

FIRST DOCUMENT

REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
STATE OF MICHOACÁN DE MELCHOR OCAMPO,
OF THE H. MUNICIPAL CITY COUNCIL OF
MORELIA, MICHOACAN

AND

FAMILY REPRESENTATIVES
FRAGA-HERREJON AND CHAVEZ-FRAGA
(MICHIGAN, U.S.A.) (MICHOACAN, MEXICO)

Meeting in the Cabildo Hall
From the H. City Council of Morelia
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 12:00 pm

PRESENTATION

Throughout a century, from the emigration to the North that the young family formed by **Valeriano and Martina** with their two young children, Esperanza (Frances) and Erasmo (John), never forgot their Michoacan origins and were able to instill in their eleven children and more than three hundred of their direct descendants, the love and gratitude to the roots of their elders.

He was **Valeriano Fraga Sánchez**, who was born in the community of *Cotzurio* on April 14, 1891; she was **Martina Herrejón Cedeño**, born on January 30, 1895 in *La Carbonera*, both localities of the current Tenencia de Chiquimitío, municipality of Morelia.

The eldest daughter, Esperanza, born in 1914, and Erasmo in 1917, were also originally from Cotzurio.

Valeriano, Martina and their two young children emigrated to the United States around 1920; after an hazardous journey, they settled in the state of Michigan, in the North Branch region of Lapeer County, north of Detroit, where nine more children were born by 1936. Later, from the *Norman Road Farm*, owned by Valeriano and Martina, they branched out to multiple regions of the United States.

Today, descendants of the Fraga-Herrejón family, with members of the extended Chávez-Fraga family of Morelia, we bring an affectionate greeting to all those present here, to their respective families and to the institutions of which they are a part, with the following purposes or objectives:

OBJECTIVES:

FIRST, to sign the present document as a proposed **Letter of Intent**, for the establishment of a Permanent Program of Exchanges of Activities between the Authorities of the Municipality of Morelia and the State of Michoacán in Mexico, with the organization of the Fraga-Herrejón Families established in Michigan (U.S.A.) and Chávez-Fraga based in Michoacán and in other entities of the country (Mexico).

SECOND, to promote the dissemination of the video-documentary ***From Michoacán to Michigan***. *A story of emigration and the American dream* (2019), coordinated by Leonard Radjewski-Fraga, based on the text: *Fraga's family essay* written by Daniel E. Fraga, that tells the story of the difficult journey, the arrival and laborious establishment of the family in Michigan.

The video-documentary ***From Michoacán to Michigan*** (***MtoM***), due to its testimonial quality, is a profound tribute and recognition to Mexican migrants (especially Michoacanos) for their unquestionable contribution to the development of the United States; and with its human content, besides vindicating the brave determination of migrants, it shows the best essential values of Mexican families, the potential of work, talent and intelligence of our fellow citizens.

The message of ***MtoM***, favors the understanding of the multi-ethnic and inter-cultural, pluri-national world that prevails today; it helps us to understand the complexities of genealogies, family histories, the deep characters of individuals, their integral genomics, the *path of kinship*. It provides us with the elements to reconceive and solve the enigmas of identities, starting from love -the root of conscience-, solidarity, tolerance and human dignity.

THIRD, to promote feasible initiatives to twin the cities of Detroit and Morelia, and the states of Michigan and

Michoacán, through which we will achieve a sustained linkage in multiple exchanges between the entities.

FOURTH, to establish academic and researcher exchange programs between the universities and counterpart institutions of both states and countries.

FIFTH, to promote cultural activities and artistic exchanges covering traditional and contemporary areas and disciplines.

SIXTH, to increase cultural, environmental, rural and gastronomic tourism of a sustainable and non-predatory nature.

SEVENTH, promote the establishment of air flights between Michoacán and Michigan to increase the objectives set, the social, economic, industrial, technological and service activities characteristic and complementary to our regions.

EIGHTH, to maintain regular communication between the institutions of Michoacán and Michigan, and the representatives of the Fraga-Herrejón and Chávez-Fraga families, through the procedures to be agreed upon, in order to carry out the necessary follow-up and achieve the attainment of our purposes.

On May 1, 1978, Martina passed away. Four years later, on September 7, 1982, Valeriano transcended to join her. Last Thursday, April 14, five days ago, here in Morelia, we commemorated both of them and celebrated the 131st

birthday of the Great Grandfather: at the best of times to carry out the act in which we find ourselves today. Thank you.

ATTENTIVELY

LEN RADJEWSKI FRAGA
MICHIGAN.