



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



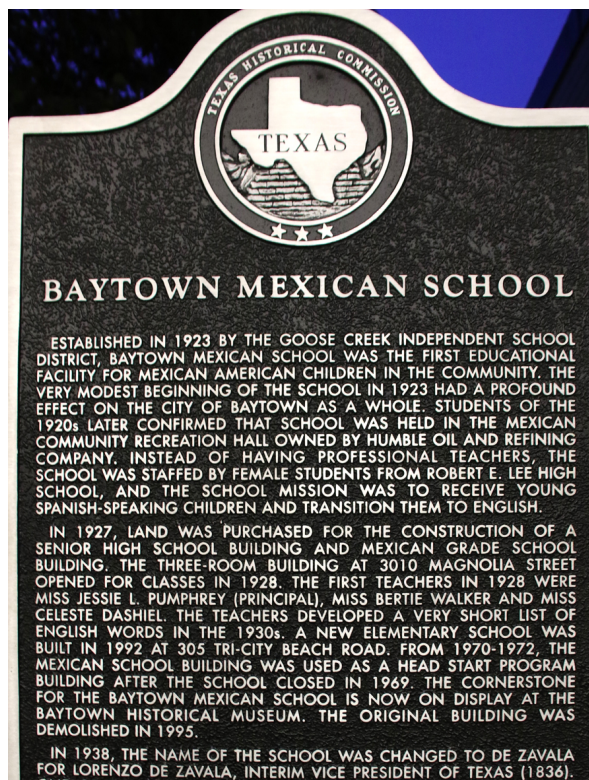
Tom Capetillo shows a picture of himself in 1961 as a student at De Zavala Elementary as it appeared with a feature story about De Zavala Elementary in the Saturday Evening Post. Capetillo brought the original copy of the magazine to the recent Texas Historical Marker Dedication at De Zavala.

Historical Marker at De Zavala Elementary Unveiled

It's been a long time coming, but De Zavala Elementary School now proudly displays an Official Texas Historical Marker commemorating the Baytown Mexican School, established in 1923, which became Lorenzo De Zavala Elementary School in 1938.

The original school was in the Mexican Community Recreation Hall owned by Humble Oil and Refining Company and was the community's first educational facility for Mexican American children. A three-room building at 3010 Magnolia Street opened in 1928 as the Baytown Mexican School. The present-day De Zavala Elementary opened in 1992 at 305 Tri-Cities Beach Road. The marker now stands at that site so that visitors may enjoy reading about the rich history of the school.

The ceremony for the unveiling of the marker began with a welcome from Janie A. Pequeño, former student, emceed the event. Conrad Garcia, Jr. led the pledges to the U.S.



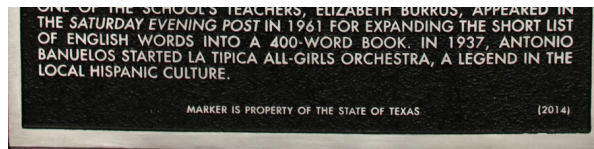
and Texas flags.

After opening remarks and recognition of special guests by Randal O'Brien, Goose Creek CISD superintendent, Loretta Salazar, principal of De Zavala and a former De Zavala student, addressed the crowd. Chris Varela, vice chair of the Harris County Historical Commission, represented the group.

Keynote speaker Agustin Loreda, III, a member of the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees as well as an educator, addressed the group, thanking everyone for building a legacy and for making the historical marker a reality. Loreda's siblings attended the first De Zavala Elementary School.

Several La Tipica Orchestra members, taught by music teacher Dr. Antonio Bañuelos, were in attendance, and guests watched a video of some performances. Eugenia R. Rios, Elvira R. Martinez and Gloria De la Cerda, who helped with research for the marker application, reflected on the Baytown Mexican School. Tila (Bañuelos) Guerrero, daughter of Dr. Bañuelos, also spoke of her pride in the school where her father taught.

Betty Burrus, daughter of former De Zavala teacher Elizabeth Burrus, who appeared in a Saturday Evening Post feature in 1961 for expanding a list of English words in her teaching of English as a Second Language, attended the ceremony. Tom Capetillo, a former student who was in the picture as a young boy in Elizabeth Burrus' class, brought an original copy of the magazine to the ceremony.



View more photos [here](#).

Nona Higginbotham Kutach, the great-great granddaughter of Lorenzo De Zavala, attended the school for one year. At the marker dedication, she reflected on stories told by her grandmother about De Zavala that she had heard from De Zavala's son Ricardo.

Proclamations were presented by Will Carter from U.S. Congressman Brian Babin's Office (District 36); Derek Darnell from Texas State Senator Sylvia R. Garcia's Office (District 6), Gretchen Knowles representing Commissioner Jack Morman of Harris County Precinct 2 and Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos. Also, Debra Blacklock-Sloan presented proclamations for Governor Greg Abbott, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, Texas State House Rep. Wayne Smith from District 128 and the Texas State Board of Education District 8 - Barbara Cargill.

De Zavala Elementary students sang the school song, written by Amelia De Hoyos, for the guests, who then gathered outside the main entrance for the unveiling of the historical marker. Varela and Blocklock-Sloan presented the Official Texas Historical Marker, and Salazar accepted it on behalf of former and present students of De Zavala Elementary and the community. Closing remarks were made by Ambrose Rios, Jr., former De Zavala student. Following the unveiling, a reception was held in the De Zavala cafetorium.

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