
**Mayor's
Hispanic American
Advisory Board**



**Annual Hispanic
Leadership Awards**

March 2, 2018



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

LENNY CURRY
MAYOR



February 27, 2018

Dear Honorees and Guests:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the annual Hispanic Leadership Awards ceremony. I extend a special congratulations to those being honored tonight.

These awards highlight the leaders who are making a difference in the lives of our Hispanic community, as well as our Jacksonville community at large. Making the honor even more special is that these individuals were nominated by their peers, indicating the direct, positive influence they have had on our communities. On behalf of the citizens of Jacksonville, I thank you for your dedication to our city.

I also applaud the members of the Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board for working diligently to make this event a success, in addition to their year-round commitment to advocating for the needs of the Hispanic community in Jacksonville and beyond. Among this year's successes was the organization of a delivery of food to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. I am proud of this effort as a showcase of Jacksonville's generosity and support for those in need.

Again, welcome, and congratulations to the honorees.

Sincerely,

Lenny Curry
Mayor

Board Members

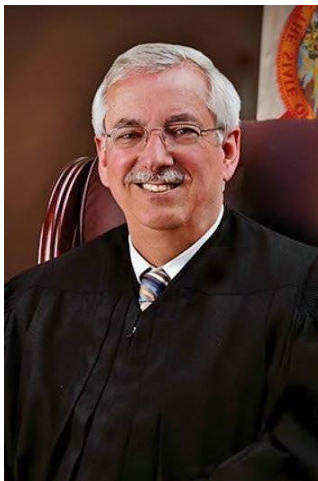
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Agenda

Guests Enter City Council Chambers at Six O'clock
Chair Decunto - Introduction
Dr. Charles Moreland – Welcome from City of Jacksonville
Judge Roberto Arias – Key Note Address
Recipients Awarded in the Areas of Arts, Business, Education, Faith Based, Health, Public Service, Disabled Community and Lifetime Achievement
Lifetime Achievement Recipient's Address
Dr. Charles Moreland – Community Involvement and Joining Boards
Chair Decunto – Closing Remarks
Guests are invited to join the recipients in the Lynwood Roberts Room for refreshments.



Keynote Speaker: **Roberto A. Arias**

Roberto A. Arias, State of Florida County Judge since 1995, Jacksonville, Florida.

Juris Doctor 1980, Ohio State University College of Law; Former member of the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism; Former board member National Center for State Courts; Fourth Judicial Circuit Professionalism Committee; Former Chair State of Florida Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee; Judicial Ethics Faculty at State of Florida Judicial College; State of Florida Advanced Judicial Studies. Before being appointed to the Bench in 1995, Judge Arias practiced in both State and Federal Courts. Judge Arias has been

active in the County Judges' Conference and has presented and taught at the Conference of County Court Judges, Advanced Judicial Studies College and the New Judges' College. He has been a Rotary member for 32 years. He was on the board of the Hospice of North East Florida for 9 years and has served on several not-for-profit organizations.



Disabled Community: **Jose Morales**

Jose Morales is currently the Lead Independent Living Coordinator at the Independent Living Resource Center (ILRC). He assists people with disabilities with employment, job readiness courses, Ready to Achieve Program, and mentoring services. Recently, an initiative by Students for Independent Living and the ILRC Youth Advisory Council went to Tallahassee to speak with lawmakers to advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities for education, employment and more funding for personal care assistants (this would allow more people with disabilities to be independent). Approximately, fifty participated from across the state.

Mr. Morales graduated from the University of North Florida with a Bachelor's in Political Science and a minor in International Studies in 2015. Also, Mr. Morales is on the USA Goalball team and coaches Goalball to youth in Jacksonville.

"I am honored to work at the ILRC because I get to help develop and promote, self-advocate, engage the community, and network for all people with disabilities in our community." – Jose Morales



Arts & Culture: **Derby Ulloa**

Derby was born in pre-Communist Cuba and arrived to the US in 1960 at age 15. While most Cubans came to Miami, Derby and his two brothers arrived in Madison, Fla. where they were treated as celebrities as they were 3 of only 6 Cubans in town. Derby earned his Art Bachelor's Degree with a Minor in French from FSU and his Master's Degree in Higher Education from FSU as well.

