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OC FORUM

Keeping you informed since 1990

Oct. 11, 2019

Mike Ramirez, OC Forum Panelist

Dear Mike,

The OC Forum was beyond privileged to have you as a panelist at yesterday's program. We simply could not be more grateful for the great panel discussion you shaped into an even greater conversation with our community. In our nearly 30 years of programming, we have hosted civic leaders such as Senators Bob Dole, John McCain and Diane Feinstein; Governors Pete Wilson and Arnold Schwarzenegger; and numerous other state and national leaders, but this was something truly special. This was the history behind the history that really matters.

This lunch program will be long remembered for its profound and personal look back into the roots of the Mendez case that in many ways has changed everything. Since the *Mendez* ruling, Hispanics now comprise more than 30% of Orange County's population and its colleges and universities are graduating Hispanic students in record numbers. For instance, Cal State Fullerton ranks fifth nationally in awarding bachelor's degrees to Hispanics, according to the Aug. 23, 2018, issue of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*.

Holding this important program at Moreno's Restaurant in Orange was simply the perfect setting for this conversation. After 50 years, Moreno's is clearly an institution and we were so fortunate to have Harvey host the program in what we might call one of Orange County's great living rooms. The only thing that might have been better was your hat!

The OC Forum is Orange County's most well-known organization for providing thoughtful and insightful speakers representing diverse points of view on a wide array of local and national issues. The Forum is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works so well when we are blessed to have great people like you lead the way.

Mike, we are sincerely hopeful that you will be able to join us again as we celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2020. These are historic times for diversity in America and Orange County must continue to lead the way. Thanks so much!

Most respectfully,

Paul A. Stover

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