

## Temeika Thomas for Manor Independent School District

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon | Villager Columnist



As the midterm election approaches, there will be several races on the ballot. Citizens of Manor, Texas, will vote on the heated Senate and school board seats. For instance, place 5, which, is an open seat, all the candidates are challengers.

Ms. Temeika Thomas is a Board of Trustees Candidate for Place 5. According to Ms. Thomas, "my platform is about restoring trust in public education. Students should have an opportunity to get proper learning, every child deserves equity and equality.

According to Manor ISD, "being an effective school board member is no easy task particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. Board members need to be knowledgeable about multiple complex educational and social issues and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments."

## Texas Africa Fest Mixer

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Beginning October 26 to October 28, 2018, the Texas Africa Fest (TAF) will be held in Round Rock, Texas. According to the organizers, "the Texas Africa Fest is one of the largest networking and cultural affairs. Organizers stated the Fest is an opportunity to highlight movers and shakers within the Central Texas community. It's an opportunity to showcase African culture in Texas.

During the three day event, there will be several workshops that focus on the African Diaspora community. Some of the seminars include the following: the African Women in the Diaspora; Africans in



**Purcell Marketa, Texas Africa Fest Organizer.**  
Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

the Business Sector/Technology; and the African and African American Relationship.

Not only will it be a great networking experience, but also an educational one. Unlike last year, organizers placed the theme on the "African Community Outward Vision" of Central Texas. An outwardly look means it's time for the community to start interconnecting with each other.

**The City of Austin's Cultural Arts Division, part of the Economic Development Department, is seeking submissions of short films for its 2019 Faces of Austin program.** Established in 2005, Faces of Austin showcases shorts by local filmmakers that reflect the diverse faces, voices, and experiences of our City. Selected films will be screened during the SXSW Film Festival as part of the SXSW Community Programming in March, and will also be shown on the City of Austin's channel, ATXN, and via the City's website. Submissions are due no later than Friday, January 11, 2019 at 5 PM. APPLY on the website: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019FacesofAustin](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019FacesofAustin)

## Thomas Baker for the 3rd Court of Appeals



Pictured left to right are: Edward, James, Paul, Buba and Thomas Baker.  
Photo by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon

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Over the past years, Democrats have sought to win a seat on the 3rd Court of Appeals. Aside from the Texas Supreme Court, the 3rd Court of Appeals is considered to be one of the most prominent courts in Texas. Due to the fact,

the Court covers the State Capitol, hears cases involving a state agency, official, or administrative law. Furthermore, the 3rd Court of Appeals has a chief justice and five seated judges.

Unlike other election cycles, the Democratic Party has recruited numerous candidates. Candidates recruited

are; Chari Kelly, Judge Gisela Triana, and Thomas Baker. According to Baker, "I am unabashedly a proud native Texan, hailing from Denison, best known as the birthplace of President Eisenhower. I have been a resident of Temple since 1995. I have been residing in Texas since 1969 continuously other than be-

ing out of state on public service."

Finally, the 3rd Court of Appeals is an intermediate appellate jurisdiction of both civil and criminal cases appealed from lower courts in twenty-four counties of Texas. Democrats believe they can win a seat with overperforming strategies.

