

GUADALUPE HIDALGO TREATY DAY & ACEQUIA DAY



COMMEMORATION OF THE 178TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SIGNING OF THE
TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO

FEBRUARY 2, 2026
NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL ROTUNDA
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO



New Mexico
Department
of Justice

NM
Land Grant Merced Institute



**Commemoration of the 178th Anniversary of the signing of the
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
“Aequia Day and Treaty Day”
New Mexico State Capitol - Rotunda
February 2, 2026**

Program

**Lunch provided courtesy of El Consejo de las Mercedes and the New Mexico Acequia Association on a first come, first serve basis – please sign in and register at the table adjacent to the Rotunda*

9:30am Pala March outside of the Roundhouse

10:30am Acknowledgement of land grants and acequias by elected officials in the Senate and House Galleries

11:50am Welcome and introduction by Monica Rodríguez (San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant; New Mexico Acequia Association) and Jacobo Baca (Land Grant-Merced Institute) *Masters of Ceremonies*

Invocation and Moment of Silence

12:00pm Entertainment for the lunch hour:
Canción de las Acequias led by Henry Cortez
Poem by Olivia Romo
A Musical Homenaje to the late Lt. Governor Roberto Mondragón by Soledad García

1:00pm Opening remarks by Juan Sánchez (Chair, New Mexico Land Grant Council), Harold Trujillo (President, New Mexico Acequia Association) and Mary Mascareñas (Chairwoman, New Mexico Acequia Commission); Jason Quintana (President, El Consejo de las Mercedes)

Presentations by elected officials or their representatives
(*throughout the program, upon their availability*)

1:30pm Recognition of Lifetime Service Award recipient: Dr. David Argüello (Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant)

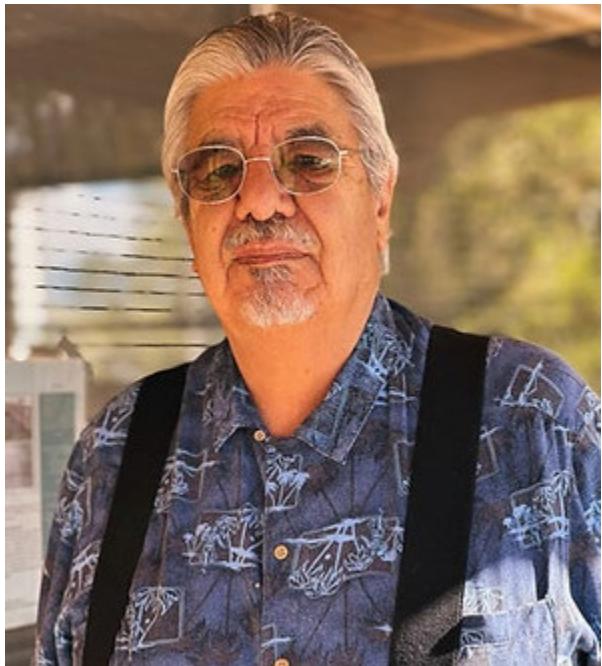
1:50pm Que Vivan las Acequias Awards (New Mexico Acequia Association)

2:05pm Art contest winners announcement (New Mexico Acequia Association)

3:00pm Program ends

El Consejo de las Mercedes 2026 Lifetime Service Award Recipient

Dr. David F. Argüello - Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant



David F. Argüello was born and raised in Valdez, NM, the son of Fermín Argüello and Sabinita Córdova Argüello. His parents were active in the community and served as mayordomos for the San Antonio Church. Both were members of the Alianza Federal de Mercedes and his father served as president of the Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant from the 1970s through the 1990s. During this time, the Condo Wars were an ongoing battle between a developer and locals in the Valdez area. His parents were involved in the resistance that later ran the developer out of town.

David graduated from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Junior Seminary in Santa Fe in 1967, in the middle of the Chicano Movement. David dropped out of the seminary, moved to Albuquerque, and enrolled at UNM in 1967 and became active in UMAS (United Mexican American Students), where he lobbied for the creation of ethnic studies programs. He became the liaison between Chicano students at UNM and the Alianza and attended meetings at their downtown Albuquerque office. Dr. Argüello left the university to join the VISTA program, working with other activists to curb the heroin epidemic affecting youth by creating community and recreation centers in Albuquerque's barrios. He wrote articles for the Chicano newspaper *El Papel*, published by the Brown Berets. Conservative reactionaries threatened his fellow activists, shot up their offices and community centers, and even assassinated some of his contemporaries.

