




Thursday, May 25, 2006

 Back

#22

**Parks and Recreation  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Subject:** Approve naming of the Town Lake Scenic Overlook, located near the intersection of Canterbury Street and Pleasant Valley Road, as the "Roy Montelongo Scenic Overlook." (Related to Item 11 and items 18-21).

**Amount and Source of Funding:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**Additional Backup Material**

(click to open)

 [Supporting Letters](#)

**For More Information:** Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, 974-6765

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended the by Parks and Recreation Board.

The Parks and Recreation Department received a request on January 26th, 2006 to name the Town Lake Scenic Overlook for Roy Montelongo. The City of Austin Public Information Office began the official process for nominations to name the facility in February, 2006. The deadline for submitting nominations was March 17, 2006. The following applications were received: 1) "Roy Montelongo Scenic Overlook" by John Michael Cortez & Isidoro Lopez, Board of Directors of Austin Latino Music Association; 2) "C.H. Page Sr. Scenic Overlook" by Sutton and Charles Page. The Parks and Recreation Board met on April 25, 2006 and recommended the Town Lake Scenic Overlook be named "Roy Montelongo Scenic Overlook." The vote was 6-0. The Town Lake Scenic Overlook recommended to be named for Roy Montelongo is one facility out of a series being recommended to celebrate a trail for Tejano Music Legends.

The Town Lake Scenic Overlook is located near the intersection of Canterbury St. and Pleasant Valley Road. It is on the Town Lake Hike-n-Bike Trail on the north bank.

## **APPLICATION FOR FACILITY NAMING**

We, John-Michael Cortez and Isidoro Lopez, members of the board of directors of the Austin Latino Music Association (ALMA), request that the names listed below be considered for the corresponding public facilities:

(A) Name the Mexican American Cultural Center located at 600 River St. for the Perez and Ramos Families that include among them the band leaders Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez and Ernest Perez.

(B) Re-name Festival Beach Road located just North of Town Lake and just East of I-35 for the band leader Nash Hernandez.

(C) Name the Fiesta Gardens Pavilion located near the Western boundary of Fiesta Gardens at 1901 Bergman St. for the band leader Johnny Degollado.

(D) Name the Fiesta Gardens East Meeting Hall located at 2101 Bergman St. for the band leader Manuel "Cowboy" Donley.

(E) Name the Town Lake Scenic Overlook located near the intersection of Canterbury St. and Pleasant Valley Road for the band leader Roy Montelongo.

(F) Name the Medina St. Plaza to be built on the Medina right-of-way located between E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. and E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. and South of the alley for business and civic leader Roy Velasquez and band leader Matt Velasquez. Roy and Matt Velasquez are brothers.

Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Johnny Degollado, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley and Roy Montelongo have all been inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame. The Nash Hernandez Orchestra is the longest running big band in Austin and has been performing in Austin for more than 50 years. Matt Velasquez is a 50's era band leader, and his brother Roy Velasquez was the founder of Roy's Taxi, the only Latino-owned taxi cab company in Austin.

**Biographical Synopsis:** Refer to Attachment 1

**Individual's Involvement in the Community:** With the exception of Roy Velasquez, the individuals whose names are being recommended for naming the noted public facilities are important Latino musicians and families in Austin who helped establish Austin as the Live Music Capitol of the World. Roy Velasquez was a local entrepreneur and civic leader who helped establish the Austin Chapter of LULAC in 1935 and very active in local politics.

Please refer to Attachment 2(A) – 2(F) for additional information about the families and individuals for whom the specified facilities are proposed to be named.

2(A) Perez & Ramos Families

2(B) Nash Hernandez

2(C) Johnny Degollado

2(D) Manuel "Cowboy" Donley

2(E) Roy Montelongo

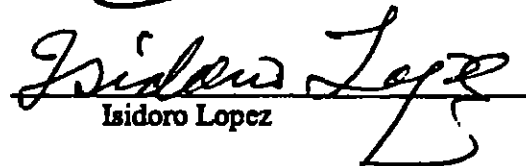
2(F) Roy & Matt Velasquez

**Individual's Connection to the Facility:** Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez, Ernest Perez, Manuel "Cowboy" Donley, Roy Montelongo, Nash Hernandez, Roy Velasquez and Matt Velasquez all lived in central East Austin where all of the proposed facilities to be named are located. Several of these artists still live in that area. Johnny Degollado has lived in the Montopolis community/neighborhood all his life and has hosted the Austin Conjunto Festival at Fiesta Gardens for more than 10 years. Roy Velasquez established Roy's Taxi in the early 1930's and for many years operated his business on the block adjacent to the proposed Medina St. Plaza.

ALMA will work to identify funding for signs and plaques if it is deemed necessary by the City of Austin.

Submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department this <sup>26<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~25<sup>th</sup>~~ day of January, 2006.

  
John-Michael Cortez

  
Isidoro Lopez

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS FOR FACILITY NAMING PROPOSAL**

### **(A) PEREZ-RAMOS FAMILIES**

The Perez – Ramos Families have a long musical tradition that stretches back several generations. The two families are connected by brothers Don Louis Perez and Don Tranquilino Perez. Don Louis Perez and his wife Trinidad are the parents of Elvira Perez who is the mother of Ruben Ramos and Alfonso Ramos. Don Tranquilino Perez and his wife Carolina are the parents of Blas Perez who is the father of Ernest Perez and Ruben Perez.

Ruben Ramos, Alfonso Ramos, Ruben Perez and Ernest Perez have all led their own Tejano orchestras. Ruben and Alfonso have often performed and recorded together. Many of Ruben and Alfonso's brothers were and continue to be members of their musical groups. In recognition of their accomplishment, Ruben Ramos and Alfonso Ramos have both been inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame. As a member of Los Super Seven, Ruben Ramos is a grammy award winner.

Accomplished local musicians such as Alfonso Ramos and Manuel "Cowboy" Donley played with the Ruben Perez Orchestra early in their careers. In addition to leading his own orchestra, Ernest played in his brother's orchestra for many years as well as other local groups such as Johnny Degollado and Los Cinco Reyes.

### **(B) NASH HERNANDEZ**

The Nash Hernandez Orchestra, Austin's longest running big band, has been playing big band, swing and Latino styles of music for generations of fans throughout Central Texas. Nash Hernandez fell in love with the big band style while in the Army during World War II. When he returned to Austin, he worked with Matt Velasquez before starting his own band in 1949. In 1975, Nash Hernandez was named Ambassador of Goodwill by Governor Dolph Brisco for whom he had performed in 1973 at the Governor's Inaugural Ball. He was also recognized for his musical contributions by the City of Austin in 1975 and 1993, by the Texas Senate in 1993 and by Vice President Al Gore in 1994. Nash Hernandez passed away on June 26, 1994, but the band continues to perform under the direction of Nash's son, drummer Ruben Hernandez, who began playing with the group at the age of eleven.

### **(C) JOHNNY DEGOLLADO**

Johnny Degollado is the premier conjunto accordionist, band leader, and song writer in Austin and the surrounding areas. In 1952, at the age of 15, he started his own conjunto along with his neighbor, Vicente Alonzo, who still is a member of the conjunto. Johnny studied under Camilo Cantu, another important conjunto band leader from the Austin area. Cantu also taught Johnny to tune and repair accordions. Johnny has composed more than 200 songs, and he is the event coordinator for the Austin Conjunto Festival that has been held in May for the last 20 years. He was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1986.

#### **(D) MANUEL "COWBOY" DONLEY**

Manuel Donley is considered a pioneer of Tejano music. An accomplished musician, arranger and composer, Manuel Donley is well respected by his musical peers. In addition to fronting a Tejano orquesta, he also performs in traditional "Trio" and "Mariachi" ensembles. Manuel Donley has also composed and performed for movie soundtracks. He has taught guitar lessons at Huston-Tillotson College and still gives lessons at his home. His orquesta, Las Estrellas, is famous for its tight horn section as well as for the many different styles of music they played such as boleros, rancheras, polkas, rock-n-roll, rhythm-and-blues, big band-swing, etc. Manuel Donley formed his orquesta in 1949 and continues to perform with them occasionally.

#### **(E) ROY MONTELONGO**

Roy Montelongo is an original Tejano legend who started playing in his teens with the legendary orquesta of Beto Villa. He then went on to play with the orquestas of Isidro Lopez and Alfonso Ramos before forming his own band. One of his first picks for a sideman was Agustine Ramirez. Roy Montelongo recorded many hits and toured nationally. His unique singing style and his accomplishments as a saxophonist and arranger brought him much acclaim. Roy Montelongo recorded over 20 albums and was selected to be an original member of "The Legends" of Tejano music along with the likes of Freddie Martinez and Sunny Ozuna. Eventually, he settled on broadcasting as a career and for many years was heard on the Austin airwaves.

#### **(F) ROY & MATT VELASQUEZ**

Matt Velasquez' Latinaires, that pre-dated Little Joe's Latinaires by several years, performed from approximately 1946 to 1959. Vocalist-guitarist Matt Velasquez was a member of several ballroom bands including "Big Poppa's Band," the group with which he started playing when he was 14 years old. After returning from the service in 1946, he formed his own band, playing sorority parties, debutante balls and major parties. He also donated services to all Catholic churches. Matt Velasquez and his band played for the grand opening of Palmer Auditorium in 1959. He worked with Eduardo Martinez and Emilio Caceres. His brother, James Velasquez, played drums.

