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Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday April 3, 2019

MEDIA CONTACTS

Great-Great-Great-Granddaughter of Jose Antonio Navarro to Speak in Corsicana & Participate in Texas Veterans Parade May 18, 2018

Corsicana, Texas – www.texasveteransparade.com

Saturday morning May 18, 2019 will be an exciting day in Navarro County. It is the inaugural Texas Veterans Parade on the historic brick streets of downtown Corsicana. A Veterans Parade in Corsicana is not new. It is the reestablishment of a tradition that goes back more than 100 years. The World War I Armistice parade in 1918 and 1945 World War II Victory Parade and Rodeo drew thousands of Texans.

The parade honors two local heroes, Candelario “Spider” Garcia, 2014 Medal of Honor recipient and the namesake of Navarro County, Jose Antonio Navarro. The Casa Navarro home in San Antonio is a National Historic Landmark and Corsicana was named for the birthplace of his father, the island of Corsica.

Bill McNutt, the founder of the Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana, spoke with the great-great-great-granddaughter of the Tejano hero, Mr. Navarro, about their families’ excitement in being part of the festivities in Corsicana, May 17-18. She is Sylvia Navarro Tillotson

Q: If you could sum up your great-great-great-grandfather's life in a few words, what would they be?

A: He loved Texas. He had a vision for the future of Texas and worked with his friend Stephen F Austin to turn that dream into reality.

Q: How has history judged him?

A: As the most influential Tejano leader of the Texas Revolution, really of the entire 19th century. Note: Tejanos are Hispanic citizens of Texas who descended from the French and Spanish. They choose independence over the tyranny of Mexico.

Q: We are excited about honoring Spider Garcia, the 1962 Corsicana High School graduate who received the Medal of Honor, and your ancestor. What do you think of the parade on May 18, 2019? You and your family are riding on the Daughters of the American Revolution Float.

A: We are very excited. I hope to gather more than a dozen of his descendants. During the annual Fiesta in San Antonio the Navarro descendants ride in the parade. There are more family members of Senator Navarro in San Antonio than any place else, since that is where he was born in 1795.

Q: What an amazing life Jose Antonio Navarro lived! What do you, as a direct descendent, appreciate the most about his life?

A: There are many amazing parts, so it is hard to choose. He was a famous Texas Patriot. In our family we grew up knowing about his outstanding character and how he was an expert in the laws of both Spain and Mexico, having served in the Mexican Congress in Mexico City. He risked so much. His sacrifice was deep and I relate to his feelings and great love for Texas.

Q: He was one of the few who signed the Declaration of Independence from Mexico and the Constitution. Which was more important?

A: He helped write the State Constitution. It is hard to know which document was more important. There are a lot of revolutions in history that end badly for the people.

Q: There is a Medal of Honor dinner at the Corsicana Country Club the night before the parade on Friday May 17, 2019. It will be a night to honor our history. We are blessed that one of Senator Navarro's family will be speaking.

A: Yes. History has to be taught to each generation. I love your motto at the Texas Veterans Parade: "To Honor Texas Veterans of all wars and conflicts. To educate children about liberty and freedom."

Q: Tell us about famous Casa Navarro Home in San Antonio, the Casa Navarro Historic Site.

A: Today, that wonderful adobe and limestone home is a state historic site cared for by the Texas Historic Commission. A few years back the home became a National Historic Landmark and there are very few of them. It is one of the few original

structures left in downtown San Antonio. Everyone from Corsicana and Navarro County should visit it. They would love it.

Q: How did the San Antonio Conservation society save it?

A: In 1960 it was going to be torn down. The city wanted the land for a new city government building. The Conservative society stepped in and saved it. The building had been many things. The Navarro daughter sold it and moved away. It had been a grocery store and a bar. Today, it is living Texas history you can visit. It has some cool high tech items throughout the museum to teach children and adults about our history.

Q: What role did you play in making all this happen?

A: I founded a group that raised the funds to make the most recent restoration possible.

Q: If people in Central Texas are going to read one book about him, what should they read?

A: Read Jose Antonio Navarro by David McDonald, who spent more than 20 years doing research. He has put together the factual information. There were inaccuracies about Navarro before David McDonald wrote. The book was published in 2012, so it is fresh.

Q: Is there a monument to your forefather in the State Cemetery in Austin?

A: The Texas State Cemetery has something special in his honor, a monument that is properly called a cenotaph. This is what you call a monument to someone buried elsewhere. The official tour stops at this spot and his history is told to all visitors

Q: In Corsicana we all grew up looking at his big bronze statue on the courthouse lawn. If he could speak, what would he say?

A: Love Texas.

Q: Your great-great-great-grandfather took a large risk siding with the Anglo settlers against the tyranny of Santa Anna and Mexico. Any closing thoughts?

A: Yes, our family has always been risk takers. His father came from the island of Corsica. That is where the name of Corsicana came from. That was a great risk in the 18th century. We look forward to being part of the celebration at the Corsicana Country Club on Friday May 17, and the parade on Armed Forces day, May 18. Viva la Texas!

About the Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana

The Texas Veterans Parade, Corsicana exists to honor Texas Veterans from all Wars and Conflict and to teach our children about the sacrifices of Veterans, liberty and freedom. To participate in the parade, telephone (903) 257-5910.

The parade will start at 10:00 AM on Saturday May 18, 2019 at the Navarro County Courthouse in Corsicana, Texas. The renown Pearce Civil War Museum and Collin Street Bakery will both be open.

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