



Celebra Grapevine Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award

The City of Grapevine Convention and Visitor's Bureau and its community partners, in observation of Hispanic Heritage Month, will host Celebra Grapevine. The festival will honor the contributions of the Latino population in the City of Grapevine, highlight local talent, as well as present a platform for learning and sharing with selfie stations of Latin American countries. The event has a program that includes Fusión Latina, Mariachi Pura Sangre, Sofía Peña, dancing troupes and a flash mob experience, and during the celebration the first ever Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award will be announced. The award will honor a Latino Grapevine resident who has, with dedicated and unwavering commitment, made an impact through demonstrated service to the community.

This first recipient for the Hispanic Heritage Lifetime Award has a long history in Grapevine and he, and his family, are well known by the community. With limited resources or the ability to network, due to language and cultural barriers, and after many challenges, he was able to secure use of the Grapevine soccer fields and has been coaching there since 1987.

Sports has always been central in Mr. Dario Estrada Mota's life, especially baseball and soccer since he left his hometown of Sabinas, Coahuila, in 1971 to make North Texas his new home. For over 50 years, he, his wife, Mrs. Carmen Beltran Mota, and their children have called Grapevine home.

In 1987, Mr. Mota recognized the need for adult soccer within the Latino community when his children Tomas and Dario Jr. aged out of the City of Grapevine's youth soccer program. It was from that need that Grapevine Metropolitan Soccer League, also known as GMSL, was born. Over the past 35 years, GMSL's central mission has been to serve the Latino community within the 817-area code and beyond. With Mrs. Mota co-leading, and his right-hand man, Mr. Mario Bonilla, and his children, the league has grown to over 40 teams, serving 800 active players and members. GMSL now serves Latino soccer leagues whose origins are from Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, and El Salvador, among many other South and Central countries. Throughout the years, the league has grown and has expanded its reach to include soccer leagues from Nepal, Columbia, and Africa. On any given Sunday, GMSL welcomes over 1700 people to enjoy sports, build relationships, and enjoy our delightful community.

The impacts of these 35 years and efforts are immeasurable. We've seen his individual and multi-generation impact on thousands of individuals throughout DFW and beyond, a ripple effect of the mentorship, sportsmanship and teamwork learned on the soccer fields of Grapevine. Over

the years, he has found opportunities for young players to reach international stardom and organized international championships at the Dallas Cowboy's stadium. it has been a visible, passionate, tireless dedication and advocacy for and to serve the Latino community of Grapevine.



[Latinos In Grapevine](#)
An initiative of DevCulture, Inc.