

### *A Letter From Ben Esparza Garza, Reunion Coordinator and Committe Member*

I would like to thank the members of the Esparza Family Reunion Committee for their hard work. The reunion was a great success. I would also like to thank the following people for contributing in any way and for joining us this past Saturday, July 10, 2010, and helping us celebrate our family's history rich past. Pleasanton Mayor Bill Carroll, Atascosa County Judge Diane Bautista, District 35 State Representative Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, Congressman Henry Cuellar; Pleasanton City Manager Kathy Coronado, City of Pleasanton Parks Department, Longhorn Museum, Atascosa County Historical Commission Members; Barbara Westbrook, Norman Porter, and Iris Porter; Robert Benevides and the San Antonio Living History Association and Sons of the Republic of Texas; Rebecca Flores and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Socorro Morales and the Alamo Defenders Descendants Association, The Greater Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Father Gilberto Vallejo.

Thank You to all the committee members that worked many hours and at times many days to make sure that everything was taken care of and ready for this reunion. Thank you to all the family members for letting your Moms and Dads dedicate their time for this reunion. When a mother or father volunteer, the family also volunteers. They took the time to volunteer because to them family is important. It is important to remember where your family came from, what they stood for and believed in. In the old days, families gathered after church on Sunday and spent time with each other. They traveled on horseback, on foot, wagon and later automobile. They brought what they could and visited each other regularly. They knew each other. Now we don't visit as much because we don't have time. We might be able to send an E-mail or do Facebook or maybe even call on our phones that are attached to most of us for the better part of our lives, but we just don't have time to visit. Or do we?

Nothing beats a good visit from family and friends. And if you take the time to visit your aunts and uncles, mothers and fathers, grandmas and grandpas, you might just find that that feels just as good. You might just make their day. It felt great to see everyone there having a good time. Memories were shared and memories were made. There were many good stories and alot of pictures. I am sure that there will be alot of pictures from this reunion.

To the members of the family that rang the old church bell, I hope that ringing the bell brought back good memories to you and that you share them with your family.

We had family that came from as far as Isreal and as close as 1 block away. Relatives came from New York, Virginia, Florida, Michigan, Indiana, Louisiana, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and California. We even had someone come from Canada. A phone call would have been quicker, but being here was better. I hope they weren't bothered by the humidity.

Thank you Marian Wydo, one of our California girls that was able to make the reunion. Sorry we couldn't visit more. I look forward to visiting with you in the future.

Thank you also to Richard Esparza and good luck on your endeavour to find the missing link between your Esparza family and ours. We will pass on any information that might be helpful to you. Your dedication is inspiring.

Good Luck Matthew Prado on your project also. I hope that we might have been some help. Learn from our mistakes and call us back with any ideas that work out at your reunion.

I hope everyone was able to see Eloy Huizar's collection of Esparza military veteran's. If you have any pictures of veterans or people still serving in the armed forces please send them with a short history of that person and information regarding rank, years served and honors. This was truly a great tribute to all veterans.

Thank you to Joe Huizar and his family for bringing the San Agustin Bell. To see the faces of the relatives that were able to ring the bell was in itself one of the best rewards. If any one has any pictures that show the church, please send me a copy so that it may be recorded. The history of the church will be an ongoing project that Eloy Huizar, Joe Huizar, Socorro Morales, Sandy Zuniga, Roger Porter and I will continue to work on.

As for me, I think its time for a reunion of San Agustin School Students.

Anybody want to join me on this venture, give me a call.(830-569-4717) It starts right ~~~~~  
NOW!