

*Santos

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election tries to beat out Mario Santos in 1986.

Santos' defeat came a few months after a jail break attempt that claimed the life of jail guard Jose "Curly" Herrera.

"We just ran out of time. We were only months away from moving to the new jail when that happened. I'm proud of those men because that night they protected the community," Santos said.

He added that the old jail was obsolete and dangerous, and had been condemned by the Texas Jail Commission.

"To this day, I appreciate the actions of the present sheriff for honoring Herrera on every Feb. 3," he added.

Santos said, however, that the present sheriff department is lacking leadership, direction and supervision.

"The present sheriff has failed to monitor expenditures and provide adequate supervision at all times. He has not implemented effective inventory controls and instilled professionalism in his department," he added.

Santos said during his years of service with the county positive things happened, and he wants to continue serving the public.

"I'm ready to serve and bring back integrity, honesty and accountability to the department," he said.

Santos said the sheriff's department must work alongside Border Patrol, DEA, Customs and Laredo police to help in the drug war.

"The Webb County Sheriff's Department can no longer remain isolated from other law enforcement agencies. We must work together as a trusted team member with our state and federal counterparts," he said.

Santos added that he wants to implement Civil Service policies to initiate and eventually establish a Civil Service Commission to bring professionalism to the sheriff's department and earn the public's trust.

He added that the department also needs to implement adequate fiscal procedures to safeguard monies coming into the department.

Santos said he is willing to work tirelessly to make Webb County a better place for everyone.

Santos graduated from Texas A& I University in Kingsville in

1963 with a degree in economics and minor in government and history.

He is also a graduate of the National FBI Academy.

Santos attended the University of Minnesota Juvenile Officers Institute in 1967.

He received his instructor's certificate from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education in 1963.

Santos graduated from Martin High School in 1959, and has an associate of arts degree from Laredo Junior College.

(Staff writer Robert Garcia can be reached at 728-2565 or e-mail him at robert@lmtonline.com)

*Kazen

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WBCA through the years. Judge Kazen portrayed George Washington in 1983 and has emceed events like the Colonial Pageant and the President's Luncheon, a WBCA event sponsored by Laredo National Bank.

It's at the President's Luncheon that the WBCA presents the Mr. South Texas award.

Judge Kazen is the 49th recipient of the award first presented to Frank C. Huntress of San Antonio in 1952. The judge is the 13th Laredoan named for the honor.

The 1999 recipient was State Sen. Judith Zaffirini.

Zapata told the gathering that the judge would be recognized

at the President's Luncheon scheduled for Feb. 19, 2000. The 103rd edition of WBCA will be Feb. 5-20, 2000.

Judge Kazen completed law studies at The University of Texas with honors in 1961. He served as a briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court before joining the U.S. Air Force. He returned to private practice in 1965 in Laredo and was appointed to the bench in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter.

He currently is the chief judge for the southern district of Texas of the U.S. district court. The division includes courts in Houston, Galveston, Victoria, Corpus Christi, McAllen, Brownsville and Laredo.

In 1990, Chief Judge William Rehnquist named Judge Kazen

to serve on the Criminal Law Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States. In 1996, the Laredoan was named chair of that committee.

Judge Kazen also serves with the Judicial Council of the 5th Circuit Court, the governing administrative body for federal courts in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi. He previously served as president of the 5th Circuit District Judges Association and has been an adjunct professor of law at St. Mary's University School of Law since 1990.

The Texas Law Review Association presented Judge Kazen the Dean Leon Green Award in 1998. The judge is in constant demand for lectures at judicial conferences across the U. S.

Judge Kazen graduated from the former St. Joseph's Academy in Laredo.

The judge has served as president of the Laredo Civic Music Association, the Laredo Boys and Girls Club and the St. Augustine-Ursuline School Board. He also did a stint as a trustee of Laredo Community College board from 1972-78.

The judge and his wife, Barbara, have four children and five grandchildren. He is a lecturer, member of the parish council and an Eucharistic minister at Blessed Sacrament Church.

Mr. South Texas Selection Committee members were among the guests greeting Judge Kazen. Committee members are former Mr. South Texas awardees and past WBCA presidents.

*Tower

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floors below.

Zaffirini said she thinks opening the tower was a good idea.

"I think it's appropriate," she said. "There has been a lot of healing over the years even though some of us who were there still feel the scars."

Whitman spent more than 90 minutes on the tower, firing at passers-by in a wide courtyard below.

Mayella Gonzalez of Laredo, who is studying journalism at UT today, often passes the tower as she walks to and from her classes.

Gonzalez, 18, has seen old footage of the massacre on television but agrees with Zaffirini that the tower should be opened.

"I think it's good that they opened it again," she said. "It's part of the school's history."

When the shooting started, Zaffirini was in the office of the UT student newspaper, the *Daily Texan*, she said. Having never heard gunfire before, she at first thought it was the sound of construction.

She walked over to the student union, bought an orange juice and then walked outside when a student tackled her and told her about the sniper.

"The greatest emotion was compassion and worry for the victims who you could see and hear but not help," Zaffirini said. "Second was the fear of it all and not knowing when it would end."

In a note he wrote before his rampage, Whitman asked that doctors conduct an autopsy to determine whether he was mentally ill.

Zaffirini said it was obvious that the gunman was insane.

"Clearly he was mentally ill and I knew that at the time because no sane person would do such a thing," she said.