Argüello eventually finished his degree and his wife, Trinidad de Jesús, left for Seattle in 1977, where he pursued his master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Washington. He worked in public health centers and researched migrant health care across Washington, Oregon and Idaho, where he worked on epidemic disease prevention and became known as a health care researcher. After completing his doctorate, he worked at the University of Utah as a professor of social work and director of Chicano Studies, where he brought Maya

Angelou, Corky Gonzales, Cesar Chávez and Cleofas Vigil to campus. He taught at San José State University in early 1990s before returning to New Mexico in 1994.

In 1995, David was hired to replace Facundo Valdez as director of the Rio Grande Alcohol Treatment Center and in 1997 he was hired at New Mexico Highlands University, helping the school regain its accreditation. He remained at NMHU through his retirement in 2012, incorporating land grant research into his social work courses. In 2000, when his father Fermín retired from Arroyo Hondo Arriba Land Grant board, Dr. Argüello was elected president, serving until 2018. While on the Board, he became active in the New Mexico Land Grant Consejo, attending meetings and legislative hearings around the state and serving on the executive committee. He also worked with acequia activist Geoff Bryce in the early days of the Taos Valley Acequia Association. In 2015, he and his wife Trinidad co-founded the Compostela Community and Family Institute, a non-profit specializing in Spanish language behavioral health services.

New Mexico Acequia Association 2026 Que Vivan las Acequias Award Recipients

Acequia de las Trampas

Acequia de La Isla

Acequia de la Otra Banda

Acequia del Rancho

Acequia de Las Joyas (Pojoaque)

The Des Montes Ditch Association

Hillside Irrigation District

Acequia de Martinez de Abajo

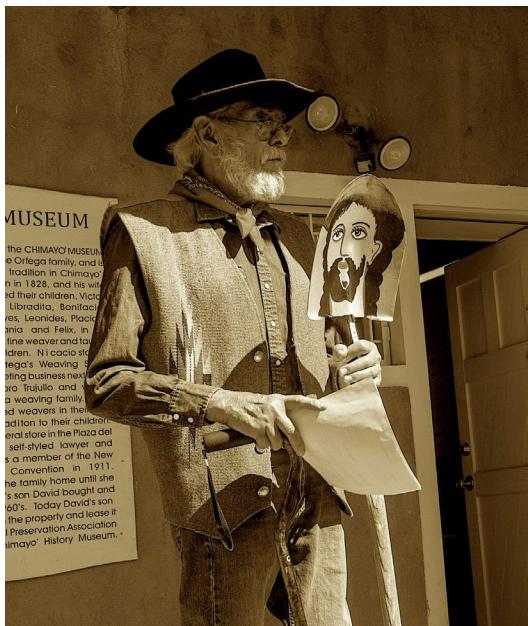
Ponderosa Ditch Association

Acequia de Los Lovatos



¡Que Vivan las Acequias!

In memoriam - Lt. Governor Roberto Mondragón – 1940-2026



Born in 1940 in the Anton Chico Land Grant community of La Loma, Roberto Mondragón was a true New Mexico icon. He was elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives in 1966 and served two terms before he was elected Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico in 1970. He served as Lt. Governor from 1971-1974 and again from 1979 to 1982. Roberto began working on cultural and educational programming for children and was a partner in establishing Aspectos Culturales/Semos Unlimited, a non-profit organization, dedicated to maintaining Hispanic heritage, language and culture. Aspectos produced the *El Dicho del Dia* radio program, developed bilingual education curriculum, a monthly reader and the published a New Mexico history textbook, coauthored by native New Mexican authors and scholars.

In the mid-1990's, along with numerous other land grant activists, he helped found the New Mexico Land Grant Forum, which acted as a catalyst to unite land grant advocates from around the state. The Forum served as a precursor to the Consejo de las Mercedes. The Forum was instrumental in advocating for the state law passed in 1997 that recognized February 2 as "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Day" as well as for advocating for the creation of the Land Grant Legislative Interim Committee and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo Division of the Attorney General's Office in 2003. The Forum also played a role in lobbying the State Legislature to recognize land grants as political sub-divisions, to fund the UNM Land Grant Studies Program, and to create the New Mexico Land Grant Council. At the federal level, the Forum led efforts to create a land grant claims commission, which resulted in the General Accounting Office reports issued on land grants in 2001 and 2004.

Mr. Mondragon also chaired the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, served as the Special Water Projects Coordinator for the New Mexico State Engineer's Office and the Interstate Stream Commission, providing assistance with state funded acequia projects throughout New Mexico. He was an active heir and served on the Board of the Anton Chico Land Grant. An accomplished musician, he recorded iconic *nuevomexicano* songs, including *las Mananitas Nuevomexicanas*, *Mi Carrito Paseado* and *Nuevo Mexico Hasta Cuando*, a song about the land grant movement, as well as "Asi Es Nuevo Mexico," official Spanish Language State Song of New Mexico.



¡Que Vivan las Mercedes!
¡Que Vivan las Acequias!