After 38 years, in 2006, he retired as the senior art faculty member at Florida Community College at Jacksonville, now Florida State College. While teaching he did post-graduate work at the University of Georgia, Jacksonville University and Rhode Island School of Design. He also studied sculpture in Mexico

and Italy. His travels have taken him to most major art museums in the US and Western Europe. Although he began teaching Drawing, Painting, Design and Art Appreciation, he was responsible for creating the Sculpture Program at the College in 1980. In addition, during his thirties he found time to be elected President of the Jacksonville Jaycees.

Professionally as a sculptor his claim to fame are the RIVER RUNNERS, life size bronze sculptures on the North bank of the River Walk in Jacksonville. These were commissioned by the Jacksonville Track Club and then donated to the City. For 15 years he was the official portrait sculptor for inductees to the Fla-Ga Hall of Fame. His caricature sculpture of Bob Hope as an elephant is part of the Bob Hope Art Collection which is on display at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Derby is also the creator of the of the bronze bas relief for the Frederick Delius Memorial at Solano Grove.

Currently Derby continues to do his art while enjoying retirement with his wife Ann, a just retired school teacher. His studio and home are on a 3 ½ acre property with huge oaks, a pond, a creek, chickens, a dog named Serafina, and fruit trees. This he calls his Paradise on Earth, something that he planned, worked and paid for. This is the American Dream which anyone can achieve if they are willing to be responsible and work for it.



Healthcare: **Dr. Rene Pulido**

Dr. Rene U. Pulido, a graduate from Jacksonville Mayo Clinic Family Residency Program, opened EMED Primary Care and Walk In Clinic in August of 2010. Dr. Pulido's family has lived in Jacksonville, FL since the late 1950's when his father located to the United States from Cuba. Dr. Pulido attended Assumption grade school and played football for Bishop Kenny H.S. Following the footsteps of his uncle Jesus Pulido, MD, and Alex Pulido, MD, Dr. Pulido and his two brothers, Mario and Danny, attended UACA Costa Rica for Medical School. Dr. Rene Pulido graduated in 2000. He later completed a family medicine program at Jacksonville's Mayo Clinic where he learned the values of a team work approach to patient care using the latest advancements in technology such as electronic medical records.



Education: Dr. Lilia Loriz

Dr Lillia Loriz (Li) was born to a Puerto Rican mother and a Basque father. She was raised in Puerto Rico until she went to college in the United States. Dr Li Loriz completed her BSN at Georgetown University, her MSN as a Nurse practitioner at Marymount University in Virginia while working as a nurse at George Washington University and her PhD in Nursing Administration at George Mason University, while working full-time as a nurse in HIV clinical trials. She has been at UNF since 1996 and has been the Director for the School of Nursing since 2003.

Dr. Li Loriz was into her ninth year as Director of the School of Nursing at Brooks College of Health (BCH) at the University of North Florida (UNF) when she was tapped to also take on the position of Interim Chair of the Department of Clinical & Applied Movement Sciences (CAMS). Li was chosen for this additional role because of her ongoing

success as Director of the School of Nursing (SON). The School of Nursing was the first to receive a Flagship designation at UNF in 2005. This prestigious recognition is for having an outstanding school and reaching local, national and international acclaim.

She is well-known as an advocate for both students and faculty. Her management philosophy is to pursue meeting the needs of others and developing her faculty and students to reach their full potential. Her vision is that of a team-builder, involving each member to grow and develop individually and as a community. The pass-rate for certification exams of her students is between 95% and 100% and approximately 50% of Nurse Practitioner students have had a peer-reviewed manuscript published prior to graduation which is a major indication of the quality of the scholarship demonstrated by the students. UNF's School of Nursing received the Stellar School award in 2011, which only ten schools throughout the nation have received and, under Dr. Loriz's leadership, the BCH School of Nursing was the first one in Florida.

