

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE



Mayor Leopoldo "Polo" Palacios Jr
(Courtesy: The City of Pharr Memorial Library Archives & Advance News Journal)

By
Leopoldo "Polo" Palacios Jr & Marco A. Córdova

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Book cover picture courtesy of the City of Pharr.

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I am sincerely grateful to them, for sharing their granted financial support, and illuminating views on a number of issues related to the project.

Marco A. Córdova

Preface

When I found out an autobiography would be written on Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr, it was an extremely pleasant and joyful moment for me.

I contacted Marco A. Córdova, and mentioned I had data and historic moments related to work performed within the Pharr community; in particular, Hidalgo County and his overall vision towards Mexico.

I had my first impression of Mr. Palacios at a Rio Grande Valley Mexican Mayors Summit. It was a celebration at the International Studies Center at University of Texas - Pan American in the year 2000.

I was deeply moved by the extreme affection and desire Mayor Palacios displayed, to help his Texan roots. He displayed great passion for the land of his ancestors, Mexico, and especially the northern cities of the State of Tamaulipas.

I introduced myself to Mayor Palacios; I was the coordinator for a strategic alliance organization of 70 Mexican cities, working together in matters of economic development.

I vividly recall a Sunday morning, when I place a phone call to him. We agreed to meet, and initiate the preparatory works for an international alliance. This is unusual in Mexico from a mayor’s position. With all due respect towards them, I restate, it called to my attention he responded to my call on a Sunday. I met him at his office, located in the city’s main avenue. We initiated one of the most important economic corridors of the world (*The*

North American East Strategic Corridor Alliance)
NAESCA

The importance of this corridor, was to connect the 70 Mexican cities through a commercial international bridge. The bridge, in turn, would unite the Mexican Corridor via Highways 57 and 70, with Interstate Highway 281 (now I-69).

Mayor Palacios greatly assisted, and intelligently commented, “The Pharr International Bridge fulfills all the requirements to connect the NAESCA Corridor, facilitating the Mexico-Pharr connection that runs all the north eastern part of the U.S., until its connection with the City of Detroit, Michigan. It crosses to Canada via I-69, culminating in Quebec, a Canadian French province”

Work began, and amazingly, through partnerships, we have made sister city agreements including protocols with 28 cities strategically located in Mexico. This is logistically one of the shorter contact points towards the U.S. border. It was the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge.

Once field work was initiated, we personally visited all the cities accompanied by the city commission members and city department administrators. To give you an idea, we were in “*Los Pinos*”, home of the Mexican President, on several occasions. We were in the Mexican Congress of the Union, the Mexican Senate, the Communication, Transportation, and Foreign Relations State Departments.

We also made several promotional visits to Washington D.C. Visits were also made to: the Mexican Ambassador of Mexico in the U. S., the Mexican General Consulate and various State Departments, involved with the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge theme. We continuously

asked for support to solve the streamlining and modernization of vehicular crossing of the bridge.

We were fortunate to meet with several Mexican governors. Among them, the governor from the state of Tamaulipas, Veracruz, Nuevo Leon, Guanajuato, San Luis Potosí, and Aguascalientes. We met with many federal government officials, mayors, deputies, enterprise leaders, manufacturers, produce exporters and importers. The focus was always to promote the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge infrastructure. As Mayor Palacios calls it, “The intelligent bridge”.

We worked intensely with Tamaulipas Governor, Mr. Eugenio Hernandez in the construction of a freeway aside of the Reynosa Customs Department. The purpose being to streamline merchandise and transportation via south and north within the Pharr-Reynosa Bridge. It was finally achieved, approved, and named ITC, “*International Trade Corridor.*” *It is now Libramiento Sur Pharr-Reynosa.* It has a longitudinal length of more than 10 km connecting with Ciudad Victoria’s Highway and Monterrey, Nuevo León.

Mayor Palacios once said to me, “Roberto, why doesn't the City of Pharr appear on Mexican maps?” I replied, “Mayor, it does not appear because the Pharr International Bridge is relatively new, but at this moment, I am going to register the bridge and the City of Pharr in the national registries of the National Institute of Geography and History of Mexico. (INEGI)

Registered since then, the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge is well known. Daily crossing activities are estimated to more than 2,000 import and export trucks

and 5,000 light vehicles. This makes it the number one bridge in the United States, along with the Mexican border, in food perishables crossing. The bridge displays tremendous possibilities for the future. It develops thoughts to expand another similar bridge to the existing one, for the purpose of doubling the infrastructure and competitiveness.

Mayor Palacios has accompanied us on several occasions to Mexico, along with his adorable wife Lupita Palacios. She has won the sincere affection of our family.

I will now mention the Mexican cities Mayor Palacios has managed to twin together with the honorable Pharr City Commission. Before mentioning the sister cities details, I would like to recognize the city commissioners who were part of this successful journey. To all of them with respect, great citizens and good friends of Mexico: Commissioners, Adan Farías, Arturo Cortez, Eddie Cantu, Roberto “Bobby” Carrillo, Oscar Elizondo Jr., Edmund Maldonado, City Attorney Michael Pruneda, City Clerk Hilda Pedraza. Special gratefulness, for his moral courage and effort, towards former City Manager, Mr. Fred Sandoval. I must also recognize the incoming mayor Mr. Ambrosio Hernandez and new commissioners Mr. Roberto Medina, Mr. Eleazar Guajardo, Mr. Mario Bracamontes, all city department directors, and employees. Their efforts have taken the City of Pharr to its zenith.

We also have to recognize the Pharr-Reynosa International Commercial Bridge Commission Members: Mr. Artemio Palacios, Mr. Romeo Cuellar, Mr. Fred Brouwen, Mr. Adalberto Campero, Mr. Rick Martinez and Mr. Edgar Delgadillo.

I would like to mention the sister cities who signed the town twinning protocols, during Mayor Palacios management. They are registered in the International Sisters Cities Organization:

- *Reynosa, Tamaulipas
- *Río Bravo, Tamaulipas
- *Hualahuises, Nuevo León
- *Escobedo, Nuevo León
- *Veracruz, Veracruz
- *San Luis Potosí, San Luis Potosí
- *Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes
- *San Luis de la paz, Guanajuato
- *San José Iturbide, Guanajuato
- *Santa María del Río, San Luis Potosí
- *San Andrés Tuxtla, Veracruz
- *Burgos, Tamaulipas
- *Cd. Valles, San Luis Potosí
- *Metepec, Estado de México
- *Cancún, (Benito Juárez) Quintana Roo
- *Teziutlan, Puebla
- *Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato
- *Matehuala, San Luis Potosí
- *Abasolo, Nuevo León
- *Tierra Blanca, Guanajuato
- *Ocuituco, Tetela del Volcán, Yecapixtla y
- *Zacualpan de Amilpas, Edo. de Morelos
- *Ramos Arizpe, Coahuila
- *Mazatlán, Sinaloa
- *Linares, Nuevo León

I am thankful to Mayor Palacios and his wonderful family. His graciousness, and recognition to his distinguished management, is mention-worthy. Above all, I commend his work ethic to head serious efforts to benefit the citizens of Pharr, Texas.

