



## Ricardo "Rick" Gutierrez

Rick was born on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1957 in El Paso, Texas. He grew up in a neighborhood behind Thomas Jefferson High School. He went on to graduate from *La Jeff* in the mid 70's and has stayed in touch with many of the Jefferson alumni over the years.

After graduating he enlisted in the Marine Corps. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, which he attributes as the period of time where he gained valuable expertise into the construction field and later led to his success in the El Paso construction industry.

In 1998, Rick with a small loan from his parents ventured out into El Paso's private business sector. His remarkable journey began as the CEO of *Prime Irrigation & Landscape*. Early on he was driven by the practical notion that "if you don't take care of your customers someone else will..."

Through perseverance and hard work Rick continued to expand his company's contracts and ultimately was given the opportunity to be part of the expansion projects that are ongoing at Fort Bliss. He expanded his work force to 40 employees and at times has been as high as 70 wage earners.

Rick is proud of what he and his workers have accomplished and the corporation has been recognized in numerous business publications. Locally, *Prime Irrigation* was chosen by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for its *Future 15 Award*. This prestigious award is given to businesses that reflect the greatest growth over a short period of time in the El Paso market.

Once his business reached a plateau of reasonable success, Rick immediately turned to giving back to his community. He has been a benefactor to more charities that can be mentioned in this short piece, but one financial commitment that he has always adhered to year in and year out is the support of *The El Paso County Democratic Party*. His long time relationship with County Chairman, Danny Anchondo has buoyed, by his sponsorship, numerous Democratic Party fundraising events. When one considers that the lions share of local political donations is channeled to our Democratic Party candidates, it then becomes more notable and appreciated to have a significant front line contributor in the likes of *Super Yellow Dog Democrat*, Rick Gutierrez.