

# THE EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL

## ALUMNI TATTLER



El Paso, Texas

The Lady on the Hill

October 2017

### Homecoming Highlights

Congratulations to the 2017 EPHS Alumni Outstanding Exes **Narciso "Napo" George Garcia**, Class of 1943 and **Raul Ernesto "Ernie" Reyes**, Class of 1955.

#### Homecoming October 26-28, 2017

**Oct 26** 6:00 p.m. Parade  
7:00 p.m. Eve of the "E"

**Oct 27** 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.  
Alumni Museum Open  
*(Museum is not handicap accessible)*

1:15 p.m. History Presentation  
2:30 p.m. Pep Rally

**7:00 p.m. Game vs. Irvin  
Dinner in Skybox with Jones  
Family & Outstanding Exes**  
Tickets \$15

**Oct 28 12:00 p.m. Outstanding Exes  
Lunch**  
Join us to honor our outstanding  
Exes at Stateline Restaurant.  
Tickets \$25

#### Dinner with Jones Family & Outstanding Exes

Join the Jones Family & the Outstanding Exes Friday night for dinner to eat, visit, laugh and swap stories.

When: Friday, October 27, 2017  
Where: R.R. Jones Stadium Skybox  
RSVP: Anna Mares '80 915-449-5720  
Cost: \$15

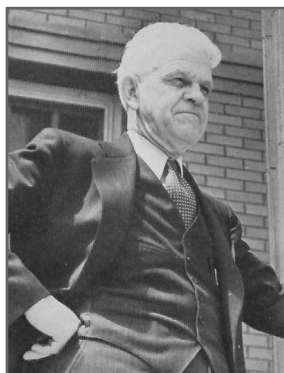
#### Outstanding Exes Celebration

Celebrate **Narciso "Napo" George Garcia**, Class of 1943 and **Raul Ernesto "Ernie" Reyes**, Class of 1955 at the Outstanding Exes Celebration on Saturday, October 28, 2017.

When: Saturday, October 28, 2017  
Where: Stateline Restaurant  
RSVP: Linda Troncoso | 915-539-1650  
Cost: \$25

### Legacy of R. Randolph Jones

By Janna Bowman, '88



R. Randolph Jones

his back. When I was a sophomore I ran into him in the hall and complimented Mr. Jones on the shirt he was wearing. A few days later he presented me with the shirt neatly washed and pressed. That ranks as one of my sweetest memories." A student from the Class of '36 recounts that Mr. Jones was appointed as Supervisor of Schools, but chose to come back to the school to be with the students, where instruction and exploration was constantly underway.

The R.R. Jones stadium that bears his name is the foundation for the Lady on the Hill and has its own list of accomplishments spanning the decades.



- R.R. Jones is one of the oldest concrete stadiums in the country.
- EPHS became the first high school in the state of Texas to play football games at night.
- From 1935 to 1937 the first three Sun Bowls were played at R.R. Jones Stadium.
- In 2010, R.R. Jones Stadium was named as "Best resemblance to Ancient Rome" on ESPN Rise online.

Mr. Jones' great-grandchildren, Robert Randolph Jones, Encinitas, CA; Valerie Jones McKinley, Scottsdale, AZ; Leslie Jones Smith, Encinitas, CA; Daniel & Vicki Jones Minter, Rancho Santa Fe, CA will be joining us for the game. William Randolph Jones, grandson of R. R. Jones is 84, and is not big on traveling anymore, but sends his greetings and will be represented by his wife, Sue. Join the Jones family and the Outstanding Exes for **Dinner in the Skybox, Friday, October 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

*A special thanks to Sandy Aaronson, '64, for helping to locate, invite the Jones Family and make all the arrangements for them to be with the EPHS family during Homecoming.*



#### JOIN THE EPHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

YOU, the alumni give thousands of dollars each year through membership, donations and fundraisers. Consider joining the EPHS Alumni. We give YOUR money back to EPHS through scholarships, student organizations, gifts and donations to the Lady on The Hill.

