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**TEXAS A&M-KINGSVILLE TO NAME RESIDENCE HALL
TO HONOR PARENTS OF SENATOR EDDIE LUCIO JR.**

KINGSVILLE (July 31, 2013) — Eduardo Andres Lucio Sr. and his wife, Josefa, instilled an ethic of hard work and a deep appreciation for education in their 10 children. It is with that strong sense of respect for education that officials at Texas A&M University-Kingsville will dedicate Eduardo and Josefa Lucio Hall in a ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 3, in the Javelina Dining Hall, 1250 W. Engineering Ave.

Currently called University Village, the 600-bed residence hall will be renamed to honor the parents of District 27 Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. The name change was initiated by the Residence Hall Association, a student organization, and approved by the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System. System Chancellor John Sharp will be present at the ceremony to assist in the dedication.

“I hope my parents’ story serves as an inspiration; their story is not so different from that of many families today,” said Sen. Lucio. “My parents had obstacles to overcome while my father pursued higher education in Kingsville. He was a disabled veteran and worked in law enforcement, all while raising 10 children.

Sadly, my father could not complete his degree, but the example he set exemplifies the American dream. He and my mother committed to making the next generation better than the last through encouraging education. Their encouragement demonstrated true patriotism. My siblings and I grew up knowing the value of sacrificing for an education,” he added.

“Nearly all of us completed college – several in Kingsville – and went on to live the example our parents set for us by working as educators or public servants. On behalf of my entire family, I wholeheartedly thank the students of Texas A&M University-Kingsville for honoring my parents’ lives. We are deeply humbled.”

About Eduardo Andres Lucio Sr.

As the patriarch of the Lucio Family, Eduardo Andres Lucio Sr. instilled an ethic of hard work and determination in each of his 10 children along with a deep appreciation for education. Although the Great Depression and later World War II forced him to drop out of high school, he was determined to receive his diploma. He graduated from Brownsville High School in May 1949 after serving in all the major battles of North Africa, Sicily and Italy.

Eduardo lost no time in furthering his education and obtained his associate’s degree in business from Texas Southmost College in 1950. Already married and a father, he enrolled at the Texas College of Arts and Industries in Kingsville, but later withdrew from his classes in order

to provide for his growing family. He instilled in his children a firm belief in God, a strong sense of family unity, a love for American ideals and a desire to serve the community. He also instilled in them a strong sense of respect for education. Nine of his children received bachelor's degrees and three received master's degrees.

During the Great Depression, Eduardo worked at Chapman Ranch near Kingsville where he also became involved with the National Youth Administration, a federal program that offered engineering classes at the Texas College of Arts and Industries. He also worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Douglas, Arizona. He joined the Army Air Corps in December 1941 and served as an airplane mechanic and repairman. Later in his life, he worked for the Port of Brownsville and for the Cameron County Sheriff's Department. He retired in 1979 as the head office deputy sheriff.

Eduardo passed away Sept. 4, 2006. His ancestry is linked to King Ferdinand of Spain and many of his ancestors were original land grantees in the 1700s. Other ancestors fought with Hernan Cortez in the early 1500s.

He also left behind a legacy of civic service that his family continues to exemplify today. His son, Eddie Lucio Jr. celebrated 25 years as a Texas Legislator in 2012 and his grandson Eddie Lucio III also is a state representative.

About Josefa Liendo Lucio

Her husband was the builder of the family, but Josefa was the foundation. She supported her husband's ideals and provided a strong and firm foundation for her children. She created the best possible environment for them while supporting and encouraging their educational endeavors. She attended their school activities and ensured they studied on a daily basis.

With her son, Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., Josefa has sat on the floor of both the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Senate. She has had breakfast at the Governor's Mansion when her son was Governor for a Day. She has children working in the education field who are assistant superintendents, school principals, program administrators and teachers. Her children also are a businessman, a golf professional, a mechanical engineer and a gifted musician and music teacher.

When Josefa's last child graduated from college and got married, she continued to support others by becoming a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary and the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. She cooked for the homeless and helped distribute food to needy families. Josefa is a devout Catholic and has served as Eucharistic Minister at St. Mary's and St. Luke's Catholic Churches.

Josefa came from a large family, the second child of seven. Her father worked odd jobs during the Great Depression, but then tragically died of pneumonia when she was 10. Her mother, Rafaela, went to work as a seamstress, but that wasn't enough and when she completed eighth grade, Josefa and her older sister left school to help the family. It was while working at a local warehouse, that she met Eduardo who would become her husband.

Like her late husband, Josefa's ancestors also can be traced back 18 generations to King Ferdinand of Spain. She also shares the family tree with founders of several towns in Mexico, a governor of the Kingdom of Nuevo Laredo and 21 family members who acquired Spanish or Mexican land grants.

The Lucio's have 20 grandchildren and four step grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren and six step great grandchildren.

About Eduardo and Josefa Lucio Hall

The building is formerly known as University Village. It is 210,000 square feet and houses 600 beds in two- and four-bedroom suites. Each suite has one or two bathrooms depending on the design and a living room and kitchenette. The hall has study labs, a large lounge and meeting rooms, wireless internet, cable television and on-site mailboxes.

The total cost of the building including furnishings was \$35 million. The building itself had a \$28.6 million price tag. Opening in fall 2009, it was the first new residence hall built on campus in nearly 40 years.

The architect for the project was BOKA Powell, the firm that designed Texas Stadium, home to the Dallas Cowboys. They also have designed residence halls at Texas Tech, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at El Paso and University of Texas at San Antonio. The general contractor was SpawGlass.

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