Roberto Leal Tovías

Book Dedication

I dedicate this book to my wife Maria Guadalupe “Bebe” Ramos – it’s a privilege to share my business, life, and love with you.

To Leopoldo Palacios, Sr. & Lilia Farias Palacios, my parents who pushed me to “do for others”.

To my Brothers and Sisters who always loved me and supported me: Hector “Tito” Palacios, Dora Palacios Alva, Artemio Palacios, Irma Palacios Ramos, Oscar Palacios and Belia Palacios.

To my children Hector Xavier Palacios, Aurora Imelda Palacios, Leo Palacios III, Rene Palacios, Anna Lilia Palacios - Teter and Laura Alicia Palacios Disque – your growth provides a constant source of joy and pride.

To my grandchildren and Great- grandchildren, who will inherit this world and make it a much better place.

To the City of Pharr; residents and friends, who after 30 years has given me unconditional friendship, support, and love.

Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios, Jr

Introduction

In 1933, when Mr. Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr was born the following world events were developing:

- ✓ The Construction of the Golden Gate Bridge begins in San Francisco Bay.
- ✓ The Great Depression: President Franklin D. Roosevelt declares a "bank holiday", closing all United States banks and freezing all financial transactions (the 'holiday' ends on March 13).
- ✓ The United States Congress votes favorably for Philippines independence, against the view of U.S. President Herbert Hoover.
- ✓ Nazi leader Adolf Hitler is appointed Chancellor of Germany by President of Germany Paul von Hindenburg.
- ✓ The New York City-based Postal Telegraph Company introduces the first singing telegram.
- ✓ Political violence causes almost 100 deaths in Spain.
- ✓ In Miami, Giuseppe Zangara attempts to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, but instead fatally wounds the Mayor of Chicago, Anton Cermak.
- ✓ U.S. President Herbert Hoover is succeeded by Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR), who in reference to the Great Depression, proclaims "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself" in his inauguration speech. FDR is sworn in by Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes. It is also the last time Inauguration Day in the United States occurs on March 4.

- ✓ An earthquake in Long Beach, California kills 117 people.
- ✓ Sale of some beer is legalized in the United States under the Cullen-Harrison Act of March 22, eight months before the full repeal of Prohibition in December.
- ✓ Mohandas Gandhi begins a 3-week hunger strike because of the mistreatment of the lower castes.
- ✓ Paraguay declares war on Bolivia.
- ✓ A tornado destroys the town of Tampico, Mexico
- ✓ Scientist Albert Einstein arrives in the United States where he settles permanently as a refugee
- ✓ The Nissan Motor Company is organized in Tokyo, Japan.
- ✓ A United Airlines Boeing 247 is destroyed near Chesterton, Indiana by a bomb. This is the first proven case of air sabotage in commercial airline history.
- ✓ The first doughnut store under the *Krispy Kreme* name opens on Charlotte Pike in Nashville, Tennessee.
- ✓ *The Lone Ranger* debuts on American radio.
- ✓ *Dust Bowl*: In South Dakota, a very strong dust storm strips topsoil from desiccated farmlands (one of a series of disastrous dust storms that year).
- ✓ General Lázaro Cárdenas del Río was elected as Mexican President.

Background

The attack of the State of Tamaulipas, lead by General Pablo Gonzalez Garza, caused people to exile to other Mexican States and the United States. As the Northeast Mexican Revolution Commissioner, his influence in the south Texas region and the northern parts of the State of Tamaulipas, was decisive. He worked together with Francisco Villa in the center and Northwest parts of Mexico. General González Garza was born in Lampazos de Naranjo, Nuevo León on May 5, 1879.

General Pablo González Garza was a Mexican presidency candidate in 1919. He worked in the Mexican State of Coahuila, and California. He was employed at a foundry, on the Santa Fe Railroad Company. He also worked for the Pearson Oil Company, and various places in Northern Mexico and Southern United States.

In 1907, through his cousin and journalist Antonio I. Villarreal, he met Enrique Flores Magón. In 1907, he returned to Mexico, and became member of the Maderista Party. Soon after, he was appointed chief of the Army of the Northeast, as part of La Division del Norte. Together with Francisco Villa in the Northwest, they caused enormous, international, and political confinements in the United States.

Madero's assassination in the State of Tamaulipas, generated acts favoring the Mexican Constitution. The City of Matamoros, Tamaulipas was defeated, and strategically possessed on June 1913. At that time, General Pablo

Gonzalez was chief of the Army of the Northeast and later after the possession of Ciudad Victoria.

On June 1914, Felix Diaz's properties were ceded in the City of Matamoros to "Campecinos." Thanks to General Lucio Blanco, people started immigrating to Texas, which included Mr. Leopoldo "Polo" Palacios Jr forefathers.

According to Alicia A. Garza article, "*Hidalgo County*," in the late 1920's and 30's in southern Texas, segregation had become the norm. This was in regards to the Rio Grande Valley. Almost all villages in the south, were or had segregation. The division made it impossible for Hispanic children to get an effective and equal education.

Inexperienced teachers were assigned to educate in Mexican schools, which were generally overcrowded and poorly equipped. Due to the belief Hispanics shouldn't advance beyond primary school, there were no secondary, or preparatory schools for Mexican children. This deprivation led to the self-perpetuating poverty, thus forcing parents to withdraw their children from school, so they could help support the family.

Mexican students attended classes at the sixth-grade *East Juárez School*; also known as the *Pharr Grammar School for Mexican children*. They did not provide separate facilities for middle and high school students, because expectations of Mexican children didn't exceed beyond primary school.

In 1956, a political movement to merge the *City of Pharr* with neighboring *City of McAllen* was put to a public vote and defeated.

School segregation continued to be the School District policy in the late 1970's, based on differences in language, geography, ethnic preferences, and economics. Segregation was a problem that became apparent in 1971, when the historic Pharr police riots occurred.

At that time, the city was divided along economic and ethnic lines. Caucasians lived south of the railroad tracks, while Mexicans and African Americans resided on the north side. Primary schools were segregated by these same residential patterns.

On February 6, 1971, a group of Mexican Americans were seen headed towards the police station, and were attacked by police officers. Alfonso Loredó Flores, a bystander, was accidentally shot by a deputy sheriff. The attention by the media led to an investigation, and a restructuring of city government.



**Photo of Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Loreto de Burgos
and Main plaza Burgos, Tamaulipas**

(Courtesy: <http://www.somosprimos.com/sp2008/spjul08/burgos.htm>)



**Pharr, Texas first building sometime between (1915 and 1920). Home of
the First National Bank, Pharr City Hall and Pharr Drug Store and is
considered the trademark of the city.**

(Courtesy: The Library of Congress)

MY LIFE, MY HISTORY

I was born in Pharr, Texas on January 7, 1933. My father was from Burgos, Tamaulipas and my mother from *Carricitos*. A little town between Brownsville and San Benito, Texas. My father's family decided to establish residency in Pharr around 1917, as a result of the Mexican Revolution conflict. They left behind their haciendas: *La Rana*, *La Colmena* and *La asiento de Piedra*, property of Virginia and Porfirio Palacios. I remember them mentioning how very difficult it was to start all over again in the United States, after owning a lot of properties in Mexico.

