

File written
Comm Vicente Jimenez

IN HONOR AND APPRECIATION

HONORABLE VICENTE T. XIMENES

Commissioner, United States
Equal Employment
Opportunity Commission

June 9, 1967 – July 1, 1971



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I believe that every one in this Country must have an equal opportunity if our Nation is to endure.

The Nation's Capital
April, 1971

of Hispanic Americans has always been a...
in the past... the...
is too great... an...
for him to travel in pursuit of quality and...
organization for American Hispanic Communities...
in... in...
Honorable Joseph Montoya
Senator from New Mexico
April, 1971

We ask all Americans to join us in this
expression of appreciation to Commissioner
Vicente T. Ximenes for his service and dedica-
tion to our Country and the Spanish Speaking
Community.

President Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House, June 9, 1967

OFFICE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO HONOR
COMMISSIONER VICENTE T. XIMENES

Vicente T. Ximenes took his oath of office as Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in a White House ceremony, with President Johnson presiding, on June 9, 1967. He was nominated for the position on April 4th and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 18th. He will serve in that capacity until July 1, 1971, or as desired by the President.

Following the oath-taking ceremony, the President named Commissioner Ximenes the Chairman of the President's newly established Inter-Agency Committee on Mexican American Affairs, since renamed Cabinet Committee on Opportunity for Spanish Speaking. As Chairman, he planned the historic El Paso Conference in October, 1967 where the President, Vice-President and members of the Cabinet went to the Spanish Speaking American community to hear their problems and hopes for the future. Out of that conference came many of the ideas, suggestions, and recommendations for policies and programs which have improved and will continue to improve the lives of millions of Spanish Speaking Americans.

Subsequent and concurrent to his other two positions, he was appointed Commissioner to the United States-Mexico Commission. Commissioner Ximenes served in other capacities in the Federal government. Between 1961 and 1966 he was program economist with the U.S. AID Mission in Ecuador; Assistant to the Inspector General of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Assistant Director and later Deputy Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development Mission in Panama.

Commissioner Ximenes was born in Floresville, Texas. During his youth, he worked as a farm hand, and in 1939 after graduating from Floresville High School, he began his career as a company clerk with the Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1941, he served as teacher and principal in a rural elementary school. For one decade, 1951 to 1961, Commissioner Ximenes served as a research economist at the University of New Mexico.

An active member of the American G.I. Forum for over twenty years, Commissioner Ximenes founded the Forum in New Mexico and served as National Chairman for two terms from 1956 to 1958.

During World War II, Commissioner Ximenes was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, and was honorably discharged as a Major in 1947.

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“Mr. Ximenes’ life is a very vivid story of American opportunity. He is a distinguished public servant, a teacher, a war hero, a leader of the Mexican American community. Today, he achieves another high honor as he becomes a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission of the United States Government. And we- as a Nation- are honored by his achievement.”

President Lyndon B. Johnson
The White House, June 9, 1967

“Last Friday was a truly significant day for Mexican Americans. On that occasion, President Johnson swore in Vicente T. Ximenes of New Mexico, as the first American of Mexican descent to serve as a member of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Mr. Ximenes is a most capable individual, a war hero, and an economist, who has served this nation in war and peace and who, I am sure, will continue to serve his Country with dedication and distinction.”

Honorable Edward R. Roybal
U.S. Representative

“Vincente Ximenes has always heeded our peoples cries for justice. He devotes his life to securing for them what the American Dream promises. No effort is too great – no hours too long – no distance is too far for him to travel in pursuit of equality and opportunity for American Hispano Communities.”

Honorable Joseph Montoya
Senator from New Mexico
April, 1971

“I know Commissioner Ximenes as a Chicano who believes in equality for all Americans regardless of national origin, race, color, creed or sex. He struggles against injustices toward Indians, Blacks, Orientals, Spanish Speaking Americans, and women regardless of personal consequences, so that equality for all of us will come to pass.”

Anonymous
April, 1971

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO HONOR
COMMISSIONER VINCENTE T. XIMENES