. 180 72092227. I mean, they don't win with just Republican votes.

00:26:16:05 - 00:26:44:19

Speaker 2

Let me assure you, there are more Democrats in the state than there are Republicans. So this is an issue that goes, I think, beyond partizanship. I think it goes to where California is and where we hope to go. I believe that we are fighting. I know I've been fighting. It will be with Democrats and Republicans alike. Somehow there is a fear that California's changing, that it's not the same California the people were that people knew years ago.

00:26:44:22 - 00:27:10:22

Speaker 2

And, you know, anyone who can read between the lines understands that people are concerned that somehow new immigrants, not just Latinos but Asians, too, and people from other parts of the world are somehow changing. I see the diversity of California as nothing but a great big plus. I see it as a just a tremendous asset and being being that being the son of immigrants, I don't see how, you know, I could see it any other way.

00:27:10:24 - 00:27:25:18

Speaker 2

But let me tell you, even though those who are very comfortable in the Democrat Party thinking, well, you know, it's the Republicans are against the immigrants, I see. I mean, I'm not even looking too far out. I see where in the Democrat Party you have folks in the environmental community who say, you know, California's beautiful the way it is.

00:27:25:21 - 00:27:48:11

Speaker 2

Let's close the doors because we want to keep it beautiful. And they're talking about putting in restrictions. You're going to see that fight coming along in the Democrat Party itself between the environmental community and others. You're going to see the fight, as you did in Republican Party, against those who want to close the borders and those of us who believe in free trade and believe that immigration is good for for California, we're going to see those fights.

00:27:48:15 - 00:28:13:26

Speaker 2

And we need to work together as I think not just as Latinos, but as Californians to say that we need to agree, maybe put our differences aside. But those of us who agree that diversity is a good thing in California stand up side by side, whatever party we are, and fight for that. So that's that's my pledge to you as a Republican and as I tell some of my some of the folks that are that aren't so enthusiastic about the changes.

00:28:13:28 - 00:28:34:04

Speaker 2

I say when our friends in the Silicon Valley invent a computer that can that can pick tomatoes or clean offices, then we can talk about maybe reducing immigration. But, you know, there's no technology that's going to change that. There is a there's a there is definitely a need economically and I think socially is a great benefit for the diversity that we have in California.

00:28:34:06 - 00:28:54:16

Speaker 2

And I'll tell you a little story about one Latina. When I was campaigning for supervisor, I mentioned I was elected by 50.1% of the vote. I was reelected by 72% of the vote, which is a little bit better margin. But as I was and I think that's based on one record, but so I was campaigning in San Mateo County and I talked to a businesswoman, a Latina on Middlefield Road there.

00:28:54:16 - 00:29:09:05

Speaker 2

I said, you know, I need your vote because I'm running for reelection. And these are things that I've done and this is what I want to do. I want to I want to help be a part of the solution and not part of the problem, she said. But it is it is Republican, also Latina.

00:29:09:07 - 00:29:27:11

Speaker 2

And I said, well, you know, you're a business person. You understand that we you know, we need a strong economy so we can create jobs and have more resources to put into our schools. And she said,

Yeah, but Ohio is Republican. And I'll say, Anyways, I talked with her for quite a while, and I finally had to say, Look, mom, I need your vote.

00:29:27:13 - 00:29:55:05

Speaker 2

Every vote counts. And she finally she voted for me. And I'm proud to say that she voted for me. But what what I want to tell you is that for me, I am I am just so proud of my heritage, who I am, where I come from. But I'm also proud of being American. I'm proud of being a part of this of this great country in this great state.

00:29:55:10 - 00:30:18:09

Speaker 2

And again, I want to be a part of of the future of California and part of the solution. And for that, I ask for your help and support and pleasure to see you all.

00:30:18:12 - 00:30:47:29

Speaker 1

I think Ruben made some real clear points. You know, it's not whether you're a Democrat or Republican. It doesn't matter what party you're affiliated with. What's important is the individual, the individual that you're going to vote for, because a couple of comments that Ruben made is saying that it wasn't Republicans who voted for the prior proposition that we all talk about when 87 to a 6 to 27, it wasn't just Republicans was Democrats, too.

00:30:48:02 - 00:31:12:10

Speaker 1

So remember, when you go to the polls and you vote, you vote for the person who you know, person who who you can understand, a person who's similar like you, who thinks like you and is looking out for your best interest. And so I'd like to give us another hand, another part to play.

00:31:12:13 - 00:31:31:16

Speaker 6

Thank you, Ruben, before we leave and reconvene to our appropriate meetings, I'd like to recognize one other individual who is in attendance here. Mr. Jackson, I was Ayala. Excuse me, Mr. Chuck Ayala, who is a member of the California Community College Accreditation Board.

00:31:31:18 - 00:31:42:20

Speaker 1

Friend, There is a little modification I want to bring up for people.

00:31:42:23 - 00:31:58:07

Speaker 6

We have a an individual, you know, Mr. Role Ortega, who is going to come forth and give a presentation. So bear with us. Thank you.

00:31:58:09 - 00:32:32:20

Speaker 1

Thank you. As you know, there's so many wonderful things been happening to us these two days. They've done a tremendous job to put this for us. And we very, very proud to all of us be here, seen or used and listening to people that have a drive direction and energy. We need to put that plan to the youngsters.

00:32:32:22 - 00:32:57:13

Speaker 1

The youngsters are the important thing. We have to do that. So here I am now, asking God to be our leader, adore him with the youth. Thank you. People.

00:32:57:16 - 00:33:21:01

Speaker 6

We will be reconvening at 2:00. As you can tell, I'm still not quite there yet. I am still not the national commander in.

00:33:21:03 - 00:34:00:19

Speaker 1

We have an individual here from Sacramento that would like to give us a little rundown of what is happening with the memorial in Sacramento and Ortega. Sam Ortega, would you please come up here to.

00:34:00:21 - 00:34:32:07

Speaker 2

I thank you very much. My name is Sam Ortega from Sacramento. I'm a member of the Sacramento chapter of GI Forum. I'm also vice president of the California Mexican-American Veterans Memorial. I want to say thank you for being here. The candidates for the contest and the honorable directors and our illustrious guests, which are Morales. I want to start by saying this, that the information I'm going to give you today is very historical.

00:34:32:13 - 00:35:04:01

Speaker 2

Please mark my words. I am speaking on behalf of Veterans Memorial for Mexican-Americans. There are only three commissions in the state of California that have been authorized by the legislature to honor veterans. The Vietnam Memorial was completed in 1990. The All Veterans Memorial will be completed this July or August. And at the state capitol grounds, the third Memorial Commission established by the state of California is the Mixed American Veterans Memorial.

00:35:04:04 - 00:35:38:10

Speaker 2

That's going to be a \$1.2 million project for all veterans throughout California. Currently, the governor will be appointing seven members to this commission, and the assembly will appoint two people and the Senate will appoint two people. So 11 commissioners will direct the design and construction of this memorial. However, we are we also call the Metro America for tomorrow Commission, Inc. We started this project in 1991 and been doing developmental work throughout the state.

00:35:38:12 - 00:36:07:23

Speaker 2

We've had receptions, we had fundraisers. We talked to some of the members of the G.I. Forum the last five, six years. Some have already come forward and supported us quite a bit. What's important here is that the memorial touches on all the points that Mr. Morales was talking about. He talked about to be focused, well, this memorial will be built in and near the state capitol, near a tourist center where people from all over the world come.

00:36:07:25 - 00:36:31:09

Speaker 2

It will honor veterans of world War One to Korea, Vietnam. Some 3000 names of Latino veterans killed in action will be inscribed on the memorial walls. There'll be a special pedestal in front of the memorial for 36 Latino that received the Medal of Honor. So that has been very focused in terms of what we want to accomplish. It also talks talked about being involved in the community.

00:36:31:14 - 00:36:57:26

Speaker 2

This memorial is for all of Latinos in all communities, so that when you come to the state capitol, you can take pride in what we've accomplished. Latino veterans in terms of education, you can. This is the one thing we do need. We need to give our young people a role model, an image where they can stand on this beautiful memorial and say, my God, our people accomplished all this because so many stories of heroism need to be told and they're not being told.

00:36:57:28 - 00:37:16:05

Speaker 2

I think all of us here are quite aware that when you read books and then see movies about World War Two, Korea, whatever, they might have one or two Latinos in the beginning of the picture, then they get shot and then John Wayne takes over. Nothing gets all the credit. So that needs to be changed. This memorial is going to do that.

00:37:16:08 - 00:37:42:12

Speaker 2

Mr. Morales talked about that. It takes it's going to take us I'm paraphrasing some of his words. This memorial is going to take all of us to build it. He also talked about California changing. And what's changing in California is the power base. We have elected officials now that were there for. And when you get to a levels like Mr. Mantle and we are Riverside, you have a lot of power.