On January 10, 1932, my parents were married. My mother was an orphan. She lived with her older sister Celia Villegas, who supported her until she married my dad. When my grandfather arrived in Pharr, he started working at La Delta; a meat warehouse distribution company in the Rio Grande Valley.



**Mr. Leopoldo Palacios Sr. and
Mrs. Lilia Farias**

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

My mother was dedicated to her home, and was a seamstress in her spare time. I remember her being an excellent cook. My father was later employed with the City of Pharr Municipality, specifically in the water department. After that, he worked as a contractor for different fruit and vegetable warehouse companies. One

of the most famous being The Wallace Food & Vegetable Company, established in Edinburg, Texas.

My parents Leopoldo Palacios Sr. and Lilia Farias Longoria gave birth to four sons and three daughters. I was the oldest, and proudly named Leopoldo Palacios Jr after my father. My other siblings were Dora, Irma, Artemio, Tito, Oscar. My younger sister Belia died at the age of 14, from pneumonia and typhoid fever.



Ms. Dora Palacios, Irma and Ruben Ramos, and Belia Palacios
(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

I learned to serve, and help others from my parents. I remember my mother helping our less fortunate neighbors. She would provide them with eggs, prepared food, or a chicken. I profoundly recall those moments, because my brothers and I used to distribute them. At the time, there was a need for everyday necessities in Pharr. There was not enough water, nor sufficient electricity.

I attended Buell Elementary School, located at the Northeast part of the city. At the time, Buell Elementary was only for Mexican population. Meanwhile, on the south side, Carnahan Elementary School was for the Anglo population. Mexican students were not allowed to mix with the Anglo students. The north side was strictly for Mexican-Americans, while the south side housed the Anglo-Americans.



**Oscar, Hector, Artemio and Leopoldo Palacios showing
the muscle (1974)**

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

I remember my mother taking me to school. Within minutes, I returned home crying. This occurred several times. I would tell my mother I didn't want to stay in school. I was constantly in fear of being spanked by my teachers because I didn't speak English. My mother insisted that was the reason I should go to school, so I could learn English.

God knows how many times, my mother returned me back to school. Finally, I stayed with other children, whom I discovered, also didn't speak English. Thankfully, that gave me the confidence to stay. I successfully finished elementary and high school together, alongside my brothers and sisters.

Before I entered Buell Elementary School, I attended a school where they solely taught Spanish.. Our teacher was a woman named Pepa Hinojosa. She taught us to properly speak and write in Spanish.

While in elementary school, I enjoyed playing baseball on the streets, with my friends. Back then, there weren't any recreational parks. If an oncoming car approached, we

stopped the game, then resumed once the car had passed. Baseball was my favorite sport back then!



Young Polo Palacios Jr

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

Later on, I begin ninth grade at PSJA High School. Fortunately, there was finally an area in school to play on the PSJA Baseball Team. I played every year of high school. I remember how hot Buell Elementary was back then, due to the school not having air conditioners. We did have a few fans to provide relief from the heat. In addition to the fans, we would open up the school windows, to let in the fresh air.

What I recall the most, was recreation time. I always wanted to play baseball. There were only a few students back then. I remember there wasn't enough space to play other sports, back then. Baseball was my life and passion.

Most of my high school friends are deceased. Juventino Penilla died during World War II. I lost contact with my comrade Juan Gaona from McAllen. Ofelia Míreles, moved and picked up residency up north.

I no longer remember any of my elementary school friends. I never misbehaved in school. I had such a great fear towards the American teachers, thus I made sure I was responsible with all my assignments. As a Mexican, I was constantly terrified of the Anglos causing me harm.

Every Wednesday, my friends and I, visited the Methodist Institute in Pharr. It housed a subterranean area designated for community recreation. I still remember my two good friends from then, Concha Arjona and Leah



The PSJA High School 1950's Baseball Team

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

Bazan. Concha, I believe, still resides in McAllen. Leah moved to Houston. I started high school at the age of twelve, and graduated in 1952. I met many friends there. I was introduced to my now deceased cousin, Guadalupe Gonzalez. There was a great deal of people from both San Juan and Alamo. I was the PSJA Bears High School pitcher for 4 consecutive years. We won several championships. In 1952, we ended up in a draw with Mission High School.

Although I did well in my classes, I remember feeling as if Anglo teachers lacked the willingness to better prepare and encourage Mexican students to pursue a college education. I knew when I graduated; I wanted to be somebody in life. I was desperate when I didn't see any type of support or encouragement from my teachers. So, I decided to join the U.S National Guard during my high school junior year. The Korean War was at its peak when I registered for the reserve.

I saw no growing opportunities in the U.S National Guard, and after a couple of months, I decided to move as volunteer in the U.S Air Force. I was questioned about my leaving the National Guard, since it required 2 years of service, compared to 4 years with the Air Force. My response was I felt attracted to the airplanes and the blue



uniform. In reality, what I really wanted, was to learn and obtain a career. I didn't see an opportunity to grow in the U.S. National Guard.

**Mr. Polo Palacios Jr in his
20's**

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

The majority of my high school friends are deceased. My cousin Guadalupe Gonzalez, Ruben Canche (catcher), Lupe Abrego (first base), Lupe Flores (midfielder), Ernesto Leal, Noe Romero and Andres Arcaute. My only surviving friends are Hipolito Pruneda, Alfredo Cantu and Mario Gomez.

During high school, I worked Saturdays and Sundays, helping my uncle Antonio Villegas. He was owner of *Villegas Grocery Store*. It was located north of Business 281 and Cage Boulevard in Pharr. My duties were to distribute food, "*La provición*" to customers. I distributed from a little truck to customers who didn't have the means to transport their food home. I also did sales and customer services at the store. I remember selling beans, chorizo, sausage, and eggs to people.

I bought my own school lunch whenever I was paid. My budget was about .25 to .30 cents per day. With my earnings, I would buy a hot dog, bag of potato chips and a soda.

THE LOVE OF MY LIFE

My relationship history with my wife was quite long. I met her after much intent, "*Después de atole*". We never talked to each other at school. I only knew her by sight. I always liked her, but I never had the nerve to ask her to be my girlfriend.

Before her, I had several girlfriends. I had one from San Juan. We used to go to the movies, but it didn't last. Afterwards, I dated another girl. Although we were in love, the relationship came to an end when she moved to California. Months later, I received word she'd returned, but only to marry other man. Needless to say, I had lost her. I formed a relationship with another girl from San Juan. Even though we spent much time together, she was eventually a lost love as well.

I met another girl in school, while walking by the baseball field. She was the cousin to a friend of mine. I remember telling my friend how much I liked his cousin. I asked for his help in speaking to her. He agreed, and with his assistance, she and I started dating. After high school graduation, I had to go to the U.S National Guard Reserve. I gave her an engagement ring and she promised to wait for me until my return from the reserve service.

Once the Korean War was over, I stayed to complete my training. I went to a government base on a regular basis. Suddenly, issues arose and we ended our relationship. There was no marriage to follow.

