

Founder's Banquet Held By American GI Forum

At least 400 people attended the American GI Forum's 22nd Founder's Day banquet last night.

Many local county and city government officials were among those who gathered in the Boys' Club on Greenwood in honor of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who began the organization in 1948.

Col. Luther Jones, commanding officer at ARADMAC was guest speaker. He commended Garcia for his "passion for fairness" which he said had had a great impact on ARADMAC.

Jones pointed out that there were now 1644 Mexican-American employees at the center, or about 37 per cent of the total work force.

The Forum was first organized among Mexican-American

veterans returning from World War II. The purpose of the organization was to combat prejudice and injustice.

"You and I are better men and women," Jones said, "because of our acceptance of the principal of humanity and fairness to which Dr. Garcia devotes to much of himself."

Gilbert Casarez, the Equal Opportunity Officer with ARADMAC, introduced Jones. After the speech, Dr. Garcia made a few remarks, followed by a presentation of several awards by F. H. Saavedra, chairman of the Forum.

Amador Garcia, local attorney, was major of ceremonies at the event. Bishop Thomas J. Drury gave the invocation and benediction.

Music was provided during dinner by Los Trobadores.

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