



Mexican American Veteran's Memorial Getting A Makeover

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE...



Welcome! Feliz Navidad! Happy Holidays!

Merry Christmas. There is no question this time of the year is for children...a time of caring, giving, and celebrating. We at Vida, through POP-9 Communications, have engaged into a fun yet helpful event called Holiday Helping Hands.

This is not a non-profit, nor a for-profit. This is a group of businesses, organizations, and churches that have come together solely for the purpose of collecting food and toys for needy families. In addition, we will be holding a one-day event on December 17, 2011, at the Hagginwood Community Center where we will be serving meals, doing crafts, and holding raffles for the needy in the community. This event is free and we are still looking for volunteers. We will be accepting food and unwrapped gifts until December 16 at 8 p.m.

We want to wish you and your families the best this Holiday Season.

Abrazos/Hugz,
Adrian Perez, Publisher
info@vidadeoro.com

Poster of the Week



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About Vida de Oro

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[POP-9 Communications](mailto:info@vidadeoro.com), 1901 A Del Paso Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815 or email us at info@vidadeoro.com

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Cover Story

“El Soldado” to get a much needed upgrade

[Watch the video here](#)

During World War II in Sacramento, the mothers of Mexican American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines serving in both the European and Pacific Theaters, sought to

create a memorial to their children and loved ones who died protecting our country. The present-day memorial they worked to create was finally dedicated in 1975, and placed at Historic State Capitol Park. Sadly, without funding for ongoing maintenance, the memorial has been deteriorating while fine Capitol Park memorials honoring fallen police and firefighters, Vietnam War veterans and others have been built and refurbished.

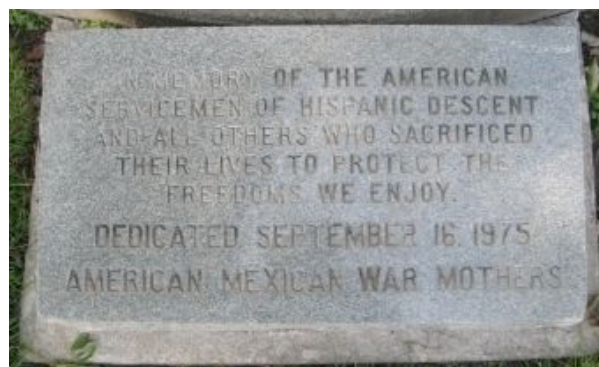
California is working to establish what is believed to be the first permanent memorial to honor Latino veterans at any of our nation's fifty state capitols. The Memorial is a privately funded effort and is not dependent on public funds.

The estimated cost of the memorial restoration project is \$1.1 million. More than \$335,000 has been raised to date. Memorial design, engineering services, architectural drawings, and environmental assessment work is funded and has been completed. The Memorial Committee is currently raising funds to kick off the project's construction phase. The target date for Memorial dedication is 2012. To view the Memorial design and a short promotional video, visit the [Cal Vet website](#).

Latino men and women who served in uniform since California entered the Union in



Mexican American War Mothers



The Plaque at the foot of “El Soldado” reads:

“IN MEMORY OF THE AMERICAN
SERVICEMEN OF HISPANIC DESCENT
AND ALL OTHERS WHO SACRIFICED
THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT THE
FREEDOMS WE ENJOY”
DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 16, 1975
AMERICAN MEXICAN WAR MOTHERS

1850 will be represented in the Memorial’s design, and the names of 43 Latinos awarded the Medal of Honor will be etched in granite. A memorial garden will also be dedicated to the mothers who first sought to honor the memory of their lost sons and daughters in uniform.

It’s easy to donate and its tax deductible. Donate online at the [Cal Vet website](#). Donations can also be mailed to:

California Mexican American Veterans’
Memorial
c/o CDVA
1227 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

or

Donate via 501(c)(3): [Cal Vet Fund](#)
Mail to: Vetfund Foundation
2001 N Street, Suite 201
Sacramento, CA 95814
Attn: Fernando Vellanoweth



These are artist renderings of proposed memorial



Above: The Memorial as it would look facing Capitol Mall

Above: The Memorial as it would look facing the State Capitol

Below: The Memorial as it would look from the top

Below: The Memorial as it would look from the Speaker’s Office



Above: The Memorial as it currently looks





National Latino Peace Officers Association

"Honoring family, education, and community through service and mentorship."

Law enforcement group celebrates the Holidays at the Mexican Consulate

In 1972, officers Vicente Calderon (California Highway Patrol) and the late John Parraz (Sacramento Sheriff's Office) had extensive discussions about launching an organization that would address how policing was conducted in the Latino community. In 1974, the [National Latino Peace Officers Association](#) (NLPOA) was born, members from various state, county and local law enforcement agencies.



Ret. Officer Vicente Calderon



Late Officer John Parraz

"John and I began to recruit individuals who shared our commitment," writes Ret. Officer Vicente Calderon. "We went in search of resources and input from more experienced individuals, after all, neither John nor I had any administrative, business or supervisory skills, and here we were ready to take on a society that still looked at us as second class citizens..."

The specific purpose of NLPOA are to eliminate prejudice and discrimination in the criminal justice system, particularly Law Enforcement; Reduce community juvenile delinquency; and, Lessen citizen tension in predominantly Latino communities.

On November 28, 2011, the Sacramento Chapter of the NLPOA held its annual Holiday Reception at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento. The following images were captured by Retired Officer and Former National President Andrew Cruz. Enjoy. **-Vida**



L to R: Alice Perez (Sac. Hispanic Chamber); General Counsel Carlos Gutierrez (Mexican Consulate); and, Rosa Escutia (PG&E)



Nearly 50 guests and members attended the annual NLPOA Holiday Reception.



Sacramento Chapter Executive Board with Mayor Kevin Johnson



Andrew Cruz with a Sacramento Chapter Member



Cellist Victoria Suan



Miguel Arias, Sacramento Chapter 2012 Vice President, Alice Perez and Tom Neri, Sacramento Chapter President



Darrel Cortez, State President and Susan Annino, Sac Chapter Member



Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary received an NLPOA Pin



NLPOA Sacramento Chapter President Tom Neri greets everyone



Sacramento NLPOA Members

Mayor Kevin Johnson Holds Audience with Latino Community

By Julia Marin, Vida de Oro



Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson held a town hall meeting at the La Familia Counseling Center this past November with members of the South Sacramento Latino community. He was joined by Councilmember Jay Schenirer to answer questions and concerns from the audience. The meeting was conducted in English and Spanish.

Those in attendance ranged in age from pre-teens to the elderly were present and asked questions about the diverse social and economic struggles they face.

Jenny, a junior high school student, raised an issue regarding vacant lots in Oak Park where many illegal activities take place with no one to monitor or stop those activities.

Johnson assured her that he and Councilmember Schenirer have been working to fix some of the vacant lots in the area. He told attendees that many vacant lot owners do not live in Oak Park, thus making it difficult for them to maintain a close watch on their properties. However, if more people bought property and lived within Oak Park, instead of renting, that would help improve the areas.

In 2010, 17 vacant lots were turned into community gardens in the city, which are now being enjoyed by area residents. He said the city plans on converting another 17 vacant properties into more community garden areas in the coming year.

Mayor Johnson was pleased that Jenny, at her young age, could take interest in her community to ask and articulate her concerns about the vacant lots and the danger they pose to children who play amongst them. She said she would like to go to Sac State when she grows up to become a writer. The mayor had members of his staff take down her information and pledged that once she is old

enough and decides to enroll into college, he will make the contribution for her to attend Sac State. The same pledge was made to another student raising concerns over proper street lighting in his neighborhood.



The meeting got a little contentious when members of the audience began to raise questions regarding the Sacramento City Police profiling Latinos and asking for social security numbers and immigration status during routine traffic stops. Johnson, who was instrumental in getting the City Council to vote in favor of a boycott of Arizona for passing the nation's anti-immigrant laws, told the audience to contact him if they experienced this type of treatment.

"This type of conduct that will not be tolerated," he told the audience.

Other concerns stated included: speedy healthcare treatment; rights for victims presumed to be residing in the U.S. without proper permission by INS; Charter Schools; and broken street lights or streets with no lights at all.

