



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## For Immediate Release

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## CHAMBER TO RECOGNIZE 2007 VOLUNTEERS

John Villarreal completes year as chair and hands over reigns to Rick Valls



The Laredo Chamber of Commerce will host a gala event to recognize volunteers on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at the Laredo Country Club. John Villarreal, Chairman of the Board for FY 2006-2007, will present awards and recognitions to the many volunteers who assisted in carrying forth his program of work during the past year. Villarreal will also take opportunity to present a "state of the Chamber" report acknowledging accomplishments of his administration.

The lunch program, which is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., will form part of the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting. As is traditional, the program will also serve to introduce the incoming Chairman of the Board and the new slate of officers. Heading the FY 2007-2008 team will be Chairman of the Board Rick Valls, Vice President of Valls International, Inc. Other members of the 2007-2008 Executive Committee are: Lupita Canales (A.R. Canales International) Chairman Elect; Alejandro Cabezut (Wells Fargo Bank), Vice Chairman; Horacio De Leon (Asst. City Manager, City of Laredo), Treasurer; Manuel 'Manolo' Sanchez (The Laredo National Bank/BBVA), Joe Palacios (Texas Community Bank), Ed Ramirez, Jr. (4-R Minerals, LTD) and Greg Morgensen (Paul Young Family Chevrolet) Council Chairpersons; John Villarreal (International Bank of Commerce), Past Chairman; and Miguel A. Conchas, President/CEO.

Traditionally, following the recognition of volunteers, the outgoing chairman calls on the new chairman and presents him/her with the gavel. The new chairman then closes the meeting as his/her first official action of the new year.

Following is the list of recognitions and awards to be presented by Chairman John Villarreal:

**Jim Parish Media Award** – to be presented to **BMP Radio** for helping promote a positive image for the Chamber throughout the year.



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(cont.)

- ***Un Poquito Más Award*** -- Presented to **Memo Trevino**, for continued support to the Chamber mission and always willing to offer a “little bit more” when asked to participate. Trevino has excelled during his tenure on the board as a leading promoter of education and youth-related projects.
- **Committee Chairperson of the Year** – to be presented to **Catalina Zaragoza**, Account Executive for Mercy Health Plans, for outstanding work in the coordination of the 2007 Distinguished Business Awards Ceremony/Banquet, which recorded the highest gross and net revenue in the history of the event.
- **“Comeback Kid” Recognition Award** -- Presented to **Rosendo ‘Chendo’ Carranco**, owner and managing partner of Carranco & Lawson, CPA’s, an individual who was active in the Chamber in the early part of his career and returned this year to play a key role in the coordination of the 2007 BusinessPerson of the Year event .
- **Ramiro Sanchez *Spirit of Laredo* Award** -- Presented to **Dr. Ray Keck**, President of Texas A&M International University, whose commitment to education and the arts are helping to create a better Laredo.
- **Order of Los Dos Laredos Award** – This year presented to an individual whose labor in the promotion of trade exemplifies the “Los dos Laredos”spirit of cooperation and collaboration between two countries -- **Daniel B. Hastings, Jr.**, President of Daniel B. Hastings, Inc.
- **Recognition in Honor of Max Mandel** – Presented posthumously to **Luis G. Guerra, Jr.**, former Chamber Chairman of the Board, whose dreams and labor for a better Laredo set a mark for others to follow.

Tickets to the 2007 Awards Ceremony and luncheon are \$25 per person. Reserved tables of 10 are available for \$300. For information or tickets to the noon luncheon, contact the Laredo Chamber of Commerce at (956) 722-9895.

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