



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Goose Creek CISD Dedicates Bañuelos Elementary School

The dedication for Dr. Antonio Bañuelos Elementary School was lively, with many Bañuelos family members traveling from other states to attend. Friends and former students of Dr. Bañuelos also came out to honor the memory of the man who brought music to the lives of so many.

Randal O'Brien, acting superintendent of Goose Creek CISD, welcomed attendees and recognized special guests. The invocation was provided by Mike Proctor, pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Sariah Lawrence and Soraya Nieto led the pledges, and "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the "Bañuelos School Song" were performed by the 5th Grade Honors Choir under the direction of music teacher Leslie Moore.

Agustin Loredo III, vice president of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees welcomed everyone. He later told the audience about how Dr. Bañuelos' work in this district had influenced his life. Renee Meyer, principal, dedicated the school to the community. "In education we often speak about how teachers can make a difference. It is evident that Dr. Antonio Bañuelos, whose students called him 'Professor,' truly made a difference in the lives of the students he taught," said Meyer. "It is our desire as a campus to continue his legacy and strive for excellence in everything we do for our students."

Luciano "Lucky" Salinas told the audience about Dr. Bañuelos' many accomplishments and his positive influence on so many students through the La Tipica Orchestra Mexicana, an all-girls music group, and the Baytown Mexican School Band, an all-boys band.

"He was the man who put Baytown on the map of Latin American music," said Salinas. "Everyone realized that he was a great man. He changed lives by teaching students how to accept responsibility and submit to discipline."

Elvera Martinez, a former La Tipica Orchestra member, announced that the Texas Historical Commission had just approved a Texas Historical Marker to be placed at the new De Zavala Elementary School for the former Baytown Mexican School and De Zavala Elementary School. The history of the schools is also linked with Dr. Bañuelos' work as a teacher.



Dr. Antonio Bañuelos' children (l to r) Luzmaria Shearer, Tila Bañuelos Guerrero, Laura Verdugo, Rosario Bañuelos and Markito Bañuelos show their appreciation for the school named in honor of their father and for the dedication ceremony, including the performance by some original La Tipica Orchestra members. [View photo gallery here.](#)

Other former members of the La Tipica Orchestra Socorro Barajas, Alice Araujo, Margaret De Leon, Natalia Coronado joined Martinez, along with Rose Marie Avelar and Sylvia Del Rio, to perform "Jesusita en Chihuahua" and "Zacatecas." Goose Creek music teachers/musicians Albert Bear, Caleb Lopez and Dr. Stefan Ice assisted with the performance.

Tila Bañuelos Guerrero, oldest daughter of Dr. Bañuelos, expressed the family's appreciation for naming the school for their father and for the dedication ceremony. She explained that many of their father's accomplishments were possible because her mother cared for the family when he was working.

"Behind every great man, there is a great woman. Thanks, Mom," said Guerrero.

The family placed a picture of the Bañuelos children in the time capsule, which will be set behind the cornerstone and opened in 50 years. The Goose Creek Masonic Lodge No. 1192 performed the leveling of the cornerstone. A reception was held in the atrium, including a video of several La Tipica performances, and tours of the building were conducted by the Bulldog Community Club students.

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