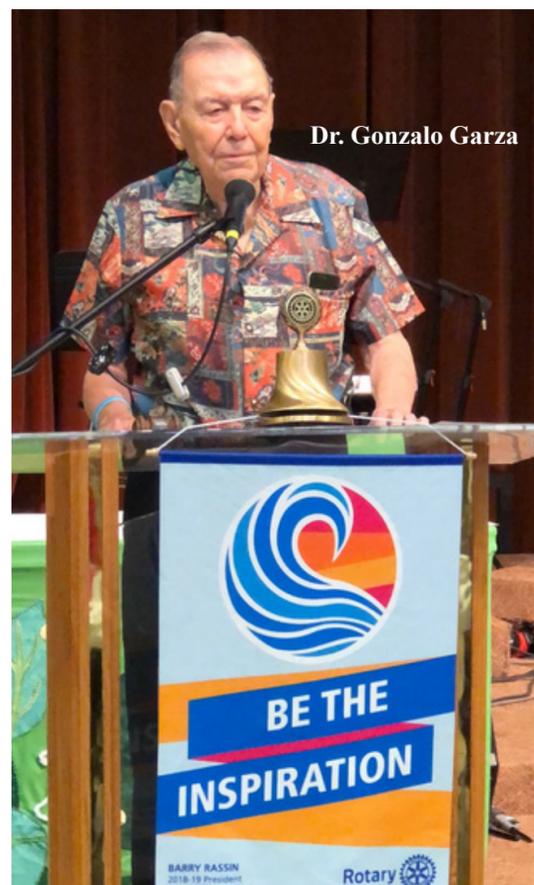
## Georgetown Rotarian Receives Congressional Veterans Commendation

Georgetown, TX (10/4/18) On October 13, 2018, Rotarian Dr. Gonzalo Garza will be awarded the Congressional Veterans Commendation for his exemplary military and community service throughout his lifetime. He will be honored at Texas A&M in Killeen, along with a handful of other recipients of this prestigious award.

After serving tours of duty in both WWII and the Korean war, and receiving the Bronze Star and Purple Heart among many military awards, he went on to complete his schooling and pursued a career in education. He served as Superintendent in many Texas School Districts, and retired in 1992 from the Austin ISD. His tireless efforts to work with programs that aided Hispanic and African-

American children to "rise above" earned him many accolades. He was recognized by the Austin ISD by naming The Gonzalo Garza Independence High School in his honor. In 2018, the Austin ISD awarded him the first Hispanic Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be given in his name every year henceforth.

Throughout his post military career, Dr. Garza continued his community service by working with a variety of organizations and has received extraordinary awards, citations and recognition on local, state, national and even international level. He continues to be a proud member of the Georgetown Rotary Club, serving the community through Rotary projects, programs and participating in the club



Dr. Gonzalo Garza

activities.

The Rotary Club of Georgetown members are a group of passionate, diverse, committed volunteers driven to serve domestic and international communities by identifying needs, se-

curing resources, and taking action to improve lives, while promoting ethical standards, fellowship, and goodwill. For more information about Rotary, visit <http://www.georgetowntownrotary.org>.

## UAW Leader on Civil Rights and Black Labor

by Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Correspondent

Much is known about many aspects of the history of the civil rights movement in America. However, the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America provided one of the least often heralded but most essential roles in the movement's success.

Better known as the United Automobile Workers or UAW, the union was responsible for, among other things, posting the cash bond needed to have Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. released from a Birmingham jail and later, called attention to Apartheid in South Africa and the incarceration of freedom fighter Nelson Mandela.



UAW Secretary-Treasurer Ray Curry, Reverend William Barber II, and UAW President Gary Jones stand in solidarity following Rev. Barber's speech on equality.

The backdrop that helped buoy the UAW is found in the fact that the union was formed to fight for and ensure worker's rights. Thus, it was a "no-brainer for UAW to join the civil rights movement," Curry said.

The UAW has remained vital because right-to-work initiatives and anti-worker legislation have often threatened to undermine labor unions' efforts to secure negotiation rights and contracts for workers in their workplaces.

Born in North Carolina in 1965, Curry earned a B.S. Degree in Business

Administration/Finance from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Later, he earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Alabama.

A U.S. Army veteran, Curry began his manufacturing career at Daimler Trucks, in Mount Holly, North Carolina and he served in numerous elected roles for UAW Local 5285 until his 2004 appointment to the UAW's International Staff and later, in 2010, as assistant regional director.

Curry won election as regional director in 2014 and, as a member of UAW's

International Executive Board, he was responsible for Region 8, which consists of 12 U.S. states in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

Earlier this year, Curry was elected UAW's Secretary-Treasurer.

He said the importance of organized labor can also be realized in the voice of freedom fighters like Maryland Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, who has continued to speak in favor of unions, a message Cummings delivered during the recent Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference.