

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

MAIN ENTRY: Andrade, Esperanza “Hope”

DATE OF INTERVIEW: May 14, 2010

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Austin, Texas (via telephone)

INTERVIEWER: Daniel U. Sánchez

FORMAT: WAV

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 31 minutes

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Esperanza “Hope” Andrade, Texas’ 107th Secretary of State, was appointed by Governor Rick Perry and sworn in on July 23, 2008.

As a successful entrepreneur and leader in the San Antonio business community for more than three decades, Andrade serves as Texas’ chief elections officer, chief international protocol officer and Border Commerce Coordinator for Governor Rick Perry.

During this interview Andrade reminisces on her childhood, her business experience and volunteer work. In particular she discusses how these factors led to her appointment as Texas’ Secretary of State.

ABSTRACT:

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TIME STAMP

Background

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Parents’ information

Meeting

Move to San Antonio

Father’s employment Missouri Kansas Railroad

Childhood

Westside of San Antonio

Constant moving

Father’s employment

Biological mother

Education

- Difficulty in starting up at a new school
- First experience during middle school of
Minority

Mother's goals for her

- Get married
- Become a secretary
 - Now she is the Secretary of State for Texas
- Life at 18
 - Dreams of getting married and having babies
 - Goals

Desire to do better

- Realized a formal education was needed
- Pursuing education
 - Early 1980s weekend program

Exposure to the lifestyle of other people

- Did not realize she was poor growing up
- The job market made her realize things had been different

Business careers

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- Her career required travelling
 - Needed a different daycare
 - None available
 - Realized there was niche
 - Started small
 - Expansion
 - Success, pride and growth

What she tells others about success

- The idea of believing
- Willing to take a risk
- "No such thing as a day off"
- Importance of the chamber of commerce
- Challenges

Community involvement

- Contacts
- Seeing city government at work
- Public Transit Board (San Antonio's)
- Chairwoman of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- 2003 Texas Department of Public Transportation appointment
 - Doubts
 - Success

2008 appointment as Texas Secretary of State
Accomplishments
Business expertise
Border coordinator
Elections
Downturn in economy
Challenges
Small Businesses
Border issues
State lead immigration controls
Governor Perry's stance
Relationship between Texas and Mexico
Stressors
Securing borders
Need for a federal reform

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Issues for Latinos
Need to believe in ourselves
Lessons in life versus excuses
Importance of education

Volunteering
Giving back
Contacts
Great learning experience

Attention
Importance of telling her story to inspire

Importance of celebrating one another and our successes

Possible contacts

Interview ends

DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT: 1950

GENDER OF INFORMANT: Female

ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT: Mexican American