

BIO – May 22, 2017

JOHN J. CHAVEZ

Born February 15, 1935 in Riverside, California to parents that immigrated from Mexico to California as infants. His father was a hard working construction worker and his mother was employed by Victoria Packing House in Riverside as an orange packer.

John J. Chavez is the 2nd child of 5 children. He attended Riverside Unified schools and graduated in 1954 from Poly High School in Riverside. 1958 was a big year as he married Mary Ellen Rivas, was drafted into the US Army, and had his first of 5 children.

John fulfilled his basic training in the Army at Fort Ord in Monterey California and was deployed to Korea serving with the 1st Calvary securing the DMZ (38th parallel) from North Korea. He completed his active service at Fort Bliss, McGregor Missile Range, in El Paso Texas. Following active service, he joined the Active Army Reserve unit in Riverside California. He served 2 years of active, and 2 years of inactive, reserves before he received an Honorable Discharge.

John is a life member of the VFW 1513351 in Riverside California, Post 10267. He enjoys celebrating veteran's day and any holiday that honors those that served the US Military. He is also a life member of the Jurupa District Lions Club which supports the local High School ROTC.

John was employed by Rohr Industries in Riverside as a Quality Assurance Engineer in Tooling and remained for 43 years. In 1974, he was elected to the Jurupa Unified School Board as the first Latino to serve on the JUSD Board, and served as a board member for 33 years for a total of 8 elections. In 1997, John was awarded Citizen of the Year for Jurupa County. He was also elected Delegate to the California School Boards Association by the Riverside County School Boards. As a committee member, John, was instrumental in the organizing effort to create the Latino School Board Association, which was approved by CSBA.

John's passion is to serve his country and the community in an effort to building a strong, safe, prosperous place for people to raise their children. He is a proud American that has lives to serve his country.