00:37:42:14 - 00:38:20:06

Speaker 2

And as Latinos, when we get our memorial completed, we're going to have a lot of power. So we're asking the G.I. Forum to support us in this endeavor. Later on, they're going to present a resolution for

your discussion to consider. The one thing that I do want to point out that we didn't start this way ourselves. Actually, there is a World War two soldier statue in front of the state capitol now that was put together by the Societa, the Modo Mexicanos who during the War World War Two were involved in sending packages Red Cross and going to the USO dances and all that.

00:38:20:08 - 00:38:33:27

Speaker 2

Then after the war was over, they raised \$41,000 in, built this loan soldier statue, a World War two in our group.

00:38:33:29 - 00:39:10:05

Speaker 2

So. So it was a mother of Mexicanos who actually originated the memorial. At that time, it was only world War Two. We have come along and we said, Let's recognize Korea, Vietnam and other conflicts. So this memorial is going to be something truly outstanding. It's going to be the only kind of memorial anywhere in the country. In addition to that, this memorial, when when the fundraising gets underway because of the commission status that it has, that means that all the resources the government are going to have to come to our assistance that's required by law.

00:39:10:07 - 00:39:32:12

Speaker 2

That's general services, that's Veterans Affairs, that's military affairs, all of them. We're not going to be a bunch of McConnells with hat in hand asking for support. We are entitled to that support by legislation that was pushed and put together by the Latino Legislative Caucus. Mr. Morales talked about empowerment. It's because of the Latino Legislative Caucus. They were able to get a similar bill 1350.

00:39:32:14 - 00:40:04:06

Speaker 2

We now have a memorial the way. So we'll be talking to you more about this memorial in the next few months as we travel throughout the state. So I wanted to bring this to your attention. I'm delighted to have the opportunity. And I want to remind you that I'm giving you information that is truly historical in many ways, the memorial that's going to be built in Sacramento, without question, as under HB 1357, 1350 and what that a similar bill 1350 does is three or four major things.

00:40:04:13 - 00:40:29:06

Speaker 2

One, where the statue is now that is the permanent location by law for the new memorial for the Latinos. You cannot take that away from us. No way. Number two, it set up the commission that I just mentioned so that you get high caliber people on that commission help us raise the money. And number three, the title of the memorial is Mexican American Veterans Memorial.

00:40:29:09 - 00:40:48:10

Speaker 2

Okay. And then the last thing, which is really important to all of us and we'll talk more about that later on, is that the memorial will be eligible on your state state income tax refund when you send the refund in. You can check mark a box where you can contribute as much as you want if you want to, the memorial.

00:40:48:12 - 00:41:09:01

Speaker 2

Some of you are doing that now for the All Veterans Memorial. But beginning next year for your 1998 return, you'll be able to show on that checkoff box if you want to contribute to the memorial. So thank you very much for the opportunity. Thank you very much, Mr. Morales. Question.

00:41:09:03 - 00:41:11:13

Speaker 4

Yes.

00:41:11:16 - 00:41:40:00

Unknown

You mentioned the fact that the people were critical and the were located right between the library and the library, and only one would have your office. So you get a you know, a very, very, very critical part. I just wanted to say thank you very much for your support and then for putting this thing forward. You deserve a holiday.

00:41:40:02 - 00:42:10:22

Speaker 2

Thank you. I just want to add a point to Mr. Garcia's observation. The Vietnam Memorial in the auditorium will be on the east side of state capital, which is the back site, so to speak. The Latino memorial will be in the front of the state capital. Okay. Now, when we were when the legislation was going through, because on the other side of the Latino memorial is a law enforcement memorial, very beautiful memorial.

00:42:10:24 - 00:42:38:19

Speaker 2

So when our legislation was going through the the firefighters association contacted us. They wanted our location and they said, we'll help you raise the money you need. But can you move your mobile over in the back? And we said we've said as board members, was that hell no. But the firefighters. No, thank you very much. So it is a choice location.

00:42:38:21 - 00:42:59:11

Speaker 2

And when you come in from San Francisco and you see the state capitol, you'll see it. In addition to that, I want to add this, that recently we negotiated with a University of California, Berkeley School of Architecture. They are going to undertake a project to do the design competition for the memorial. So we'll have the prestige, the year of California behind us.

00:42:59:11 - 00:43:05:28

Speaker 2

Also. Thank you very much.

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

Speaker 6

Thank you. I do have one more person that we need to recognize who is out in the audience. Mr. Mario Vasquez, former state commander of California.

00:43:22:24 - 00:43:28:20

Speaker 6

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. We will now reconvene to our appropriate meeting scheduled at 2:00. Thank you.