In assuring members of the community that their concerns will be addressed and receive proper attention, the mayor reminded everyone that a community has to work together in order to progress and overcome the difficulties it may have. He encouraged the audience to contact his office or Councilmember Schenirer's office. - **Vida**



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AMERICAN EXILE

a documentary film by John J. Valadez and Carleen L. Hsu

AMERICAN EXILE is a documentary film about two brothers, Valente and Manuel Valenzuela, both decorated veterans who volunteered and fought in Vietnam. Now, forty years later the Department of Homeland Security is trying to deport them to Mexico, a country they have not been to since childhood.

For over sixty years they lived in the United States. They went to elementary school and played on the high school football team. They got married and had kids, then grandkids. They worked, bought homes and started their own construction business. Manuel opened a martial arts school. They joined veteran's organizations and for decades they donned their uniforms and marched in parades on Veteran's day and the Fourth of July.

Then came 9/11 and the Valenzuela brothers lives were forever changed. The government began checking people they believed were resident aliens for criminal records in an attempt to snare potential terrorists. They discovered Valente had been sentenced to take an anger management course because he got into a fight. Manuel's name came up because he had been convicted of resisting arrest almost a decade ago and had paid a \$350 fine.

About a year and a half ago they both got notices of deportation. They were shocked. They thought it was a mistake. After all, their mother was American, born and brought up in New Mexico, and their father was a naturalized citizen. Both brothers were raised in Redford, Texas along the U.S.-Mexico border and both had volunteered to serve in the military when many of their peers were fleeing to Canada and Mexico. The Department of Homeland Security countered that Valente and Manuel were actually born across the Rio Grande river in Palomas, Mexico and they are therefore in the country illegally.

Confused, the brothers started using the internet to connect with and get advice from other veterans. They were astonished to discover they are not alone. Many veterans are facing deportation or in their words, "exile." Now comes the opportunity to tell all of these stories. But, to do that, we need your support. Please take a moment and make the donation you can to make this important film.



13th Annual Latino Leaders' Reception for Constitutional Officers, Legislators and Appointees

Latino Journal

With distinguished Co-Hosts:
CAFÉ de California, Inc .
Spanish Language Academy

January 11, 2012

5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Sacramento, CA

[Click Here to watch video](#)

RSVP REQUIRED!

reception@latinojournal.net

WELCOME COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS!

This is an invitation for your Community Based Organization to co-host the **Latino Journal's** "13th Annual Latino Leaders' Reception for Constitutional Officers, Legislators and Appointees" scheduled for January 11, 2012, in Sacramento, California scheduled from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

This exciting and powerful reception has grown in stature and attendance over the years. Those joining us include constitutional officers, legislators, appointees, business leaders, local elected officials, labor and community leaders from all over California. The two-hour, non-partisan business mixer format permits attendees to do strategic networking as the California Legislature and Governor Brown begin work on 2012 issues.

This reception offers participating organizations visibility and networking in a strategic setting that leads to enhanced government relations. Join the **Latino Journal** and many of the 2011 California government leaders.

There is no costs to Community Based Organizations to be a co-host. The organization's name will be listed in the invitation to statewide government leaders and listed during the reception. Up to three leaders of your organizations may attend .

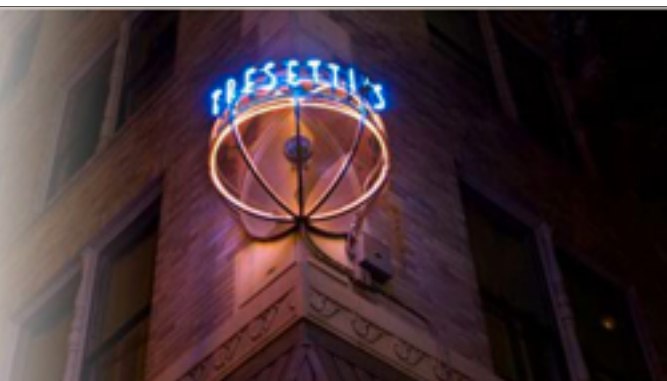
Thank for your consideration of this unique opportunity and we look forward to your participation.

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Russian American Media 8th Annual Best Awards & Miss Russia California



By Sergey Ivannikov, Founder/CEO
Russian American Media

Here is an overview of the Russian celebration of the year in pictures. [The 8th Best by Russian-speaking Community Award Ceremony](#) turned out to be a true gala of success, talent, culture and beauty!

The Best awards presented on stage defined companies and individuals that have been voted as champions of the year of 2011 according to the Russian-speaking community.

