



## In Memory of Tila Zamora



Mrs. Tila Zamora was born north of Mission, Texas in 1917. During World War II, Tila volunteered to be an airplane observer and she also volunteered with the American Red Cross. After the war, she decided to go to beauty school where she earned diplomas that enabled her to open Tila's Beauty Salon in Elsa. Later, she was the Elsa Head Start Director where she had a passion for helping young children.

Tila was a civic and political leader in the Delta area. She was also involved in county, state, and national politics. She had personal contacts with leaders like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, Allan Shivers and Kika de la Garza, among others. She has been recognized in the Rio Grande Valley as a political leader as well as a humanitarian and philanthropist.

The **Tila Zamora and Edward (Eddie) R. Zamora Endowed Scholarship** honors a woman who fought for the rights of Mexican American children in the Rio Grande Valley in the early 1940s.

When the superintendent of Edcouch-Elsa ISD refused to allow her daughter to enroll in the traditionally white school, Mrs. Zamora contacted President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Her tenacity resulted in a decree from Washington that the school district could not deny Mexican American children access to the school because of their race.

Tila knew everyone and everyone knew her. If anyone needed anything done in Elsa, they knew to call Tila. She made things happen. She never met a stranger, and she believed in equality and making things right for everyone. She was known for showing love via her cooking skills, especially Tila's tamales.

Tila passed away in 2017, leaving an enormous legacy of love and family. Well into her 90s, she continued to be politically active and show us that one person can not only make a difference but can have a profound effect on the entire community.



## In Honor of Eddie Zamora



The son of Tila and Ben Zamora, Edward (Eddie) R. Zamora is a well-known award-winning music educator and band director.

As a young boy, Eddie always knew he wanted to be a musical conductor and would stand at home in front of the radio on Tuesday nights conducting the sounds of *The NBC Symphony Orchestra*. As a middle-school student and beginning trumpet player, Eddie was invited to join the high school band to march in half-time shows where he became known as a musical prodigy. Upon high school graduation, Eddie attended The University of Texas at Austin for one year before receiving a scholarship to return to the Rio Grande Valley and finish his Bachelor of Arts degree at The University of Texas at Pan American.

Known professionally as *Mr. Z*, Eddie's professional career includes positions at La Joya ISD, San Diego High School, Hebbronville High School, Calhoun High School in Port Lavaca, and Bedichek Middle School in Austin where he lives. While at Hebbronville High School, Eddie's band was named the Class AAA State Honor Band.

Eddie's love for The University of Texas runs deep and wide. He always envisioned attending The University of Texas and playing in the Longhorn Band. Little did he know that he would do exactly that and march in numerous half-time shows in The UT Longhorn Alumni Band alongside his three daughters.

Eddie's journey as an award-winning band director is legendary. He opens doors for people of all ages, in gratitude and recognition to those who opened doors for him. He always believes every student can reach his/her dreams and full potential. He has experienced first-hand the value of scholarship support.

The **Tila Zamora and Edward (Eddie) R. Zamora Endowed Scholarship** was established by Tila's granddaughter and Eddie's daughter, Melodie Zamora Summersett.