

# LOCAL LEGENDS

## Council honors Lopez, Rutland, Correa for longtime contributions to city

**CATHY SARGENT**

*Leader Staff*

Round Rock's newest Local Legends — Tom Lopez, Harriet Rutland and Pete Correa — were presented at the city council meeting Thursday.

Introduced by the city's Historic Preservation Commission, the three longtime Round Rock residents were given plaques to recognize their years of civic leadership.

Local Legends are chosen each year. They are selected for their positive and lasting impact on the community, and they "exemplify the essence of Round Rock," Commission Director Bob Brinkman said.

**Tom Lopez** is a former three-term city council member and had careers in the U.S. Air Force and the Internal Revenue Service.

Lopez has been an active member of El Amistad Club of Round Rock, a member of the American Legion Post No. 447, a member of the Round Rock Recreation Board and Community Services Council, a Little League baseball coach and an active member of St. William's Catholic Church.

In introducing Lopez, commission member Mario Carlin said, "This Legend was not only a member of the above organi-

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**TERRY HAGERTY/Leader Staff**

Round Rock's newest Local Legends are, from left, Pete Correa, Harriet Rutland and Tom Lopez. The three were recognized at Thursday's city council meeting.

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zations but led these organizations as an officer and in many leadership positions."

Lopez was born and attended school in McNeil, Texas, and was the first Hispanic male to graduate from Round Rock High School in 1948. He served in the Air Force for 20 years, then worked for the IRS for 19 years. He also worked for the Round Rock ISD for six years.

**Harriet Rutland** has played a large part in the preservation and rediscovery of historic Round Rock, helping to restore some of the city's oldest and most treasured buildings.

Brinkman said Rutland's background in historic preservation was "well-rooted," having graduated from William and

Mary University, where she studied the renovation of old houses.

As a building contractor, Harriet Rutland has undertaken the rehabilitation of several historic structures including the St. Charles Hotel and the adjoining post office on Chisholm Trail and the Rose Cottage and Poker Alley in the Old Town area.

Brinkman said the restorations led to the successful nomination of the Chisholm Trail district to the National Registry of Historic Places.

"Her efforts have helped preserve for us our historical assets, and by extension, our very identity as a community," Brinkman said.

**Pete Correa**, a life-long resident of Williamson County, owns Correa's Automotive on Bagdad Street in downtown Round Rock and served on the Round Rock City Council.

Born in Taylor, Texas, Correa attended Round Rock schools. He worked in Big Boy Hester's auto shop for seven years, then opened his own shop in 1976.

Correa served on the city council from 1978 to 1991.

"During those years, he was known as an accessible and responsive representative of the citizens," Brinkman said.

His community involvement includes El Amistad Club and St. William's Catholic Church.

"As a friend and neighbor, he embodies the spirit of Round Rock," Brinkman said.