Roy Velasquez is an important local Hispanic businessman and community leader. He established Roy's Taxi in 1931 at the age of 21 when construction jobs dried up in the years following the great depression. He started the business with one car and within a year had 35 cars working for him on a contract basis. The company was located in various locations in and around East Austin, but in 1957 he moved the company to 90 East Avenue where the business headquarters remain today. Roy was active in political circles since his early years in business. He sold the poll tax to help minorities gain a voice in government. He also was active in supporting many political candidates and was a friend of leaders such as President Lyndon B. Johnson, Mayor Tom Miller, City Council Member Emma Long, Judge Homer Thornberry, and Congressman Jake Pickle. In 1935, Roy was co-founder of the Austin Chapter of LULAC, Council 85 and was one of the charter members of the Austin Citizen's League which was organized in the mid-1960's.

# **ATTACHMENT 2(E)**

**Roy Montelongo**

January 18, 2006

To Mayor Will Wynn and Austin City Council Members

I remember Roy Montelongo, my nephew, from his playing days as a musician. Even though I am from Waco and he was from Austin, we always kept in touch as often as possible. Roy started playing when he was a very young boy. He used to play with his father Vicente, who is my brother. My brother Vicente could play the saxophone & clarinet. Roy also played the saxophone and was very professional.

The Orchestra as it was called would come to Waco to perform for dances and they were very well received and applauded for their performances. They used to admire Roy as the youngest member of the orchestra. They used to play at a big hall known as the Scenic Wonderland in Waco. Later on as Roy got a little older he joined the famous Orchestra of Beto Villa, the father of Tejano Music, the innovator who provided the transition of what is known as "La Onda Tejana".

I remember my brother Vicente called me in Waco and asked me to pick up Roy on my way to the valley to visit my family and leave Roy in Alice, Texas as he was going to play with The Beto Villa Orchestra. I also remember in the later years when Roy formed the Roy Montelongo Orchestra in the late 50's. He would like to dress up real sharp and wear those dark glasses, he looked great.

As he started to record some of his songs, he recorded a polka by the name of "Mira Nomas", which I used as my theme song on my Spanish radio show "Mi Favorito" on KRZI, in Waco, Texas. I was a radio DJ for 32 years, but now I am retired.

I used to play most of his recordings. Roy was also a Radio DJ and commentator on various radio stations in and around Austin. Roy was the owner of Texas Records. Many of his recordings were on the Texas label and were played on all Spanish and Chicano Radio Stations all over the State of Texas.



Agustin Ramirez joined The Roy Montelongo Orchestra in the mid 60's. Roy had a very special voice and one of a very professional singer and vocalist. People admired him for who he was and the way he presented himself in his many presentations and appearances around the state. He played the saxophone like his father and as he learned from the association with the King, Beto Villa and his Orchestra.

Many people learned a lot from Roy Montelongo and his music. He will never be forgotten. His fans will always remember "The Roy Montelongo Orchestra" for many years to come.

I will always remember my nephew, Roy.  
May he rest in peace.

Sincerely & Love,

Leonard Montelongo

January 11, 2005

To Mayor Will Wynn and City Council Members,

My name is Alfred Guerrero Candelas, 63 years old. I am Roy Guerrero Montelongo's brother. Our mother is deceased. Her name was Rachel Guerrero. She passed away on August 8, 2000. Roy has one daughter, Mary Montelongo Friesenhahn, two grandsons, Vicente Montelongo Friesenhahn and Anthony Montelongo Friesenhahn. Roy has three great grandchildren, Terrah, Taylor and Tamerah.

Roy was inducted into the Tejano Music Hall of Fame in 1991. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 was awarded the Idolos del Barrio Award by the Austin Latino Music Association (ALMA). Roy also received the Tejano Artists Music Museum's Pioneer Award on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Roy recorded many albums. He recorded for Freddy Records, Valmon Records, Texas Records, Buena Suerte and Eso Granda.

Roy passed away on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001 in Austin, Texas where he resided, with his daughter by his side. Roy died of lung cancer. Roy was Catholic and was a parishioner at St. Ignatius Catholic Church. Roy was survived by 12 brothers and sisters. Albert Guerrero, Alfred Candelas, Jesse Candelas, Joe Candelas, Alice Candelas Tedford, Elizabeth Candelas Barber, Charlie Candelas, Michael Candelas, Carolyn Candelas La Roche, Manuel Estrada, Rebecca Estrada and Melissa Estrada.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Candelas

JANUARY 2002

TEJANO ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE

# ROY MONTELONGO

*September 21, 1938 - June 14, 2001*

As Vilma Maldonado wrote in Mc Allen's *The Monitor* 'the tour brings together big names no longer in the limelight but certainly not forgotten in Tejano circles.'