Dr Loriz is always seeking innovative programs and innovative means of educating the students in order to meet the growing demands of the health care environment and the community. Increasing number of students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels while maintain the quality of their education has been one great accomplishment. Seeking innovation in education throughout the programs is another great accomplishments as it is essential for her that students are ready for practice upon graduation.

Dr. Loriz volunteers one afternoon each week in the Student Health Center where she serves as a nurse practitioner. She is responsible for assessment, diagnosis and management of acute and simple chronic conditions of students at UNF.

Impact of Dr Loriz' achievements

During Dr. Loriz's tenure as Director of the School of Nursing, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education has awarded a 10-year accreditation to the Bachelor and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program. The Nurse Anesthetist Program received a 10-year accreditation from the Council on Accreditation for Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs. These accreditations represent the maximum allowable time frame. Dr. Loriz's leadership in the School of Nursing has led to innovative curricula which benefits the students and increases the healthcare delivery system to many of the underserved population in our area. Under her direction, students participate in community-based experiences and internships as part of their education. Due in large part to her leadership, nursing students can be seen in almost every healthcare facility and most of the community organizations in Northeast Florida. All students in the undergraduate nursing program participate in promoting health in one of seven home-bases, including neighborhoods and a variety of non-profit agencies. Examples

of student service-learning projects include: prescription assistance and foot care programs for persons who are homeless; safe-sleep education for employees of a local government agency; health resource guide in multiple languages for new immigrants; childhood injury prevention programs; disaster preparedness and citizen CPR training; music therapy for persons with dementia; refugee health education. The SON graduates are highly sought after with job offers as healthcare organizations and facilities can trust that BCH School of Nursing students have received the highest level of education and experience prior to graduating. Dr. Loriz provided the support and oversight for the addition of a new graduate program beginning in the fall of 2016, a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program for practicing nurse practitioners which is a novel graduate degree to the state university system. During her tenure as the director for the School of Nursing she has more than tripled the number of undergraduate and graduate students.



Business: Jorge Lopez

Jorge López was born and raised in Puerto Rico, and lives in Florida with his wife and children.

Jorge is a General Sales Manager for iHeart Media in Jacksonville, with expertise in business development, marketing strategic, and successful multi-disciplinary team management.

Jorge was involved in the launch of eight radios in Jacksonville. In addition to that, he was part of the team responsible in launching the first 24 hour Spanish radio station in Jacksonville.

Jorge is a board member of the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, as Director of Large. During his leisure time, he enjoys be with his family and golfing.



Faith Based: Dr. Elia Enid Vivoni

Elia E. Vivoni is the senior pastor of the Jacksonville Hispanic Church of God.

In 1981, leaving her position of Instructor of English and French at Interamerican University in San German, Puerto Rico, she and her late husband, Dr. Joffre P. Vivoni, a dentist, followed their calling to begin a church in the city of Jacksonville, Florida. Upon his death in 2014, she took his mantle to continue the work they had begun together. She became the pastor of the church and the president of Southeastern Theological Seminary and of Bible Foundations Center Missions, Inc., through which she works with Arlene Ortiz in organizing community fairs. A caregiver and a cancer survivor, she is very interested

in educating the church and the community on health issues. She is an educator and an author, but she considers that being a mother, a grandmother and a servant of Christ are her greatest accomplishments.



Public Service: Ivan Peña

Officer Peña is the son of Puerto Rican immigrants and is a native of the Bronx, New York.

After high school, he served 12 years in the United States Marine Corps. In 1982, Officer Peña was attached to one of the Helicopter squadrons that were ordered to serve in a "Peacekeeping Mission" in Beirut, Lebanon by President Ronald Regan. Before leaving active service in the Marine Corps, he served as a Drill Instructor in Parris Island, South Carolina.

He joined the JSO in 1993 and started as a Corrections Officer before transitioning into the Police ranks in 1995.

