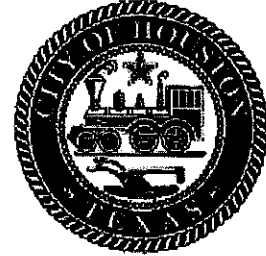


**DEADLINE**

Nominations must be emailed or postmarked no later than **August 10, 2020** for consideration.  
Website: <http://www.houstontx.gov/specialevents/Hispanic-Heritage-Awards>

**2020 Nomination**

Please print clearly or type in the spaces below.



**Category** (choose only one)

- Arts in the Community
- Community Activist
- Education in the Community
- Youth Activist
- Lifetime Achievement

**Individual Nominee**

Name: AL CASTILLO  
Cell Phone: 832-455-1867 Office Phone: 832-250-7588 h.  
Home Address: 5503 LAWDALE  
City: HOUSTON State: TEXAS Zip: 77023  
E-mail: ALCASTILLO1952@GMAIL.COM

**Nominator**

Name: RAYMOND L. VALDEZ  
Cell Phone: 206-650-1065 Office Phone: N/A  
Address: 502 AVONDALE ST.  
City: HOUSTON State: TEXAS Zip: 77006  
E-mail: RAYMOND\_VALDEZ@COMCAST.NET

**Submit via U.S. Mail or email the completed**

- Nomination form (mandatory)
- Narrative statement or Letter of Recommendation (mandatory)
- Resume/Bio (mandatory)
- Other Supporting materials

**All mandatory materials must be submitted, to be considered.**

**E-mail questions to:**

[Jackie.schuessler-kimsey@houstontx.gov](mailto:Jackie.schuessler-kimsey@houstontx.gov)

**Mail to:**

City of Houston  
Attn: Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey (MHHA)  
901 Bagby, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

**Deadline: Postmarked by August 10, 2020**

**Or complete online at:**

<http://www.houstontx.gov/specialevents/hispanicheritage.html>

City of Houston  
Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey  
Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Awards  
901 Bagby, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Ms. Schuessler-Kimsey,

I would like to nominate Mr. Al Castillo for the award of Community Activist. Mr. Castillo has been a community leader and activist for over 40 years

As President of Historic LULAC Council 60, Mr. Castillo has worked tirelessly to develop the social service, education, leadership development, and community voter education agenda for the Council. The Council has become active in recruiting members to serve on numerous City of Houston Boards and Commissions. Under his leadership, the Council has established numerous fundraising events to provide scholarships, support for the Hispanic Arts Community and to promote improved awareness and collaboration with local Law Enforcement Agencies. These are just a few of the activities that Mr. Castillo is personally responsible for initiating and directing.

During the recent Corona Virus Pandemic, Al Castillo has helped with organizing fundraising drives to raise money to support the operation of Hispanic community based COVID testing sites. Funds were also used to help provide additional meals to needy families by partnering with State representative Christina Morales and the Houston Food bank. He actively worked to get permanently established COVID testing sites in the Eastend. He lobbied for mobile testing sites to be sent into the traditionally underserved Hispanic and Black communities.

By organizing and executing the Inaugural Gracie Saenz Golf Tournament, Mr. Castillo made it possible to fund a Student Scholarship with the University of Houston's Arte Publico Press. A reserve fund was set aside to provide scholarships to High School students. The scholarships will be leveraged and administered through the LULAC National Education Service Center to increase the number of scholarships available. The funds raised from the Golf Tournament also allowed for the Council to donate to the continuing effort of restoring the Historic LULAC Council 60 Clubhouse. Only a few of the community-based projects the Council has been able to fund.

Mr. Castillo worked hard to examine the complex issue of TEA taking over the operation of HISD. His work was applied to the inclusion of Hispanics on the oversight and management Board that will see HISD through its transition. He has worked to open lines of communications with our Black Communities to establish a workable solution to the issues faced by the Houston Independent School District. Through his leadership, he has helped put together an Education Committee to become more involved with our educational issues at the local level.

Mr. Castillo has encouraged the Council's membership to engage with civic issues that impact the Hispanic Community. The members of the Council now serve on the Houston Library Foundation Board, TIRZ 27, Ethics Commission, Municipal Courts and other boards and commissions. Members have stood for election and serve as State Representatives, Harris County Judicial and Election Judges and City Council Members.

Mr. Castillo has engaged with the Harris County Sheriff's and Constable's Office's , Houston Police Department and District Attorney's Office to advocate for fair and impartial treatment of Hispanics that are arrested and charged with crimes. Mr. Castillo has also partnered with other community organizations to raise awareness of Law Enforcement policies of cultural bias profiling.

What has gone unsaid about Mr. Castillo is his incredible capacity to see the good in everyone and to provide a forum that is open and free for everyone to express an opinion and to find their voice. He has cultivated an organization of civic minded citizenry to help our City.

It is my pleasure to nominate Mr. Al Castillo as Community Activist of the Year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Valdez, Chairman of C 60, Inc.  
Past President of Historic LULAC Council 60  
Deputy Director for Young Adults LULAC District 8

## Bio of Al Castillo

Al Castillo is a native Houstonian. He was raised in the Near Northside of Houston and attended public schools including Marshall Jr. High and Jeff Davis High School. Upon graduation, Mr. Castillo sought training at the Harry Lundeburg School of Seamanship in Piney Point, Maryland where he obtained his Merchant Marine License as a Tanker Man and Boiler. He spent 20 years of his life in the maritime industry in Deep Sea Ship Operations in Southern California. He subsequently returned to Houston and entered the Aviation Industry with a focus on aviation fueling and retired after 19 years with Ogden Fueling. He is a veteran Marathon runner having completed 41 races. He has been a long time advocate and community volunteer in the inner city neighborhoods of Houston. He is a resident of the East End and currently serves as President of LULAC Council 60 (League of United Latin American Citizens), a civil rights, education and community nonprofit organization. Council 60 happens to be one of the oldest Civil rights organizations in Houston dating back to 1934. He is the proud son of prior community activists A. John Castillo and wife, Eloise. He has three adult children, and is currently married to attorney, Graciela Saenz.

## Schuessler-Kimsey, Jackie - MYR

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**From:** Raymond Valdez <raymond\_valdez@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:20 PM  
**To:** Schuessler-Kimsey, Jackie - MYR  
**Subject:** MHHA Application for Al Castillo  
**Attachments:** 2020 MHHA Nomination Application Al Castillo.pdf; Bio of Al Castillo.docx; MHHA Nomination Letter for Al Castillo.docx

[Message Came from Outside the City of Houston Mail System]

Hello Ms. Schuessle-Kimsey,

Please accept the attached application for Mr. Al Castillo for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award for Community Activist.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Valdez (206) 650-1065