Finally, I met the love of my life, and now my wife. After my last failed love, I had returned to the military base. There I met Rubén, a brother of my now wife. We trained together at the same base. Every time we had to return to the Rio Grande Valley, Ruben gave me a ride, since I didn't have a car. Every returning weekend to the Valley, Rubén invited me to accompany him. One 4th of July weekend, we came to the Valley. The next day, Ruben called me and said, "I have to go to Monterrey, Nuevo León

with my sister and two other girls. I have to leave one of the girls at her house.”

I really didn't want to go, but Rubén insisted, as he didn't want to go alone.

So I went with him, without requesting permission from the government base officials to leave the country. Receiving permission from the government was mandatory, but I decided to join him.

We arrived at a hotel in Monterrey. We reserved two rooms; one for the ladies, and one for Rubén and I. After we got ready, we went to have dinner in the hotel restaurant. They had plenty of food and good music.

I knew of my now wife, from the few times I had seen her. We didn't know each other well. Between dinner and music, Rubén started dancing with his friend. They asked why I didn't dance. I responded I didn't know how to dance, and they suggested I dance with Maria Guadalupe, my wife. I reiterated, “I don't know how to dance.”

Suddenly Maria Guadalupe said, “I'll teach you, it's very easy!”

Her invitation opened the door to our relationship. I stood up and began talking and dancing with her. I moved my body very slowly, following the music's rhythm. Song after song, I began to like dancing. We continued talking. Somewhere throughout the night, she mentioned, “I know what is happening. You are still hurt by her, because you lost your relationship.”

I replied, “No, what's really happening is I was always in love with you, since long ago. The truth is I never had the courage to tell you about my feelings.”

“I know you have a boyfriend”, I said to her.

She didn't say much to me. I don't quite remember exactly what she said; however, that may have been a good thing. Regardless, we had a great time talking and dancing. The following day, we returned to the Valley.

I don't remember what kind of music we were dancing in the Monterrey hotel. It wasn't Norteño music. The music was slow and calm. It was Bolero music!

She gave me her work telephone number. She said it was for whenever I wanted to call her.

"Yikes! I got her! She gave me her phone number", I said to myself.

I began to visit her, until we finally became a couple. She had ended her relationship with her boyfriend. One day I asked Maria Guadalupe to marry me, and she advised me to wait until her sentimental situation got better.

I would tell Maria Guadalupe how long I had liked then loved her. Thank God, she became my girlfriend within a short period of time.

Maria Guadalupe Ramos became the love of my life. I told my parents that I wanted to get married and they approved. I asked my parents to request Maria Guadalupe's hand in marriage. My parents were friends with my future in-laws, so they knew each other already.

I met her at the age of 22. We were married at 23 years old, in 1956.

I was still at government base when my parents asked for Maria Guadalupe's hand. My parents explained the whole situation. I called my parents to ask what transpired. My father replied, "Your marriage with Maria Guadalupe has been approved!"

My mother stated my father-in-law had said, "If they want to get married that's fine, they can get married."

"My mother-in-law, skeptically said to my father-in-law, "Amando! Tell them to come in two weeks, why are you going to give her so soon?"



**Mr. Amando and Mrs. Alicia
Ramos. Mrs. Maria Guadalupe
Ramos parents**

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

My wife's mother was born in La Havana, Texas. My father-in-law and my mother-in-law lived here in Pharr. My father-in-law was a truck driver.

They were originally from Falcon Lake. He willed the ranch to my mother-in-law, and she gave it to my wife, her brothers, and sisters.



**Mr. Leopoldo "Polo" Palacios and Mrs. Maria Guadalupe Ramos
wedding party at the National Guard Armory**

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

My wife's descendants came from Ciudad Mier, Tamaulipas. My father-in-law is from Falcon in Zapata County, which is close to Roma, Texas. I had met my wife in June or July. We married in April, eight months later.

I had finished my training in 1955, when she accepted my marriage proposal. I was in San Antonio, Texas for nine months. By July, World War II ended. In November, I was sent back to San Antonio. We had already been married by that time, at St Margaret's Catholic Church in Pharr.

My relationship with her was very good. I was always with her. I knew her very well. Although I didn't know her relatives well, I knew she came from a good family.

Whenever there was an opportunity or holiday, I bought her a card for the occasion. If it was Valentine's Day or her birthday, she always received a card. I was always attentive to her. To this day, I still buy her flowers.

As I mentioned, we were 23 years old when we finally got married. It was a beautiful afternoon on April 8,th at St Margaret's Catholic Church. Our Catholic Mass was at 6p.m. Our wedding reception was at the Armory Ballroom. My brother-in-law, Leonel Alva and *El Son Tropical* played at the wedding. Many people attended, and it was a beautiful wedding

NORTH & SOUTH

Back then there was a school for Mexican - American children and another for Anglo children. Even though we had a public swimming pool, Mexican-Americans weren't allowed to use it. *The Anglo population didn't want Mexican-Americans on their side of town after 6p.m. It was a very difficult time.*

South of Business 83, was designated for the Anglo-Americans. North of Pharr, lived the Mexicans. Back in the 40's, many Anglo's weren't happy with the presence of Mexican-Americans. After 6p.m., Mexicans were not allowed on the south side of the city. On Saturdays, I remember Mexican people visiting the American side of town to buy shoes, clothes, or simply grocery shopping.

In 1947-1948, school fights between Anglo and Mexican students occurred. I didn't suffer from segregation in high school. In the 50's, most of the teachers were Anglo's. I remember there were three Mexican teachers. Ms. Martínez taught Spanish, Ms. González and Ms. Lerma taught sewing classes.

We didn't go out much around the Valley. We stayed in the neighborhood as I mentioned earlier. There was no light, hot water, nor gas in many of the Valley houses.

Information through social media was hard to come by. Many houses didn't have television sets nor radios. I remember we bathed ourselves early in the morning. We were seven children, four boys and three girls. Although my father did everything he could to provide us a bathroom, it didn't have hot water.

We used to go to the Waterfall Park in McAllen. In those days, traveling to McAllen required you to either go by train or by foot. Nowadays, you just get in the car, and within minutes, you're there. Transportation by train was my favorite method.

I recall there were lots of vegetables and fruits. Day and night companies would load train wagons. Warehouse workers poured ice inside the vegetable/fruit wagons for shipping purposes. Many of the shipments traveled to Austin, Texas. Employment could always be found in the produce warehouses. Companies did not pay well, but there was always work.

I don't recall any major problems occurring in our U.S. / Mexico border at that time. I used to go with my uncle Pilo, who I helped pass wine bottles. At that time, there was a one bottle per person policy. I used to go frequently for haircuts. We would buy avocados, meat, and sugar. In those days, the dollar was at two pesos per dollar.

PALACIOS RAMOS



Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr serving our country

(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

On March 24th 1957, our first child, Hector Xavier was born. He arrived almost a year into our marriage, and two weeks prior to our first anniversary.

I was in the U.S. Air Force until 1957. We were renting a house from my father-in-law in Pharr. He had a big house, and other properties across the street. I believe he was retired when I married Maria Guadalupe.