Ramiro Burr, then writing for the San Antonio Light wrote, "Some of the Biggest names in Tejano music history will be performing tonight."

During that tour, Montelongo stirred many memories when he sang "El Leon de Ayer", "Nos Corrieron Por Borrachos", "El Aeroplanito" and "El Malquerido" during the 'Legends of Tejano Music Tour' in 1991. He also sang "Cuatro Velas", "Mala Yerba", "Ya No Llores" and "Se Lo Dejo A Dios".

That tour also featured Ildelfonso Fraga, Rene Victor Ornelas, Margartio Garcia and Jose Jasso. If those names don't ring a bell it's because as living legends, they are better known as Sunny Ozuna of the Sunglows/Sunliners Band, René René, Carlos Guzman and Joe Bravo. They were not the only ones to change their names as we shall soon see.

The bottom line is that Montelongo is a permanent part of history in the annals of Tejano music. If I had to write his biography, I would probably start off as follows.

Roy Montelongo was born Raúl Guerrero in Austin on



September 21, 1938. A well-known radio personality in the Capital City of Texas, the music legend began his career early in Tejano music's heyday as a saxophone player for Beto Villa, whom Roy affectionately referred to as "The Godfather of Tejano Music". He later performed with Isidro Lopez, before forming his own band.

He belonged to a generation of Austin musicians that included Alfonso Ramos y su Orchestra, Augustin Ramirez, a former guitar player for Montelongo; Shorty and the Corvettes, Dave Gutierrez, Manuel Donley y Las Estrellas, Rocky Gil and the Bishops and Ruben Ramos and the Mexican Revolution, now Texas Revolution.

In the mid 60's, Roy worked with Rosita Ornelas at KWED Radio, doing remote shows and filling in as DJ in Rosita's absence. Roy also did radio for other stations in Carrizo Springs, Hutto, KTXZ in Austin and KOOP along with Isidro "Easy" Lopez.

As Roy Montelongo, HE recorded ... albums for the Texas, Certron, Freddie, Joey, and Buena Vida labels.

Some of those albums were "La Suegra y El Llerno", "Tres Cachetadas", "El Sansacional", "Con Los Pavos Reales" and three volumes of "El Cleo Chicano de Roy Montelongo".

The fact that Roy turned out to be a musician was no small surprise since his father, Vicente, played clarinet and saxophone with the Beto Villa Orchestra during the early 1950's. To top it off, his father's brother Leonel had been spinning all the latest Onda Chicana hits on KZRI, in Waco, since August, 1967. Therefore, his uncle Leonel Montelongo, also a Tejano music promoter, was an added influence in Roy's life.

There is no doubt that Roy touched many lives with his music and his unique style of expressing himself through songs. He was truly a Tejano Legend.

*Article by Ramón Hernandez*

## **Alexander, Jason**

---

**From:** Webadmin, Austin City Connection  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 02, 2006 3:34 PM  
**To:** Alexander, Jason; Esquibel, Matthew  
**Subject:** Application for Facility Renaming

**Date/Time Submitted:** Thursday, 3/2/06, 1534 hours

**Facility Name:** Town Lake Scenic Overlook

**Suggested New Name:** C. H. Page Sr. Scenic Overlook

**Biographical Synopsis:** Family immigrated from England in 1870's. His father moved family to Austin to work as a masonry contractor on the State Capitol. (His Name was the same as my grandfather's and father's) Born in 1876 in St. Louis, MO. Dropped out of school in 4th grade and apprenticed to architects at age 12 and opened his practice 1898 (C. H. Page Architect, then C.H. Page & Bro., then C. H. Page & Son, Architects. He was well known throughout the State.

**Community Involvement:** Architect. Practice started in 1898. Designed the Texas Pavilion for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. He designed the original Zilker Park and gardens, Lion's Municipal Recreation Center and golf course, Rosewood Park, Austin Country Club (now Hancock Recreation Center), Wooldridge Square, and Oakwood Cemetery Church. Most if not all of these facilities were done free of charge as a gift to the City. Additionally, he designed many local schools and schools state wide. Courthouses (including Travis, Hays, and Williamson to name a few. Other designs include the Old City Hall, the Federal Courthouse, Littlefield Building, Brown Building, Capitol Renovation (including design of terazzo floors).

He was a firm believer in providing recreational facilities for public use and was known for his dedication to the beautification of park facilities.

**Connection to the Facility:** None

**Reason for non-individual nomination:**

**Percentage of Cost:** 100% up to \$ 5,000.00

**Nomintator's Name:** Sutton G. Page and Charles S. Page

**Address:** 1106 West 6th St., Ste 206, Austin, TX 78703

**Phone Number:** Q: 477.7247 C: 470.5143