

Biography: Amin David (1932 – 2016)



Amin David was born on December 12, 1932, in Chihuahua, Mexico. He was the son of a Lebanese dentist/inventor and a Mexican dental assistant. He was the third of four children.

Amin David, a giant among his peers and a renowned Latino activist who for decades fought for the rights of underrepresented communities in Orange County, died on May 21, 2016, at the age of 83, after a bout with lymphoma.

Amin David was a community civil rights champion, a strong voice to lift up people's desire to do good, and a tireless advocate for the common person. It did not matter what one's political affiliation, nationality, gender, race, sexual orientation and/or religious belief was, if you needed help, he stood by you and encouraged others to do the same.

Amin David attended elementary school in El Paso, Texas, and secondary school in Sacramento, California, where he graduated from high school. From 1953 to 1955, Amin joined and served in the Army. Like many immigrants before and after him, Amin's committed and faithful service to the United States of America, earned him the privilege and right to become a citizen. Under the G.I. Bill, Amin attended the University of Arizona in Tucson and California State University, Los Angeles, focusing on business.

Amin met his wife, Irene Kock, in Los Angeles and they were married in 1960. Irene is a former elementary school teacher. They have four children (Lisa, Amin H., David and Christina) and 7 grandchildren. The David family are members of Saint Anthony Claret Roman Catholic Church.

He was bi-lingual and bi-literate in English and Spanish. Since 1966, Amin developed an extensive import/export trade business while managing successful plumbing and materials companies, Regal Products and Imperial Products of Anaheim, California.

Since 1978, with Amin David opening informal community meetings with his well-known motto "Nos gusta ayudar", Spanish for "We like to help", Los Amigos of Orange County has continued to flourish and meet every Wednesday morning over breakfast, to tackle issues including education, civil rights, public safety, government transparency, arts and culture. Welcome to Los Amigos of Orange County, an organization so out of the norm, it's mostly Latino supporters meet weekly at a German restaurant, Jagerhaus in Anaheim. For nearly 38 years and counting, Los Amigos of Orange County has become an institution for the Latino community and others seeking help. Closing Los Amigos meetings was also legendary where those in attendance formed a "circle of good will," and ended in a "prayer."

Former Anaheim Mayor Bill Thom said of Amin David: "Amin cannot be bought off, scared off or pushed off. He is an advocate for human rights and human dignity in the Latino community and he believes in it like he believes in his religion – deeply."

Los Amigos of Orange County has been involved with successful partnerships with elementary schools across the state through its initiation of Kindercaminata, the annual community college event supporting kindergartners and their parents. The concept of Kindercaminata was born at a Los Amigos meeting and the first event was held in 1994 at Santa Ana College in Santa Ana.

To list a few, Amin David was involved as a member of and/or on the board of directors of the following organizations - 1) American G. I. Forum; 2) Anaheim Planning Commission; 3) Anaheim Police Chief Community Advisory Committee; 4) California State University, Fullerton, Community Minority Advisory Council; 5) Citizens in Action Community Development Corporation; 6) Coalition for Dialogue on Human Rights; 7) Disneyland Community Award Advisory Committee; 8) Hermandad Mexicana Nacional; 9) League of United Latin Americans Citizens; 10) Los Amigos of Orange County; 11) National Concilio of America; 12) National Conference of Christians and Jews; 13) Mexican American Arts Council; 14) Mexican American Opportunity Foundation; 15) Orange County Hispanic Education Endowment Fund; 16) Orange County Human Relations Commission; 17) Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development; 18) Orange County Community Housing Corporation; 19) Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; 20) Orange County Voting Inspires Participation; 21) Orange County Sponsoring Committee and 22) United Way of Orange County.

Amin David has lectured at Whittier College; Santa Ana College and California State University, Fullerton on several occasions on topics related to the history, culture and language of the Latino community. He also participated in Cultural Awareness Workshops as well as the Annual Summer seminars at Whittier College.