Membership \$20 per year | [www.paypal.me/EPHSAlumniTigers1916](http://www.paypal.me/EPHSAlumniTigers1916)  
Checks Payable to EPHS Alumni | Mail to PO Box 5024, El Paso, TX 79953

## President's Corner

by Michael Montes '97

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for allowing me to serve as President of the El Paso High School Alumni Association, especially during the Centennial year. It is an honor that I will carry with me for the rest of my years. My second and final term will end in November and I look forward to a fresh face and new leadership for our Association. We truly have done some amazing things for El Paso High over the last four years and the majority of that can be attributed to our Board Members and volunteers that have given up so much of their time for the Lady on the Hill.

Our growth is promising but with it comes added expenses; it is inevitable. **Our giving has more than doubled from approximately \$5,000 a year to over \$11,000 a year.** Also, thanks to the Centennial we now have a database of over 8,000 Alumni, but we only have approximately 800 members and donors. That equates to only one in ten Tigers giving back to our Association.

I have served eight years of my personal time to our Association. In those eight years I began as the web & social media administrator. I then spent two years as Vice President and the last four as President. I did this simply out of love for thee El Paso High School and the values, history, tradition and pride that those majestic pillars stand for. I would first like to thank my family and friends for all their love and support. I cannot thank our Board Members enough; they are the true workers and heroes of this group. They are the ones who have driven us to this remarkable level.

The greatest thank you gift you could give all of our Board Members and me for our time & efforts is to donate and join the EPHS Alumni Association. Membership is just \$20 a year. [Please consider donating.](#) If everyone reading this newsletter donated \$5 we would raise over \$40,000! Nothing would make me happier than raising that much money for the Lady on the Hill. I look forward to seeing all of you very soon at the alumni sponsored events during Homecoming and the C.D. Jarvis Tournament.



For a century, she has stood watch  
At the foot of the Franklins,  
While a burgeoning metropolis  
And its people have grown  
all around her.  
The stories, too, have grown to  
become equally revered,  
Rooted in the memories of those who  
roamed her magnificent, hallowed halls  
throughout the first one hundred years.

## The Alumni Association Is...

### We ARE the Story

All of us ARE the history of EPHS. We have cheered on teams in the R.R. Jones stadium, been to assemblies in the C.D. Jarvis Gym, played on teams, eaten in the cafeteria, snuck a kiss by the locker, carved our initials somewhere deeply hidden in the school, posed for the annual yearbook picture, made lifelong friends and lasting memories. ALL OF US ARE the history of EPHS.

The EPHS Alumni Association goes back to 1885 when one of our first graduates, Kate Moore, started attending what was then known as Central School. Ms. Moore graduated in 1887 and would eventually found and become the first president of the El Paso High School Alumni Association. The mission which is still the same as it was 80 years ago is: *"To preserve and protect the history and traditions of the El Paso High School by working with the school to foster loyalty among alumni and continuing support of various school activities!!"*

### Instilling Traditions, Loyalty & Support

The EPHS Alumni Association acts on your behalf with your time, money and voice. The Alumni Association has GIVEN AWAY over \$85,000 in the past nine years.. In the last four years, YOU have helped give \$14,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors, and approximately \$8,000 to support student organizations, the band, orchestra, and an annual appreciation meal for teachers and custodians.

This past year, [YOU helped donate](#) three 1000 Watt loudspeakers to use in EPHS classrooms, stadium and outdoor presentations, purchased a new scrim for the Auditorium stage, provided financial assistance to the Tiger Pride band to appear in Disneyland's Main Street Parade and entered a Centennial Float in the Sun Bowl Parade and won the Grand Marshal's Award. Organized and produced the five-part Centennial Legacy Series, created a commemorative Centennial Edition Football Program and brought together thousands of Alumni and friends for the Centennial and the World Record attempt.

The Association continues to raise money to build a self-standing EPHS Alumni Museum. The current museum inside EPHS is being moved and is potentially at risk for being dismantled and stored in boxes. Please reach out to Anna Mares @ 915-449-5720 if you are interested in donating time, a contribution or expertise to the EPHS Alumni Museum.