Mr. Amando and Mrs. Alicia Ramos were my in-laws. They owned a ranch in Falcon, which they would lease. The ranch had gas wells, and they received decent monthly checks. The family has received good royalties, not as much as before, but everyone is getting their part.

Hector Xavier went to the University of Texas-Austin and Our Lady of The Lake in San Antonio. Imelda went to the University of Texas–Pan American. Anna and Laura went to Southwest University in San Marcos, Texas. One of my daughters pursued a career in nursing. Currently, she is the Vice President of Nursing in Surgical Services at Doctors Hospital at Renaissance in Edinburg, Texas. My other daughter is a Director of Consumer Services at Austin Health Resources for people with disabilities. She has lived in Austin for the past 20 years. Imelda is now serving her 24 years in service as Director for Child Nutrition for the PSJA School District. More than 31,000 student lunches are served daily! My son, Hector Xavier is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Lecturer at UTPA in the Social Work Department. He retired from the state several years ago.

When I met my wife in high school, she worked for the PSJA School District Tax Office. Her sister, a college graduate, became a teacher. My wife could've been a great teacher. Since she was working at the school, she decided to stay, thus didn't attend college. My wife is a good woman. We encouraged our children to go to school and have been fortunate to be able to always provide for them. Only two of my boys did not finish college. Rene, the youngest of my boys, is a McAllen firefighter. He plans to retire after 28 years. If God permits, he will stay for two more years to receive a good bonus, plus his retirement benefits. Leo, my other boy, is a Sales Manager living in Austin. He works at a car dealership selling cars and trucks. He has always enjoyed working in sales.



The Palacios Ramos Family
(Courtesy of the Palacios family)

I was in my 30's in 1966, when I began to work with several insurance and financial companies. Some of the companies included, *Family Security*, *American Life* and *American National*. It was then, I decided to learn finance at *Public Finance Company* in McAllen.

After much pressure, from the Veterans Department Administration to pursue a college career, I decided to register for college.

At 42 years of age, I thought I was too old for school. I received much help and support from my good friend Harold. He was a teacher and principal in the PSJA School District. Unfortunately, Harold died of cancer at a very young age. Harold always found time to help me with my classes and homework. Thank God, the Lord opened the way for me. I graduated from the University of Texas-Pan American at 47 years old.

During that time, classes were offered at an annex building in the San Juan Catholic Church property. Texas A & M Kingsville offered classes every night from Monday to Friday. I was there for over two years, along with more than three hundred students from across the Valley. Soon after, the University of Texas-Pan American became disgusted by competition, and sued Texas A & M Kingsville in Austin. UTPA won the suit.

Those who wanted to keep studying, had to go to UT-Pan American for daytime classes. Many students stopped going to college because they were working during the day. The remaining students, myself included, continued with our education and graduated. I received my Social Worker Degree. After graduation, I was offered a job at the Texas State Parole Department. I had excellent relationships with many judges.

I started working for the Hidalgo County Probation Department as a Probation Officer. I was number 16, according to the batch number. I worked for the Texas State Department for over 24 years.

After I started working as a Probation Officer, I also worked night shifts as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor. I had gained a certification for that as well.

After a few months, I was promoted to manager. I began hiring more instructors. The first was Rey Vela. Mr. Cano and Hector Rodriguez followed afterwards. I made sure to help them all get certified, and become probation officers.

I started working as probation officer in 1980. I was 47 years old, and just out of school. I remember

those difficult and extremely fearful moments. It was a major responsibility.

I didn't know what to do, but I applied the knowledge I learned as a probation officer. I knew it was an alternative to a prison program. We had many people who made mistakes, but were not criminals. Gradually, I began to learn, and liked it more and more.

With time, I developed charisma with people that led me to build good public relationships with people. My mother always taught us to help and serve the people. Always give a hand to your brother in need. I felt great content with my work. I remember going to the office early in the morning. I was the first to arrive, thus I prepared coffee for all my co-workers. I was not a lazy person, and I was never late to work. I retired from the Hidalgo County Probation Department in 1984.

PUBLIC SERVICE & POLITICS

I've always been involved in politics, since leaving the U.S. Air Force in 1957. I was active with a group of Pharr veterans, trying to improve the quality of life for many people. I always remembered my situation growing up. I remembered not having natural gas. We had no electricity nor phone lines.

I began to see I was not the only one with those problems. The people lacking these amenities were the Mexican-American people. The people who spoke Spanish, to be more specific. We began to invite veterans into politics at that time.

I remained involved with the veterans, since leaving the U.S Air Force, during the Korean War.

I don't recall the group of veterans having a name. During elections, we adopted the ticket name on behalf of the group of candidates for best in town. I started to hang out with them, and give them a little heat (support). Pharr City limits was McAllen's 2nd Street at that time.

Across from 2nd Street, was *Sears*. Today, there is a gym where *Sears* used to be. I remember we would go to the theater in McAllen on the weekends. We would ask for a ride, and the McAllen gangs would chase us back to the Pharr City Limits sign.

We began to notice the City of Pharr was not operating well. Suddenly, the City of McAllen appropriated a portion of land from 2nd Street to McColl Rd.

The McAllen gangs chased us because we were going to see the girls at *Klink's Boutique*. It was a pharmacy on Main Street. Klink's is no longer there, but it used to sell hamburgers, lemonade, snow cones, and many more items. We gathered in that drugstore. It was on a corner, with lots of seats and a bar to hang out.

There was a theater on the McAllen East Side. If I'm not mistaken, it was called the *Queen Theater*. I remember it being rather large. It had big seats both upstairs and downstairs. We were there to see the girls, who gradually became our friends. There was a small group of guys from McAllen that didn't particularly like us. One of the boys, whose last name was Lugo, was especially bad.

A year later, I was working at the financial company. It was close to 15th Street in McAllen, adjacent to the LACK'S Store. Back then, LACK'S was a small store. At the very corner, was a Goodyear store. It was there at Goodyear, I came across Lugo. I think he was working there.

Tony Aguilar was the Goodyear's owner. He was married to a woman from San Juan. He has since passed. His wife Blanca now lives in a 55 and older community here in Pharr. She is very nice and friendly.

I saw Lugo at the Goodyear store and asked, "Do you remember me?"

He responded, "No, I do not remember you!"

He was very skinny. I almost didn't recognize him. I told him about how long ago when we were young; he and his friends would chase us out because they didn't want us there.

He reiterated, “No, I don’t remember.”

I answered, “I’m just saying I remember those days.”

At that time, there were more American film theaters. However, a Mexican theater opened up near the neighborhood, named the España Theater. It was opened by the Saeta family from Spain. They rented it to an American who had the Texas Theater. I loved to go and see artists such as, Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete and Antonio Aguilar. I’ve always liked Mexican, and ranchero music. I saw many Cantinflas films in the España Theater. At Texas Theater, there was always a line for tickets to see *The Cowboys*. It was there that little fights started with Anglo boys who wanted to take us out of the line. They started to push us, but my friends and I didn’t let it happen. We faced them and battled. We were not kids anymore.

