

- Thank you for inviting me to join you as we close up this school year.
- How many of you here know what today is?
- As County Commissioner, yesterday, I joined the other Commissioners and the County Judge and we declared today, June 3rd, to be Gus Garcia Recognition Day. Does anyone here know who Gus Garcia is?
- He is a man who grew up on the Southside of Bexar County, graduated from Jefferson High School as the 1st valedictorian in history for the high school, and became a lawyer who argued a lawsuit that defended rights of Mexican Americans before the United States Supreme Court.
- He won that case and impressed the Judges so much that the Chief Justice gave him extra time to speak when no one else in history has ever been given extra speaking time.
- Garcia was not wealthy financially, but he had a rich heart and wanted to become all that he knew he could.
- Garcia grew up during a time where Mexican Americans were not encouraged to go to school or try to achieve success. This motivated him to fight for his rights and the rights of other Mexican Americans.
- I remember hearing about Gus Garcia growing up and I felt inspired by his story.
- I soon realized that it didn't matter where I lived or how much money my family had, I knew I could do anything.
- How many of you have been to the Freeman Coliseum where we have the Rodeo every year?
- Going to the Coliseum when I was younger helped change my life.
- I remember my first trip to the Coliseum and how I was greeted by these huge framed pictures hanging inside the front entrance.

- I asked who those men were in the photos and I was told they were the four Bexar County Commissioners and the County Judge.
- I didn't know what a County Commissioner or County Judge was or did, but I grew curious to find out.
- I asked questions after my visit and discovered that the city of San Antonio has their elected officials who manage the city through the Mayor and the City Council members and Bexar County, is run by another group of elected officials and those are the County Commissioners and the County Judge.
- If you live inside the city limits and you need anything, you call the City and if you live outside the city limits, you call the County.
- After my first visit to the Coliseum and upon every other visit, I would tell myself, that one day, my picture would hang up there.
- Setting that goal for myself and working hard to achieve it was challenging and it kept me motivated even when I was having a bad day.
- I knew there was nobody who could stop me from succeeding in the way I wanted to succeed.
- It is extremely important for all of you here to know that you can do anything you want to.
- We are a room filled with future leaders of Bexar County. I can see future teachers, elected officials, CEOs and Presidents of companies, and future police officers and fire fighters.
- I'm sure all of you here have heard of a boy who loved drawing pictures when he was young; his name is Walt Disney. He once stated, "all our dreams can come true if we have the courage to pursue them". Don't ever stop trying.