This is YOUR story. Whether you live in El Paso, or states away, your [donation](#) is put into action. Would you consider [joining](#) the EPHS Alumni Association by [donating](#) \$20 to YOUR continuing story?

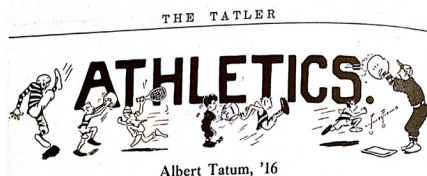
### Leading the Legacy

The EPHS Alumni Association is active, busy and a vital part to EPHS and our community. Would you consider leading and serving as an Officer or Board Member for the EPHS Alumni Association? The Board of Directors will be elected at the general meeting on November 8th, and then the Directors elect their officers in the Board Meeting that evening.

### JOIN THE EPHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Membership \$20 per year | [www.paypal.me/EPHSAlumniTigers1916](http://www.paypal.me/EPHSAlumniTigers1916)  
Checks Payable to EPHS Alumni | Mail to PO Box 5024, El Paso, TX 79953

### Excerpt from the 1916 Tatler



The football season has started off most auspiciously. Rio Grande Park has been secured for practice and games. This has the advantage over last years place, Washington Park, is being closer to town. Hence, a large attendance is expected for the games.

A reduced price ticket has been instituted for the High School students in order to raise money to start the season off properly. According to Chris Fox, who has the sale of these tickets in charge, they are going like "hot cakes." The purpose of these is to pay the guarantee of teams to El Paso, and to have funds to set up goal posts, advertise the games, etc. About forty candidates have been coming out for practice and much enthusiasm seems to be manifested. Chris Fox, the captain, is a callable and efficient leader for the team...

# 2017 EPHS Alumni Outstanding Exes

The El Paso High School Alumni Association has selected 2 esteemed Tigers as our Outstanding Exes for 2017. **Narciso “Napo” George Garcia, Class of 1943** and **Raul Ernesto “Ernie” Reyes, Class of 1955** will be honored during the October 26-28, 2017 Homecoming festivities.

## Narciso “Napo” George Garcia, Class of 1943



Narciso “Napo” George Garcia, Class of 1943

Narciso Garcia attended EPHS in 1942 and 1943, having transferred from Bowie when his family moved to Sunset Heights. World War II (WWII) was raging at this time and he was actually drafted into the Army in 1943, just 3 months before graduation. There were a few young men in El Paso who were also in this situation. The PTAs of all their schools got together and petitioned the Draft Board for a temporary deferment that would allow the young men to graduate from high school before they were deployed to the war. Thanks to that deferment, he graduated from EPHS in May of 1943, and a few days later reported to the US Army Induction Center at Ft. Bliss. During those few months before he graduated, he assembled recommendation letters and other credentials needed for an appointment to the Army Air Corp Cadet School, where the elite pilots and crewmen of the US Army Air Corp, predecessor to the US Air Force, were trained.

A year after training began, Napo became a tail-gunner and armorer in the crew of a B-25 Mitchell medium bomber and was assigned to the 8th Air Force, 57th Bomb Wing, 346th Bomb Squadron. He flew 41 missions over Germany and Italy, bombing bridges,

railways, naval ports, ball-bearing factories, oil refineries, airfields and heavy artillery and anti-aircraft gun emplacements. The average life-span of a bomber crewman at that time was about 10 missions. He was on his 41st mission over Germany when the war ended on September 2, 1945.

