

THE BILLBOARD

MONTHLY

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PRV NEWSLETTER

Table of Contents

The Grammy • P.2-3

PRV news • P.4

Verse Vault • P.5

Community News • P.6

About our newsletter

Welcome to The Billboard! Our PRV monthly digital newsletter.

This newsletter was created so that we can create a bridge of awareness and transparency to the community of what is possible when we empower youth in their pursuit of a better life and provide them with adequate support to get there.

In addition to highlighting PRV intern achievements, this newsletter shares information about community partner collaborations and is committed to bringing awareness of community events and social issues.

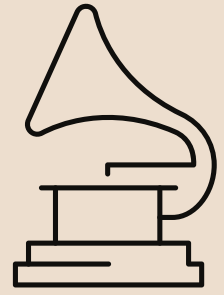
Each month we select one person or organization to receive "The Grammy" for their exemplary work creating positive change.

DONATE

THE GRAMMY

January 2024 RECIPIENT

Lorenzo “LO” Rodriguez



THE GRAMMY: RISING ABOVE ADVERSITY AND INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

This month we are honored to award Lorenzo as our recipient of The Grammy for rising above adversity and inspiring the next generation. In a story of fate written in the stars, we met Lorenzo one afternoon after asking for help calibrating a 3-D printer. Our colleague, Crystal Pineda, mentioned that perhaps her brother-in-law who had a 3-D printer could help us out, casually adding, “he actually is going to be working on space suits soon...”. I joked that I planned to brag forever that, “ we have a space engineer on our volunteer staff.”

After meeting Lorenzo, I quickly learned that he is so much more than a space engineer. We are honored to share his story of perseverance and recognize his accomplishments as inspiration for the next generation:

Lorenzo was born and raised in the East End of Houston, Texas. His mother is from Brownsville, Texas and dad was born in Tamaulipas, México. Lorenzo recalls that since childhood, he was always interested in “how things worked mechanically and electrically”. He would take things apart to understand how they worked, even if often it meant getting in trouble when he struggled to figure out how to put things back together!

Lorenzo also enjoyed playing with LEGO blocks as a kid because it would allow him to create things from his imagination; and, spending time with his mom solving intricate puzzles at the kitchen table.



Lorenzo shared that he learned a lot by observing his four older brothers, and overall, felt as though his childhood was somewhat “normal”.

Lorenzo recalls a shift during his adolescent years and shared that although he attended a STEM focused Magnet program, he often felt “different” from the other students at his school because he had no idea what he was going to do later in life, and struggled to navigate the gang related adversities that saturated his environment.

After witnessing so many of his peers fall victim to the same adversities that surrounded him, Lorenzo found himself at a crossroad in life and after a friend convinced him to talk to a Recruiter, Lorenzo joined the US NAVY in 1998 as an Aviation Electronic Technician - committed to finding a path to his dreams.



Lorenzo “LO” Rodriguez

THE GRAMMY: RISING ABOVE ADVERSITY AND INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

As an Aviation Electric Technician, Lorenzo was able to work on just about every aircraft the Navy owned and repaired the radar, radio, and navigation systems on NAVY aircrafts. Lorenzo served as part of a battle group aboard the USS Enterprise after 9/11 and in 2002 was honorably discharged for his service during this time.

After completing his service, Lorenzo began a career as a Electronics Technician for Weatherford Drilling Services - working full-time and going to school at night - determined to achieve his bachelors degree.

“The military taught me self-discipline and how to overcome obstacles no matter what the situation was. The lessons I learned helped me to stay positive through [any] tough moments in life.”

Despite the struggles, Lorenzo persevered and after ten years, completed his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering.

“I had moments where I wanted to quit and I’m glad I stuck to it. I have to give a lot of credit to my wife Bianca Rodriguez because she pushed me and supported my long journey of becoming an engineer.”

Lorenzo shared that if he could give a word of advice to the next generation, he would encourage them to find what inspires them *first* and then build a plan to reach that goals.

“The game of life is all about patience, determination, and commitment. Don’t worry about what others are doing or what others have.... [remember], it took me over 20 years to enter a job that puts me in a position to work with astronauts. When you feel like giving up, remember why you started”



In January 2024, Lorenzo started a new position at **Axiom Space** as a Senior Electrical Engineer where he will be developing the newest space suit for future moon landing and space explorations.

Lorenzo encourages youth to find systems of support - crediting his wife and family for their constant support and Houston Community College for helping him receive a full scholarship to The University of Texas engineering program - his alma mater.

Lorenzo ended with a quote from Denzel Washington, “On the road to achieving your dreams you must apply discipline but more importantly consistency; because, without commitment you’ll never start but without consistency you’ll never finish.”

PRV NEWS

NOCHE DE POSADA AT LYRIC MARKET

We want to thank then Houston Latina Collaborative for inviting us to the Noche De Posada night market at the Lyric Market Downtown! This was the launch of our remote market initiative that will be expanding through 2024! Three interns along with our instructor, Rashaan Hill, worked to design and create the products we had on display. We want to thank our customers from this evening and new subscribers for helping support our cause! Thank you!



VERSE VAULT

UNLOCKING THE UNTOLD STORIES OF OUR YOUTH - THESE ARE THEIR VERSES.

Life

Life is a trap and a cage

Life is something everyone questions but can never find answers to

Life is short for some and too long for others

Life is heartless and cruel

Life will make you want to close up and be left alone

Life will have you wondering when will everything come to an end

Life is full of negative and positive things

Life is full of support and unsupport

Life is formed in all shapes and size

Life goes on for miles without being stopped in it's path

Life can be entertaining and emotional

Life can led you to wrong places

Life will help you learn from your mistakes and help out others

So take a shot at life and enjoy it

- Morgan Crowell

COMMUNITY NEWS:

We recently learned about HTX Art Studios – an energetic hub where creativity thrives, collaboration sparks, and artistry takes flight. More than just a space, it's a vibrant center buzzing with inspiration and support. Discover your own creative playground by becoming a member and reserving a dedicated space amidst the lively energy of Eastex Jensen and Houston's heart. All artists, from beginners to seasoned creators, are invited to join this dynamic community and make HTX Art Studios their artistic home.

To see their full event schedule click [here](#).

Owners, Roni Cabrera and Norberto Moreno are driven by a passion for art, community, and representation. Through this journey, Roni recognized the power of community-based work and, in response, established Art in the Heart – a nonprofit dedicated to providing the benefits of art to underserved youth and the community at large. Today, HTX Art and Art in the Heart focus on uplifting neighborhoods through art installations, fostering civic pride and a sense of community; in part, through “open” art nights where community members are welcome to stop by and create as community.

[DONATE TO SUPPORT THE ART IN THE HEART SUMMER CAMP](#)