I remember many of my friends that accompanied me to the movies. I would attend church, along with two of my old classmates, Chano and Edelmiro Molina. I remember we used to collect fruit and vegetables that fell from the shipping trucks. There was a lot fruit, and there was work all year round. Any fruit and vegetable waste we found in the warehouses, we picked up with a wheelbarrow that we made. We picked up carrots, lettuce, and cabbage. We would sell the produce on the American side of the city. The money we earned, we used for the theater, and to watch the cowboys.

Mr. Cuellar was the warehouse steward. He never said anything to us. There were trucks and wagons full of

vegetables and fruit on ice that were shipped up north. Those were the kind of adventures we had.

Pharr continued to grow. The City of McAllen had already appropriated McColl Street. We came together, and stood up to the City of Pharr Administration. The city mayor during that time was Anglo. Assisting the mayor, were two Anglo commissioners and two Mexican commissioners to attract the Mexican vote.

When the City of McAllen began appropriating from Jackson Rd., we confronted them. We had gained knowledge that McAllen wanted to merge with the City of Pharr, to form a larger city. We gathered people in hopes of making political changes. Fortunately, we won many elections and united the Mexican-American population. We also had the support and help from many Anglo friends.

I remember Billy Walters and his brother owned a paint store. He used to hang out with other Anglos in a cafe shop. Once there, they would discuss and arrange political decisions. They moved the Anglo population, and we moved the Mexican-American population. We began to make changes here in Pharr. We stopped the City of McAllen. We lost great amounts of land, starting from Jackson Rd., to west of 2nd Street. All of that land belongs to PSJA ISD.

We united and became more involved in politics. I started to enjoy my involvement, especially after seeing all the good we were doing for the city and its people.

We chose Hispanic people who stood up during important decision-making times. We started making

drainage lines. These changes helped improve the quality of life for many people. In 1984, I went on board as city commissioner. That year, my friend and “compadre” Lorenzo García died. He was one of our commissioner candidates for Pharr. Mayor Fidencio Barrera was the city’s mayor at that time.

I received a phone call informing me Lorenzo had passed. I was asked if I wanted to replace Lorenzo for the remaining time as commissioner. I explained to them, I would first like to consult with Judge Raul Longoria.

Judge Raul Longoria responded, “Sure, accept the job!”

I returned the call, and accepted the commission. I took my oath in 1984. Since then, I have been in politics. I was city commissioner until 2002. From 2002-2015, I served as Mayor for the City of Pharr, Texas.

I always liked to listen to Ranchero music; Pedro Infante, Jorge Negrete and Luis Aguilar. I always liked that kind of music.

I never learned to dance, but I still tried. I would go watch people dance. There was a place in the neighborhood people used to frequent. It was called “*La Muntualista*.” It had a small plaza for people to sit or dance. I remember Lupe Salinas, one of the groups playing at that time. The dance hall was full of people having a fun time. It was great.

Paulino Bernal was one of the most famous artists at that time. More local music bands appeared from the City of McAllen. Cornelio Reyna and Ramon Ayala played in Reynosa bars. They were Los Relampagos del Norte. A duo

that played in cantinas for people. The music they played was very nice.

Even today, my favorite genre of music is Ranchero. On Sundays, I look for Ranchero music TV programs. Unfortunately, there aren't many television programs playing that genre of music. Although there are other types of music, I'm not too fond of them.

I remember when Hurricane Beulah hit the Valley in 1967. There was a lot of damage in our area. There were even song verses referencing the hurricane damages. I vaguely remember our San Juan Mayor San Juanita Sanchez's father, composed and played a song on the radio about the hurricane. This is a verse from the song:

*“Qué triste se encuentra el valle,
por la helada que cayó,
los naranjos y labores,
toditito se seco.
yo también le he pedido ayuda,
sin tener necesidad...”*

I was received well by the City of Pharr Administration, as interim commissioner in 1984. Most of the people there, were people I had supported during their political campaigns. I stayed, because not everyone who accepts a public service job accepts it to serve the people. There is no payment, no money. Everything is on a volunteer basis.

People get involved with public service for many reasons. Some of them get in to employ their friends, or make money with contractors. These are shameless people, with no place on any public service committee. I served to make a difference.

I'm sincere. I pride myself on the ability to perform a clean, right, and honest job. Honesty is what I was all throughout my childhood. Over the years, I developed an honest, respectful, and hard-working life style. I decided to live the rest of my life without anyone placing me in doubtful circumstances.

One of the biggest issues I encountered while serving as city commissioner, was the city's lack of funds to pay its employees. We had no money to buy new equipment, trucks, or cars. I remember Mr. Benito Lopez working hard, and stressed with the pressure of how to pay our employees. He used to take money from one department account to cover another. He always had the ability to buy what was needed, and most importantly pay our city employees. I don't remember what year it was, but we had to let go of twelve people. There just wasn't enough money to pay them. That was the problem. Many commissioners disagreed with the many decisions we tackled. We were constantly negotiating.

There were always shameless people in city positions. They were involved solely for special interests that suited them. Many of them developed businesses with investors wanting to bring business to the city. They began to look for ways to make money and pay themselves.

My brother Tito Palacios, worked for the Texas State Human Resources Department for 28 years. The department was intended to help people living below the poverty line. He was in charge for many years. He later ran for city commissioner. He was mayor in San Juan, Texas, then he was on the PSJA School Board for over 9 years.

Tito, Artemio & Oscar

My brother Tito made his political career in San Juan, Alamo, Pharr, Hidalgo, and some parts of McAllen. He supported a lot on the south part of Pharr and Hidalgo. He offered much support and help to former Mayor David Franz in Hidalgo.

Tito worked around *colonias*, with drainage lines, paving, and street lights. He did what had never been done. After 16 years of service, he lost the election and retired.

The City of Hidalgo turned out against Tito for the first time. He lost due to the 700 votes not in his favor. Now, Hidalgo has another mayor, and other politicians. My brother made his career. He did what he could, and spent what he could spend. He didn't end in debt, nor did he buy votes. My brother said, "Whatever people decide is good".

My brother Artemio served the U.S. Army for 28 years, and worked 18 years for the PSJA School District. He dealt with people and school administrators. He always supported me, and anyone running for public office.

The youngest, Oscar, didn't get into politics. He has been working for the past 29 years with the Hidalgo County Head Start Programs. He is currently the manager. He is responsible for many small children. I can't give an exact count, but I would say close to five thousand kids within the centers he manages.

In 2002, I won the mayors candidacy for the first time. My opponent was Ricardo Medina. I beat Medina and won all elections since then. In May 2015, many people wanted me to continue running, but my family said it was enough. It was time to rest. Too much of my time was being taken. In this public service position, there is no money; there is no pay. It is only for people who want to help the community.

Since I began in 2002, we changed all the city administration personnel. We changed city commissioners. We elected people who wanted to be there for the good of people. In 2002, we began to work with the Pharr Chamber of Commerce. We visited businesses, and changed what was wrong. With Benito Lopez's support as city manager, we grew enormously. I have not done it alone. We have accomplished it together. I believe that by working together, we do more. We are all working for the same cause. There are times that political issues are loaded one way or another for inexplicable reasons. We must do whatever must be done, and never betray for personal interests.