Narciso received eight commendations including the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. But the greatest reward for him was the GI Bill, which gave him the opportunity to go to college. He was accepted to UTEP in 1946, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1951 – the first college graduate in his family. Narciso went to work for the City of El Paso Engineering Department and was instrumental in building the first true modern additions and upgrades to the El Paso Airport including the control tower that is still in use today. He also played a pivotal role in designing and building the extra-long and heavy load-bearing runways of Biggs Army Air Field when it was a top-secret Strategic Air Command Base in the 60s. B-36 heavy bombers of the US Air Force Strategic Air Command, loaded with nuclear bombs, regularly flew long-range sorties to the fringes of the USSR from his runways during the Cold War. Soon after, he went to work as a U.S. Civilian at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). Narciso capped off his amazing career as a “rocket-scientist” as the ground logistics lead for the landing of the Space Shuttle Columbia (STS-3) at White Sands Space Harbor in March of 1982. He would later be honored with the crew of STS-3, astronauts Jack R. Lousma, commander, and C. Gordon Fullerton, pilot, and other ground units, as this was the first and only time the Space Shuttle would land outside of NASA facilities. In 1983, Narciso retired after 30 years of selfless, civilian federal service to the nation and turned his attention to his family and volunteer work for the Catholic Diocese of El Paso.

## Raul Ernesto “Ernie” Reyes, Class of 1955

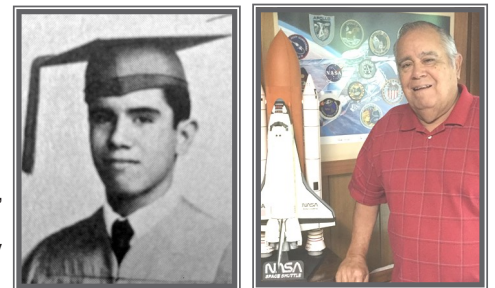
Raul Ernesto “Ernie” Reyes, Class of 1955, represents the outstanding efforts of the generation which brought to reality the aspiration of manned space flight. Ernesto graduated from New Mexico State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Minor in Electrical Engineering. He later attended graduate school at Ohio State University and earned an advanced degree in Nuclear Engineering.

During his 31 year career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Ernesto was an integral member of the Gemini Program, the Apollo Lunar Program, the Skylab Program, and the Space Shuttle Program. In each Program, he was recognized for his exceptional work and contributions to the success of each manned flight program. By the end of his career with NASA, he had been recognized by the NASA administration with three “Exceptional Service Medals”, an “Outstanding Leadership Medal” and the NASA administration “Equal Opportunity” Medal.

He had the pleasure of working closely with the entire Astronaut corps, many of whom became close friends. He also had the privilege to work with the Father of the Manned Space Program: Dr. Wernher von Braun. Ernesto also lost close friends during the Apollo 1 fire and the Challenger Shuttle accident. These types of programs involve risk and Ernesto worked every day to lower the risk to keep his friends and Astronauts safe. After the Apollo 1 fire, Ernesto worked with Astronaut Frank Borman to recreate the instrument setting and after the Challenger Space Shuttle Accident, Ernesto and his team designed and developed a crew escape system that was implemented on all subsequent missions.

Ernesto also worked with several of our United States allies and collaborated on the development and design of space programs. He worked on the Apollo- Soyuz Program where he served as the preflight manager of all flights and worked with his Russian counterparts. Again, Ernesto was called on to serve our nation and promote the space program. He was assigned to work in Germany with the European Space Agency to develop the Skylab Vehicle.

Ernesto retired from the NASA space agency in 1995. At the time of his retirement, he held the position of “Kennedy Space Center Director of Quality Assurance”. He was responsible for a team that assured that all equipment being used in the space programs met NASA’s quality assurance specifications and made the equipment safer for all.



Raul Ernesto (Ernie) Reyes, Class of 1955

# The Lady on the Hill Gets A Face Lift

By Anna Mares '80

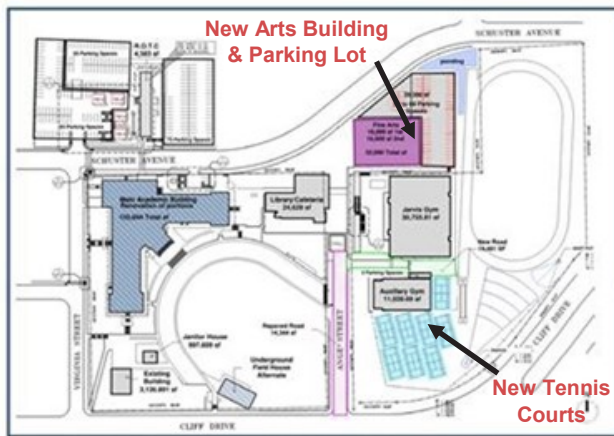
After 101 years, the majestic architectural design and construction of El Paso High School (EPHS) still adorns the El Paso skyline. For over a century, the school has stood proudly watching over the city. The building has provided years of service to the El Paso High School community and to the city. It is time to update and restore the structure and add buildings to improve education. The El Paso Independent School District's 2016 Bond election provided \$21 million for El Paso High School renovations, façade restoration, and a Fine Arts building.