From the time his career began as a Police Officer on the streets, numerous Officers and agencies, sought his assistance to serve as a Spanish translator because of his Spanish speaking skills.

In 2006, a series of crimes began to occur against Hispanics, particularly the undocumented immigrants. A large number of crimes against Hispanics went unreported mostly due to the undocumented fearing deportation. Former Sheriff John Rutherford received word of Officer Peña's reputation and rapport in dealing with the Hispanic community and recruited him in July 2006 to start what is now known as the "International Affairs Unit". He, along with then Officer Dennis Pellot, served as a liaison between the non-English speaking community and the Sheriff's Office. Their mission was to reach out to the Hispanic Community and bridge the gap of trust between the Sheriff's Office and the community that was being targeted at the time.

Nearly 12 years later, he has assisted detectives in hundreds of cases in dealing with crimes against the Hispanic community. Some homicide cases that Officer Peña assisted in resulted in suspects receiving anywhere between 25 years to life in prison.

He was selected Officer of the month in February 2006 and in April 2014 and in both cases, he was being recognized for his service and sacrifice in dealing with the Hispanic community.

While with the J.S.O., he was able to obtain an A.A. degree from FSCJ and a B.A. degree from Columbia College. Both in Criminal Justice.

On June 29th, 2018, he will be retiring from the J.S.O. with 25 years of honorable service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS OF THE HISPANIC LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Alicia Salvador Burst
MHAAB Board Member



EDWARD F. PEREZ
Three Grains of Rice Missions
President, CEO

Lifetime Achievement: Edward Perez

Ed Perez came from communist Cuba to the shores of the United States as a young teenager. He arrived penniless, homeless and unable to speak English. Through the grace of God, and a great deal of hard work and determination, he has lived the "American Dream". A dream that has not only been focused on personal success, but also on elevating the quality of life of those around him. After 42 years as a CSX IT Executive, Ed retired from Corporate America. His life is now dedicated to the mission field in Northeast Florida and Globally.

Ed has served on over a dozen non-profit boards. He has participated on 8 international mission trips where he served as a translator, negotiator and laborer. He is the Past President of the First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Hispanic American Advisory Board, Clara White Mission and the MAYO Community Research Advisory Board for Northeast Florida. He is currently on the boards of Hope Haven Clinic and Family Center, City Rescue Mission, Presbyterian Social Ministries and the Urban League of Jacksonville. He and his wife have recently started Three Grains of Rice Missions, Inc. This non-profit organization focuses on homelessness, women in crisis and children in need through awareness, volunteerism, education, personal interaction and the organization of projects and community outreach activities.

Ed has been recognized numerous times for his commitment to our Northeast Florida community and international missions. He has been noted as one of the upcoming Hispanic Leaders for Northeast Florida, was awarded the President's Volunteer Service award and received the CSX Coaching and Inclusion Champion of the Year award. He is a graduate of Lifework Leadership and Leadership Jacksonville. Over the past four years, Ed has worked with summer interns to provide technology support to non-profit organizations that do not have the means to pay for it. The team has upgraded IT infrastructures, websites, introduced data mining and strengthened security. He is also actively working with local Hispanic pastors to educate and elevate the health and wellbeing of our Hispanic population. Ed has been instrumental in providing partial scholarships to local Hispanic students. His non-profit organization has been the catalyst of distribution of shoes and clothing to those in need locally as well as Central America and the Caribbean.

Ed earned his degrees in Economics, Business Administration and Psychology from Milligan College. He is currently attending Gordon Conwell Theology Seminary as a student of comparative religion. He has also studied with the local Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim communities in an effort to understand their culture and beliefs and to find synergies to improve the wellbeing of everyone in our community. Ed is a passionate motivational speaker who freely shares his "American Dream" story which is founded on the principal that success cannot simply be measured by personal wealth, but rather by the quality of life of all that live in our communities.

He is married to the love of his life Stacey. They have four children and two grandchildren

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*We ourselves feel that what we are
doing is just a drop in the ocean.
But the ocean would be less because
of that missing drop.*

Mother Teresa

