

# Member Spotlight

## Yolanda & Enrique Garcia



I was born and raised in Pharr, Texas, and made my way (struggled) through the P.S.J.A. ISD. Yolanda was born and raised in San Benito, TX. My first motorcycle was a 1968 160cc Honda. It was my only transportation and I used it to attend Pan American Univ. While attending Pan Am I met my wife, Yolanda. I still remember the day I met her, like it was the day before yesterday. It was the Summer of 1969 and I was taking a tennis class. I was walking from one end of the tennis courts to the other when I saw a girl swinging her racket at the tennis ball. (It looked more like a stab). I could tell that she was a beginner and had a lot of practice in her future. I heard the coach call everybody to the center of the court and as we all gathered around, he started his lecture on the proper way to hold the racket and how to swing at the tennis ball. I'm sure he had a lot of other information, but due to my short attention span, I didn't hear much of it. I do remember him saying pair up and practice your swing. I immediately started looking for a partner. There were about 150 students in the class and I wanted to make sure I didn't pair up with "that girl" I had seen earlier. Well, I was too slow. I looked around and saw students finding partners to practice with. The scene was just like Moses parting the water. Right before my eyes the male and female bodies in front of me parted to the left and the right-- just like the sea in the Bible. And at the end of the path there she was, the girl I had seen when I had arrived—Yolanda—my soon to be partner.

(Yolanda's note: If you believe Enrique's version of how we met, I've got some oceanfront property to sell you.) After my first year at Pan Am I dropped out and Yolanda graduated in 1970 with a BS degree in Education. I didn't graduate because I fell into the 60's phenomenon spending a lot of time looking for myself. If only I had had a GPS I would have graduated with Yolanda. Instead I found myself joining the Texas Dept. of Public Safety as a state trooper.

Yolanda and I were married in 1973 and moved the following year to Del Rio, TX. While in Del Rio, I worked in the Texas Highway Patrol and Yolanda was teaching in the Del Rio ISD. During the seven years we lived in Del Rio, Yolanda commuted to San Antonio to attend Our Lady of the Lake Univ. where she got her Master of Education degree with certification in Library Science. I graduated from Sul Ross University with a Criminal Justice degree. Full time work and attending educational classes

did not hinder us from becoming the proud parents of three children, Xavier, Christina, and Myrna.

By 1981, I had promoted to the Criminal Intelligence Services in DPS and was transferred to San Angelo, TX. After four years we pulled up stakes and moved to McAllen, TX. While in McAllen, I promoted to Lieutenant and Yolanda started working as an Elementary Librarian in the McAllen ISD, and later as a High School Librarian at the PSJA ISD. Once again we settled down and enjoyed our new home and jobs while the children made new friends and fell into a routine they loved. But after seven years in McAllen, I promoted to Captain and had to move to Austin, TX. Needless to say, I was not very popular around the Garcia household. Once again I was moving the whole family to another unknown city. Christina and Myrna took it the hardest. They were happy and had adjusted to McAllen. Yolanda loved her job with PSJA ISD and I was disrupting everything and uprooting the entire family. Fortunately, Yolanda has always been very supportive of my career advancements. She gave up her dream job and helped persuade the children that it was in our best interest to move. We moved to Cedar Park in 1992. The children attended the Leander ISD and Yolanda worked as a middle school Librarian for Austin ISD. To add to the turmoil, I was selected to attend the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, where I graduated in 1993. While I was gone, my family had to make many adjustments. The kids were trying to make friends and adjust to a new school. Yolanda was adjusting to a new job as well as having to put up with two teenage children learning to drive. And to top it off, while I was gone the kids were involved in two car accidents. Luckily, they were not seriously injured. Moving into the Austin area (It being the headquarters for DPS,) made it unnecessary for me to move when I promoted to Assistant-Commander of the Criminal Intelligence Service in 1997 and to Commander in 1998. I retired in 2000 and started a new career working for Dell, Inc. Yolanda retired in 2001 and loves retirement. She also loves spending time with our two grandchildren, Daniel and Jared. I do too. My motorcycle riding days fell by the way side right after we got married. After starting a family and concentrating on our careers and family, motorcycles quickly got placed on the back burner. The urge never left me though, but it seemed that every time I started thinking about getting back into riding, life changes happened. Then finally I got my chance when my son, Xavier, bought a motorcycle in 1999 and parked it in the garage with the key in the ignition. I couldn't resist the urge so I borrowed Xavier's bike. One short ride was all it took and I was hooked once again into riding. Shortly after, I ran into an old friend I hadn't seen in 20 years and guess what he had—a 1993 Gold Wing for sale. It didn't take much convincing for me to buy the bike from him. Yolanda and I heard about a Gold Wing Rally in Kerrville and we decided to go. We didn't know anyone at the rally but we had a great time. At the rally we met Billy and Tim Laue from Chapter O. They invited us to attend their Chapter O meetings. Later that evening we got a glimpse of the Chapter O members when they performed "Elvira" at the rally's talent show. What a first impression they made! A bunch of hillbillies having a grand old time! We could tell Chapter O was going to be a fun group to join. Needless to say we have enjoyed attending the meetings and making new friends. We have discovered a new extended family and have enjoyed their company on many rides, rallies, and Christmas parties. All this and two dollar margaritas! Life is good!