

CIPRIANO:

NOMINATED TO 1993 TEXAS WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME



Irene P. Cipriano with awards (holding Hall of Fame)

by Maria Cervantes

Irene P. Cipriano of Corpus Christi, Texas, was a Nominee to the 1993 Texas Women's Hall of Fame.

"It is my pleasure to congratulate you on being nominated for inclusion in the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. You have been chosen for this honor because of your unique commitment to excellence and achievement. You set an example for women across the state, and you remind us all that there is no challenge that women are not capable of meeting," reads a Certificate from Governor Ann Richards of Texas.

Texas Senator Carlos Truan submitted her name in recognition of her commitment and devotion to helping those less fortunate. In initiating projects, the concern has been to encourage continued education, providing students with the basic needs. Just in the previous five years, she took a major role in initiating and implementing projects to benefit the less fortunate students within the community of Corpus Christi, which consisted of scholarships, new shoes, coats, school supplies, and clothing.

"No project has been too large or too small. I have found no obstacles in being able to make the proper contacts and seeing to their success. Where there is a will, there is a way, whatever the need may be," says Cipriano. "All it takes is common sense, follow-through on any ideas you

have, keep on trying and not giving up, and pursuing leads; you will be amazed at the results. I'll have to admit I never cease to amaze myself and it was absolutely exciting for me. To actually see that those who benefitted were most deserving was rewarding. That is what kept me going and motivated me to continue and not give up."

Cipriano was responsible for the distribution of \$23,000 in scholarships to 42 college-bound high school students. Scholarships ranged from \$200-\$1,000 which aid the recipient to improve their lot in life by pursuing a higher education. Over 1,000 elementary students have received new shoes distributed during the Christmas season. Frequently the shoes are the only gifts they will receive or the only new pair of shoes they have ever owned.

Donations received are from individuals who believe in the cause and share the same concerns, she says. "Coats are provided during the extremely cold winter days to discourage absenteeism. It is not uncommon for needy children to have unheated homes. The coats provide them the warmth they need to be ready to start their day in school properly. The collection of coats are from students of the more affluent schools who are willing to share coats which they have outgrown and are still in exceptionally good condition," says Cipriano. "All these basic essentials contribute to a student's self-esteem, giving them hope and inspiring them to make the



President Bill Clinton and Irene P. Cipriano



Vice President Al Gore and Irene P. Cipriano

best of the talents God has given them."

Recently she recognized 42 teachers within the Corpus Christi Independent School District to make the community aware that the teacher's role is not an easy one.

A major project included aiding 42 Nursing students who were in need of the Hepatitis B Vaccine which is recommended for health care workers. This is a costly vaccine and for her determination to help them out, she received a donation of \$11,000 worth of vaccine and a local physician to help out with the administration.

Cipriano has participated in voter registration, working the precincts, getting the people out to vote by providing transportation as well as helping numerous candidates and public officials in their campaign and attending conventions as a Delegate for Mexican-American Democrats.

This nomination into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame is the second highest honor she has received. Her first was being selected and receiving the National

Woman of the Year Award in Washington, D.C. through the League of United Latin American Citizens in July, 1989. She has had the privilege and pleasure of personally meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton; Vice President Al Gore; Secretary of HUD, Henry Cisneros; Secretary of Treasury, Lloyd Benson; U.S. Congressman Solomon Ortiz and many other officials in her activity and involvement with the Mexican-American Democrats of Texas.

She has been a recipient of Achievement Awards, Appreciation Awards, a letter of Congratulations from former President George Bush, Certificate of Volunteer Service from Both present Texas Governor Ann Richards and previous Texas Governor Bill Clemmons, Corpus Christi Mayor Certificate of Commendation, Certificates of Merit, listed in "Who's Who Among Hispanic American" 1991-93 editions, as well as listed in "2000 Notable American Women" fourth edition.

Irene Cipriano has been active in community organizations being a representative on the Board of the Nueces County Community Action Agency for five years. President of Ladies LULAC Council #26 for five years. Member of American G.I. Forum of the U.S., Member of the Spanish American Genealogist Association, and Better Business Bureau Arbitrator. She is a self-employed Notary Public, previously an office manager for 18 years, and adjunct instructor at Del Mar College. She attended classes and still managed to volunteer a great deal of her time to charitable activities, exercising her natural skills. She will now be devoting her time and concentrating on her studies, being presently enrolled at the Corpus Christi State University.

"Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity," is a well-loved quote from educator Horace Mann, according to Cipriano--words she encourages all of us to live by.