



## **Long-Standing Members Recognized at McAllen Pan American Round Table's 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee**



**Left to right: Alice Tavárez, Carmen R. Guerra, Delia Perez de Plata,  
Frances Metcalf, Dardanela Cárdenas & Maria Teresa Garza**

A large gathering of Pan American Round Table members and guests from throughout the Valley and Mexico shared in the celebration of the McAllen Table's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an afternoon Tea at the McAllen Country Club on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009.

Distinguished guests present were State Director Elsie Perez from Edinburg, Woman of the Year for 2005-07 Delia Pérez de Plata from Reynosa, Area C Director Lily Tórrrez and State Treasurer Baudelia Crane from McAllen. City Commissioner Scott Crane, who read the City's Proclamation, was also among the special guests.

Special recognition and certificates were presented to those members with a continual membership of 40 years, or more. Alice Tavárez, Dardanela Cárdenas and Maria Teresa Garza were honored for having served faithfully throughout the years at the local and state levels in numerous capacities. Additionally, Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Frances Metcalf, who served as 1987-89 State Director in addition to many

other posts, and to Carmen Robinson Guerra, who held the highest honor as Alliance Director General in 1998-2000.

Tables were exquisitely decorated with arrangements of fresh pink roses on rose-colored table coverings by Bertha Martinez, Chairman, and the other members of the Decorating Committee. Background music, provided by well-known Mr. Latin of McAllen, entertained the group. The program consisted of a Power Point presentation of photographs from the table's archives collected throughout the years and all guests were presented with a 75-year commemorative book compiled and designed by member Lily Tórréz.

The McAllen Table, one of over 200 Pan American Round Tables in 17 countries and Puerto Rico, was organized on October 10, 1934 at a meeting of local women who were interested in carrying out the efforts of the organization; furthering knowledge, understanding and friendship between the peoples of the Americas. Founder Florence Terry Griswold (1879-1941) formed the first Table in San Antonio in 1916. It was modeled after the first Pan American Union, and in 2001 the Alliance became a recognized and registered civil society of the Organization of American States.

State Conventions are held every two years in odd-numbered years and Alliance Conventions in even-numbered years. Scholarships are awarded to students at the local, state and international levels. The round table represents the medieval concept of a circle with no beginning and no ending, symbolizing unity, perpetuity, equal representation and opportunity. The motto is "One for All-All for One", Una Para Todas-Todas Para Una", penned by Alexander Dumas.

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