The Inland Empire Hispanic News has since one of the leading newspapers to highlight important public and social policies in regards to Hispanic education, economic development, and business news. It captures the heart of the greater Inland Empire community by sharing the inspiring stories of outstanding role models of leaders in the community, business, education, and non-profit sectors, and individuals and families who are making positive contributions to our society. The paper has also become a primary source for many interested in current issues, news events, advocacy opportunities and available resources.

With the hard work and commitment of Mr. Gomez and his wife of 30 years, Mrs. Trini Gomez, the Inland Empire Hispanic News provided input from elected officials, governmental agencies, community based organizations, individuals, business and other sources relative to issues and interests of the greater Hispanic community. Since the publication’s inception, the Inland Empire Hispanic News has always played a vital role in the development and on going operation of the newspaper. Together they have made this dream of creating a vital resource for the Hispanic population within the Inland Empire a reality.

However, the dream of this newspaper, its mission and great accomplishments would not have been possible without Mr. Graciano Gomez. Mr. Gomez was raised in the Inland Empire, graduating from Redlands High School in 1943. Immediately following graduation he was called into the United States Air Force, serving in the India/Burma Theater of War. After being honorably discharged in 1946 he was employed at Norton Air Force Base. In 1952, he resigned in order to accept a position in the County of San Bernardino. He served 34 years with the County of San Bernardino and associated agencies and was recognized for his civil service career by state and county officials.

Since his military discharge in 1946, Mr. Gomez has established himself as a professional pillar of the Inland community, while also continuing a passion and commitment for community service.

After experiencing many injustices, Mr. Gomez is driven to advocate for the Hispanic community within the Inland Empire. He is dedicated to promoting quality education for all youth, and encouraging civic volunteerism, as well as political and socio-economic involvement. His continual service to the Inland Empire has been recognized with over 73 awards varying from the diocese, congressional, state, city, and other civic and nonprofit organizations.

One of his greatest accomplishments however, is the establishment of the Inland Empire Hispanic News in 1987. In honor and celebration of the 22 years of publication of the Inland Empire Hispanic News, we would like to congratulate Mr. Graciano Gomez for his life long service and commitment to the greater Hispanic community. The Inland Empire Hispanic News has demonstrated an ability to outreach and bring to light the important issues affecting the Hispanic community and by doing so has been an inspirational influence of positive change within the Inland Empire.

Mr. Gomez has spent 49 years as a teacher, counselor, administrator and school district trustee. He began his teaching career in 1956 at Barnard Junior High School, now Barnard/White Middle School in Union City. After working as counselor and administrator for several years, he was hired as the school district’s superintendent in 1976. When he took the post, the New Haven school district had existed for only 11 years, and there had already been three superintendents. Guy Emanuele, according to Union City Mayor Mark Green, “was the most important person in the school district’s history.”

Under Mr. Emanuele’s 22-year tenure as superintendent, New Haven created an alternative high school, passed several bond measures and focused on educating students through athletics and extracurricular activities, in addition to academics. As a superintendent and school board member, he maintained a vision of holistic education and advocated for top-notch extracurricular activities to keep students engaged throughout the day and after school. He believes it is costly effective to establish athletics and arts programs on campuses because they keep students engaged and out of trouble.

Guy Emanuele also established the New Haven Schools Foundation in 1981 to provide an alternative source of funds for co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. The Foundation also provided much of the initial funding for cutting-edge technology for the New Haven School District that made New Haven a model for other California school districts.

He retired as superintendent of the New Haven Unified School District in 1998. After leaving New Haven, Guy Emanuele, a longtime Fremont, California resident, was elected to the Fremont Unified School Board, where he served until 2006.

Guy Emanuele has earned the respect of educators as well as the community for his exemplary contributions to students. I join in expressing appreciation to him for his commitment and dedication.