

Biography of Ann Marie Garcia Enriquez



Whether serving as SEISD Board President, an appointee on the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, a board member for the YMCA, the Kellogg Community Health Partnership, Las Palmas Medical Center, and myriad of other organizations in El Paso, the late Ann Enriquez was a woman who left her mark in the community. Thanks to the San Elizario ISD Board of Trustees, Enriquez's name marks the walls of San Elizario Middle School.

"If she was around she'd be very honored," said Gaspar Enriquez, Ann's husband. "It's very emotional having that school named after her." Even after Enriquez was diagnosed with cancer, she still did her best to be an active member in the community, especially in San Elizario. When it came to his late wife's volunteerism, something that sticks out in Gaspar's mind is when she helped fight the battle for school funding.

"When they started going after funds for poorer school districts, she spent many hours at meetings and testifying," he said. "Through her efforts, a lot of people's efforts, they were able to get things done."

According to current board member Ramon Holguin, San Elizario ISD was the first school district in West Texas to join the Edgewood vs. Kirby lawsuit that paved the way for the Robin Hood system of funding poor school districts.

"She was the president of the school board at that time," Holguin said. Enriquez's efforts as an ad hoc committee member and later as SEISD school board president in the mid 80's helped pave the way for the construction of San Elizario Middle School, according to Holguin.

"It was built to handle the overflow from the elementary school at that time," he added. "We used to call it 'The Barn' because of its metal rooftop. It was the first-time tilt wall construction was used for education in the state of Texas."