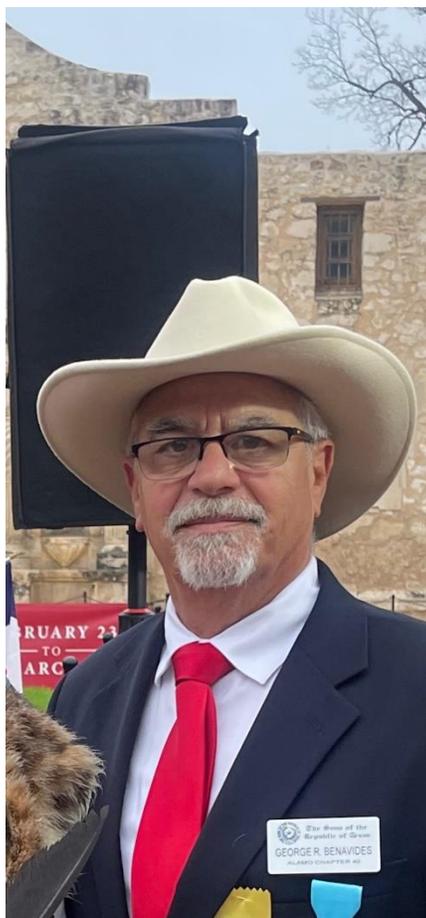


**George R. Benavides**  
**Family Genealogist & Historian, Gregorio Esparza**  
**Alamo Descendants Association (GEAD)**



George was born and raised in Beeville, Texas. He has always had a love for sports and as he was growing up in Beeville, he started playing baseball when he was eight years old. Once in Junior High and High School, he participated in various sports including football, basketball, baseball, track, karate, and was also a member of a Golden Glove boxing team.

He grew up living next door to his grandparents and would listen to stories from his maternal grandmother regarding some major historical events such as the Battle at the Alamo. This intrigued his interest in wanting to find out more. Hence began his love of history and genealogy. He graduated from A/C Jones high school in 1976. He received his Associates in Law-Enforcement in 1978. He then transferred to Southwest Texas University where he received a Bachelors in Criminal Justice in 1979. During his time in high school, he supported himself by working at Meyer's Motor Parts in Beeville and continued to work throughout his college years to pay for his education. Once he graduated, he decided to continue in the Auto Parts Industry and learned all he could, which included working with ten different manufacturing lines. At this time, Toyota came knocking at his door and made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

He spent the next twenty-nine years working for Toyota under various General Managers and Dealer owners, where he earned his title as, "The World Famous Parts Manager." He retired in 2021 after spending more than 45 years in the Automotive Industry.

Throughout all this, he never forgot his conversations with his grandmother and decided to find out more about his family history, which led him to the Texas State Archives in Austin, Texas. He spent countless hours looking through census records, visiting cemeteries and finding birth and death certificates. He has developed quite the collection of family historical records and throughout all this has uncovered the fact that he is a direct descendent of an Alamo Hero, Gregorio Esparza, who fought and died at the Alamo, and a descendant of one of the first families from the Canary Islands who helped establish what is now known as San Antonio.

George married MaryAnn Sanchez-Benavides, a hometown girl from Beeville, Texas that he had known since Junior High School. They were married in 1982 and had 2 children, Juliana Elise Benavides and Joshua Martin Benavides. They lived in Austin, Texas since 1978, when both came to attend College, MaryAnn going to The University of Texas and George to Southwest Texas University, Now Texas State University. Last year they completed the milestone of 40 years of being married and celebrated in Paris, France a bucket list of theirs.

He was the first Hispanic and first President of the ADDA (Alamo Defenders Descendants Association), he is the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Canary Islanders Descendants Association, he is a member of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) Alamo Chapter, and he is currently the Family genealogist and Historian for the Gregorio Esparza Alamo Descendants Association (GEAD).