In 1995, we opened the bridge. We had already been granted permission, but we were short on budget. I want people to realize, had we not opened the Pharr Bridge, the border crossing would be chaotic. Can you imagine? Even today with the Pharr Bridge now opened, Reynosa's crossing from one side to the other is very difficult. Our bridge is in constant use by many people. Commercial trucks gain more agility. All of this, makes our bridge distinguished by Mexican investors.

To this day, people come to my office with different issues. They range from funeral support, home permits, business permits, to state and municipal fines. All kind of problems, many unresolved.

The ones who have trouble finding a solution, are simply referred to me. I try to help them as best I can.

A mayor works with the board of directors. The City of Pharr is composed of six commissioners, six representatives. Six people make up the board of directors with the mayor. Our agenda includes reviewing the city's budget, evaluating how money is spent, analyze city improvements when needed, and attracting new businesses to collect more taxes. This is not limited to property taxes, but also sales taxes paid by the consumers. We are constantly monitoring to make sure everything is well managed, and well spent. We have a responsibility to improve and verify we have enough fire/police equipment, sufficient people to maintain the city clean, and good water service for the people. In other words, the city must be functioning well, 24 hours a day. We maintain a good relationship with business owners. We have experts to help us attract more business for the municipality. This in turn, provides us enough money to pay our city employees. The City of Pharr consists of more than 600 employees in different departments.

I served as the City of Pharr Mayor since 2002, until May 2015. I held that position for 13 years. I can go back to 1984 and 1986, when I first represented the municipality as a city commissioner. I remember those days being tough. We did not have then, what we have today. We did

not have today's money influx. We didn't have the people working today. In 1984, 1986, and 1988, the money entries were very little for the city. We didn't have the equipment to work. The city did not have enough trucks. The ones we did have, were too old.

FORMER MAYOR LEOPOLDO “POLO”
PALACIOS JR; DURING HIS MANY DYNAMIC
POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS



Ernesto Ayala was working for the municipality. He was responsible for all the city business administration. He walked from one city department to another, trying to find money to pay city employees.

Ernesto Ayala is a long time employee still working for the city. He is now working for the municipal court, making reports and checking numbers. He is a whiz with numbers. Ernesto has many years of service. He battled through difficult times to get money for our employees. Nothing compared to how we are doing today.

Nowadays, we have more businesses, more homes, more people, and good standing numbers. There is no comparison with the 80's. The money entries now are quite large. In 1996, when we opened the Pharr International Bridge, we made a big investment. Many people initially didn't believe in this project. They used to comment, "These people are crazy. What they're doing is a mistake. What are they going to do with that bridge?"

The bridge is now giving our city about a million dollars per month. The bridge that many people viewed as an unsuccessful project, and a vain expense.

Today, it is one of the best international bridges in the country. We are connected with the rail road, which facilitates importing and exporting products, fruits and vegetables from Mexico. We are attracting more businesses today. As a result, more revenue is coming in.

One of the main reasons we made several visits to Washington, was to seek help and make the proper arrangements on a pending issue related to the Pharr International Bridge. The City of McAllen has always tried

to pass trucks through the Mission International Bridge. We had visited Washington to talk to the congressmen and senators. We needed to explain the current law regulations that the City of McAllen had to follow, in order to get the permit authorizing the opening of the bridge. A permit, which stipulated the Anzalduas International Bridge could not pass trucks until 2015.



**Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr and Mr. Roberto Leal at the
Washington Capitol**
(Courtesy of Roberto Leal)

The City of McAllen put pressure on the matter for many years. They were only wasting time and money. As always, we accomplished it, thank God. We are the only international bridge in Hidalgo County to have commercial equipment, where all produce, fruits and vegetables pass through the City of Pharr. The opportunity made it one the best international ports in the United States.



**Former Pharr leaders visiting the Mexican Embassy in
Washington, D.C**

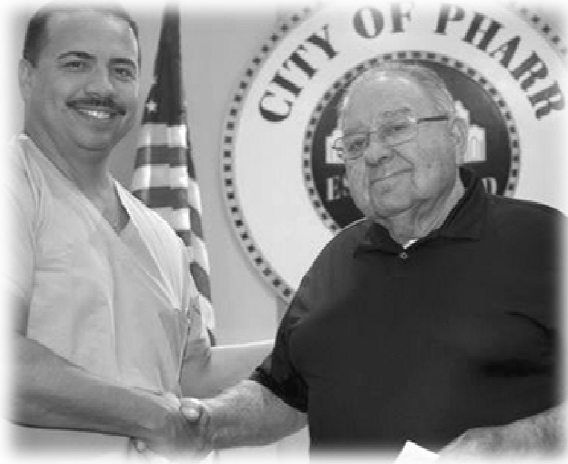
(Courtesy of Roberto Leal)

I am now retired by the State of Texas. I was the Alcohol and Drugs Administrator for Hidalgo County, for many years. We provided a program helping people who are going to court, and given probation for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. These individuals have to go through a series of educational prevention classes, to meet certain Texas State requirements.

Today, I prefer to continue working. I cannot be without work. I cannot live without being busy. I'm pensioned by the Texas State, the Social Security Administration, and the Veterans Department. Therefore, I intend to continue offering my alcohol and drugs prevention classes to people who come to my business. I want to enjoy my family and friends.

It is time for a new city hall generation to take over the future of our beautiful city, which I have seen grow with so much love and pride. I will continue helping and advising people in need from my office. I will continue doing what I like to do most, which is to SERVE the people.

FAREWELL RECEPTION



**At his swearing-in, new Pharr, Texas Mayor Ambrocio Hernandez
& former Mayor Polo Palacios Jr**

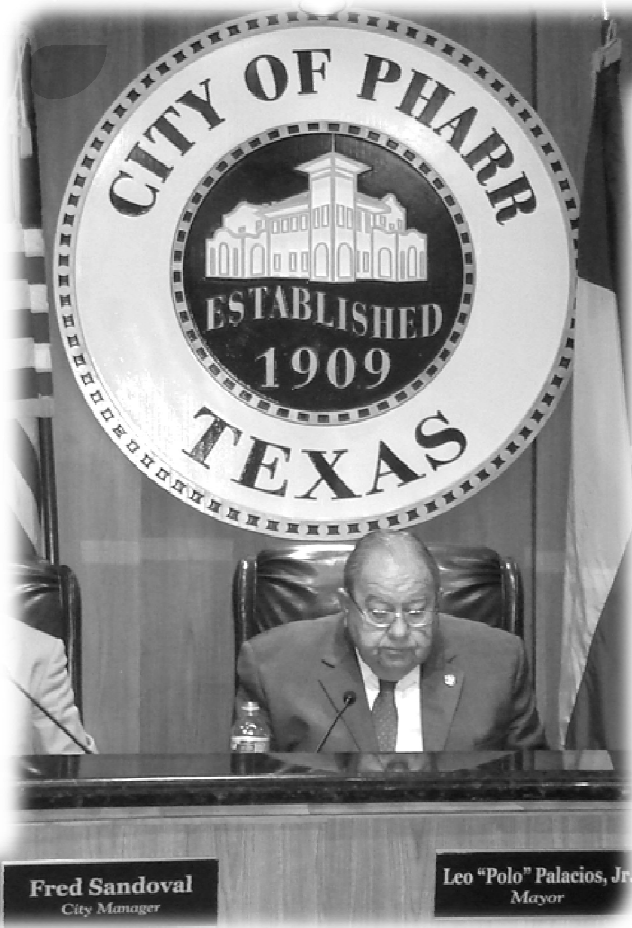
(Courtesy of the Pharr City Administration & Pamela Morales 2015)



**At his farewell reception Mayor Polo Palacios Jr & Mrs. Maria
Guadalupe Ramos**

(Courtesy of the Pharr City Administration & Pamela Morales 2015)

MY PUBLIC SERVICE



(Courtesy of Roberto Leal)

1984 - 2015

Family Tree

The last name Palacios arrived to Burgos, Tamaulipas Mexico through Santiago Palacios.