New synthetic turf was installed in R.R. Jones Stadium in time for the beginning of the school year and football season. The turf features the tiger mascot on the 50 yard line. The east end zone is painted with the words, "El Paso" and the west end zone, directly under the gaze of the school, is painted with the word "Tigers".

A special thanks to School Board member, Bob Geske, who made arrangements for five EPHS alumni association members interested in preserving the integrity of the original building to participate



on the EPHS Building Committee. **The five EPHS Alumni are grateful to be part of the committee. It has proven a necessity for the Alumni to participate, be an advocate and a voice to preserve the historic design and integrity of The Lady on The Hill.**



The committee is composed of alumni, faculty, parents and administration representatives. At the last meeting, the architect presented proposed site locations for the Arts Building construction. The architects established three criteria necessary for site selection and applied it to the potential sites. The three criteria used were 1. Site access, 2. Academics, and 3. Cost Savings. The building committee voted that the Arts Building be constructed on the current tennis court location with eight new tournament-standard courts to be constructed behind the Auxiliary gym. EPISD and the community will review the selection.

Other building construction includes a larger elevator to meet the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** requirements. The band room and the room adjacent to it will be subdivided and repurposed to create additional classroom space. Additionally, the bathrooms and plumbing throughout the building will be renovated. Other campus projects are being considered and more information will be shared as details become available.



Other building construction includes a larger elevator to meet the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** requirements. The band room and the room adjacent to it will be subdivided and repurposed to create additional classroom space. Additionally, the bathrooms and plumbing throughout the building will be renovated. Other campus projects are being considered and more information will be shared as details become available.

And the legacy continues .....

## The 43rd Annual C.D. Jarvis Basketball Tournament November 16-18, 2017

The 43rd Annual C.D. Jarvis Tournament will be held this year **Thursday November 16th - Saturday, November 18th in the C.D. Jarvis Gym at El Paso High School.** The success of this ongoing legacy is dependent on help and support from the EPHS Community. If you would like to donate food for coaches and players, your time or anything else to the tournament please email us at [ephsalumassoc@gmail.com](mailto:ephsalumassoc@gmail.com). Please make plans to attend. Your cheers from the stands along with any other support is what has made the C.D. Jarvis Tournament a success for the past 42 years. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Did you know...

...head basketball coach C.D. Jarvis coached Cowboys legend Tom Landry while Jarvis coached high school basketball in Mission, Texas before coming to EPHS in 1944?

**A SPECIAL THANKS to AMADA FLORES '63 AND JANNA BOWMAN '88 for making this newsletter possible.**

### EPHS Alumni Board of Directors

#### Officers

Michael Montes, '97, President  
Steve Blumenthal, '66, Vice President  
Roberta Rodriguez, '74, Treasurer  
Patty Mena Garcia, '72, Secretary

#### Board Members

Becky Huenneke, '79, Communications  
Frances Vega, '81, Membership  
Anna Mares, '80, Fundraising  
Amada Flores, '63, Special Events  
Sandy Aaronson, '64 Special Events  
Linda Troncoso, '65, Homecoming

### To Donate or Contact Us

EPHS Alumni Association  
PO Box 5024 | El Paso, TX 79953  
donate: [www.paypal.me/EPHSAlumniTigers1916](http://www.paypal.me/EPHSAlumniTigers1916)  
e: [ephsalumassoc@gmail.com](mailto:ephsalumassoc@gmail.com)  
f: [facebook.com/ephsalumni](https://www.facebook.com/ephsalumni)