The ceremony was embellished by the world's rising dance and solo stars whose energy and talent dominated the program.

And of course, the splendor of the Grand Finale of [Miss Russian California 2012](#), which crowned a new beauty queen with the honor of representing the Russian-speaking community throughout the upcoming year.

Guiding the guests through the saturated program was Tim Ray, the Executive Director for AT&T External Affairs in Northern California and one of the Best event hosts the Russian Californians ever encountered.

On behalf of Russian American Media I would like to thank all volunteers, sponsors, and co-organizers for their immense contribution to this marvelous celebration of friendship and culture. Special thanks to all the guests who joined our community on that special night. It is our honor to share with you the culture, talent, and friendship of the Russian-speaking community.



BLINK 182 brings people together

By Julia Marin, Vida de Oro



San Diego based punk rock band, Blink-182, was formed in 1993 by Tom DeLonge, Mark Hoppus and former drummer Scott Raynor. While on tour in 1998, Raynor left the band due to personal reasons at which point tour mate Travis Barker, drummer for the ska punk band, The Aquabats, filled in for the remainder of the tour. It was then that both DeLonge and Hoppus invited Barker to become a permanent member of Blink-182.

In 2004, after four successful albums, including one live, Blink-182 disbanded due to what was considered at the time irreconcilable differences: stress, tension, and creative dissimilarities; leaving fans shocked and saddened by their break-up.

DeLonge formed the alternative band, Angels & Airwaves, while Hoppus and Barker went on to form the alternative punk band, +44. Five years later, word got out that Mark, Tom, and Travis would come together for what fans would call, a much long awaited performance, at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, NY.

In early 2011, the band reunited with what they started in 2001, the Honda Civic Tour, and released their comeback album, *Neighborhoods*, in September.

On October 2, alongside popular rock bands My Chemical Romance and Matt & Kim, Blink-182 rocked the stage at the Sleep Train Amphitheatre in Wheatland, CA, entertaining fans of all ages and cultural groups who came to see them perform. Many came from different parts of Northern California.

Kudos to Mark, Tom and Travis on their smooth and seamless reunion, but most notably for their ability to conform to today's popular music culture without losing that genuine sound and appeal that Blink-182 started years ago. - **Vida**

Local Latina releases her newest music video



Roxana Damas

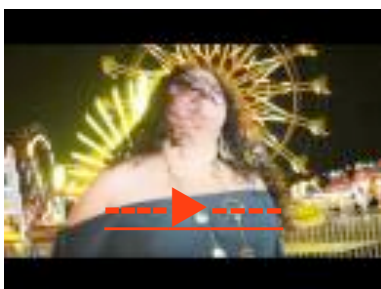
Meet Roxana Damas, a singer, songwriter, performer whose San Francisco roots are evident in her most recent video “Magic in the Night,” a blend of danceable Latin rock and fun lyrics.

Although Roxana grew up in the barrios of San Francisco, she has adopted the Sacramento region as her home, having written

songs and performed with local legend Frank Lizarraga of LUV-TAXI and Latin beat band/hip hop artist Trucho G.

A graduate of U.C. Davis in Women and Gender Studies, Roxana has been active in advocating for women’s empowerment, youth and immigration rights issues. But her ability to express herself through song has led Roxana to perform for Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchu and even Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

Now Roxana has released her latest video “Magic in the Night.” Enjoy. - **Vida**



Watch Roxana’s Video



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Tuesday: 9am-4pm

Wednesday: 9am-4pm, and 6pm-10pm

Thursday: 9am-4pm, and 6pm-11pm

Friday: 9am-4pm*, and 6pm-Midnight

Saturday: 6:30pm to Midnight

Sunday: Closed

* We are closed for most holidays and Furlough Fridays between 8am-4pm



© Chad E. Williams

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HOLIDAY HELPING HANDS



Date: Saturday, December 17, 2011

Time: 10am - 4pm

Location: Hagganwood Community Center
3271 Marysville Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95815

Donate Local Food & Unwrapped Toys!

Non-Perishable Foods That Are Needed:
Juice, Baked Goods, Rice, Canned Meat, Beans, Canned Vegetables, Canned Soup, Pasta, Bread, Etc.

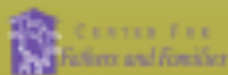
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