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### **Richard "Pancho" Gonzalez To Be Remembered**

During the national celebration week for the Cinco de Mayo holiday, community organizations across the United States will join in a concerted effort to bring awareness and to commemorate the 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, on May 9<sup>th</sup>, of one of tennis' greatest champions, Richard "Pancho" Gonzalez. Gonzalez is considered by many tennis experts to be one of the greatest athletes who ever played the game. As a champion his accomplishments are comparable to those of Roger Federer, Pete Sampras and Rod Laver. Sports Illustrated named him as one of the nation's top twenty athletes of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. His dominance, as the world's No. 1 professional tennis player, lasted longer than anyone in tennis history.

As part of the national celebration, organizations will conduct tennis clinics at public parks in an effort to introduce the game to young and old alike. Additionally, the PBS critically acclaimed, award-winning documentary, "*Pancho Gonzalez, Warrior of the Court*", will be presented at various sites in each city. Several members of the Gonzales family will host the showings at a number of locations. A question and answer session will follow these screenings. Books on the life of Gonzalez, along with the film, will be available for purchase.

Greg Gonzales, Vice President of the Richard Pancho Gonzalez Youth Foundation, said, "This is a great way to reach many communities with Richard's story and tennis, which could help inspire others to pursue their dreams and goals. It is a special opportunity to have him recognized with other tennis pioneers. We are thrilled to have received such a positive initial response to the celebrations."

The Richard "Pancho" Gonzalez Youth Foundation was founded in 2012 for the purpose of promoting tennis and education in disadvantaged communities. Its mission is to inspire and enhance the lives of today's youth through physical fitness, academic pursuits and character building, utilizing the sport of tennis.

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