Santiago Palacios & María Gertrudis Segovia = Antonio Palacios Segovia

Antonio Palacios Segovia & Anastacia de la Garza Treviño (1772) = Dionicio Palacios de la Garza

Dionicio Palacios de la Garza (1773) & Rosalía Leal de León (First marriage) = Margila Palacios Leal (1800) & Magdalena Trevino Leal (Second marriage) = Roque Palacios Treviño 1822 Francisca Palacios Treviño 1830

Roque Palacios Treviño (1822) & Guadalupe Treviño (First marriage) = Martina Cano Treviño* Martina Cano Treviño (Second marriage) =

Anastacio Palacios Cano 1855
Andrés Palacios Cano 1857
Herculano Palacios Cano 1860
Virginia Palacios Cano 1868

Anastacio Palacios Cano (1855) & Teresa de León (First marriage) = Adela Palacios de León (1880) & Virginia Balli Treviño (Second marriage) =

Luisa Palacios Balli 1902
Alfonso Palacios Balli 1903

Adela Palacios de León & Juan González Barrera

Alfonso Palacios Balli & Hortensia Treviño Adame

Andrés Palacios Cano & Adelaida Medina González

Herculano Palacios Cano & Nicolasa Cano Cano

Virginia Palacios Cano (1862)* & Porfirio Palacios Treviño
(1854)*

Espiridión Palacios (1828) & Ana María Treviño Ribera.

Espiridión Palacios lived at *Rancho La Rana*, from Burgos,
Tamaulipas.

Virginia Palacios Cano (1862)* & Porfirio Palacios
Treviño (1854)*

Hortensia Palacios Palacios 1897.
Dolores Palacios Palacios 1899.
Porfirio Palacios Palacios 1902.
Remigia Palacios Palacios 1903
Leopoldo Palacios Palacios 1905*

Leopoldo Palacios Palacios * & Lilia Farias Longoria*

Leopoldo Palacios Farias*
Dora Palacios Farias
Irma Palacios Farias
Artemio Palacios Farias
Hector Palacios Farias
Oscar Palacios Farias
Belia Palacios Farias (+)

Leopoldo Palacios Farias* & Maria Guadalupe Ramos

Hector Javier Palacios Ramos
Aurora Imelda Palacios Ramos
Leo Palacios Ramos
Rene Palacios Ramos
Ana Lilia Palacios Ramos
Laura Alicia Palacios Ramos

Hector Xavier & Melva Palacios
GRANDCHILDREN:

Hector Xavier Palacios
Cesar Xavier Palacios

Carlos Xavier Palacios & Kimberly Ortega

GREAT-GRANDCHILD:

1- Son

Aurora Imelda Palacios

GRANDCHILDREN:

Eloy Daniel Pulido
Elisa Yvette Pulido-Lopez
Kristine Robyn Garza
Joey Garza

Eloy Daniel & Laurie Pulido

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN:

Kaedyn Danielle Pulido
Kaleb Daniel Pulido

Elisa Yvette Pulido-Lopez & Ted Lopez

GREAT-GRANDCHILD:

Liam Lucas Lopez

Leo & Tricia Palacios

GRANDCHILDREN:

Aaron Garza
Laura Lee Palacios - Aleman
Audrey Lynette Palacios
Leo Aurelio Palacios

Aaron & Audry Garza

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN:

Nicholas Garza
Noah Garza

Laura Lee Palacios - Aleman & David Aleman

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN:

Alexa Devon Aleman
Gianna Bella Aleman
Sebastian Dmitri Aleman
Trystan Alexander Aleman

Rene & Dyanne Palacios

GRANDCHILDREN:

Amy Marie Palacios

Amy Marie & Ben Pena
GREAT-GRANDCHILD:
Dylan Jude Pena

**Anna Lilia Palacios Teter & Christopher Matthew
Teter**

GRANDCHILDREN:
Sarah Elizabeth Teter
Matthew James Teter

Laura Alicia Palacios Disque & Ted Disque
GRANDCHILDREN:

Taryn Disque
Adriana Cantu
Kayla Cantu
Luke Disque

TRUNK OF MEMORIES



Former Pharr Leadership Delegation visiting the Mexican Congress of the Union in Mexico City



Mayor Palacios, Mayor Sergio Pablo Zuniga Garza (Left) and Mayor Pablo Gonzalez Cansino (Right) during the Sister City Signing Ceremony between Burgos, Tamaulipas, Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato and Pharr, Texas (2007)



Mayor Leopoldo "Polo" Palacios Jr and Texas Senator John Cornyn



**Sister City signing ceremony between Burgos, Tamaulipas and
Pharr, Texas**



**Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr being received by a Burgos,
Tamaulipas primary school children (2007)**

(Pictures courtesy of Roberto Leal)



Mrs. Laura Bush and Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr, during the presentation of the “Preserve American City” award to the City of Pharr

(Courtesy: Fabio E. Angell and Texas Border Business)



(Courtesy of Roberto Leal)



Mr. Roberto Leal, Oscar, Artemio, Leopoldo Palacios Jr and Dr. Ruben Leal

(Courtesy of Roberto Leal)



Former city commissioners Aquiles Garza, Arturo Cortez, Oscar Elizondo Jr, Fred Sandoval, Mayor Leopoldo Polo Palacios Jr; commissioner Roberto Carrillo, Eddie Cantu, Mayor Protem Adan Farias, and Texas State Rep. Sergio Muñoz Jr during a city leadership meeting. *(Courtesy of Roberto Leal)*



Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, Congressman Filemon Vela, Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi, Texas State Rep. Armando Martínez, Pharr Mayor Leopoldo Palacios Jr, and Immigration Attorney Lisa Brodyaga visiting Washington, D.C during the Central American Child Crisis (2014) *(Courtesy: The Rio Grande Guardian)*



Back row: McAllen Mayor Jim Darling, Edinburg Mayor Richard Garcia, Mission Mayor Norberto Salinas and Pharr Mayor Leopoldo “Polo” Palacios Jr. Front row: Dr. Francisco G. Cigarroa and Hidalgo County Judge Ramon Garcia during the official announcement of UTRGV *(Courtesy: The Rio Grande Guardian)*

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