

ROBERT GANDY COLLECTION
Finding Aid

Compiled by
Phyllis Kinnison

Museum of South Texas History
Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives
Edinburg, Texas

2014



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SUMMARY

Size	5 folders + artifacts
Geographic Locations	Austin, Texas; Brunswick, Maine
Inclusive Dates	1968, 1995
Bulk Dates	1995
Languages	English
Summary	Invitations and programs for special ceremonies honoring two men from Edinburg, Texas are found in this collection.
Access Restrictions	The collection is open for research. If you wish to examine items in the manuscript group, please contact the Archivist at 956-383-6911 to make an appointment to visit the Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives (MHMMA) reading room.
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Related Collections	Dolia González collection of Alfredo “Freddy” González materials. (in house)
Citation	Robert Gandy collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
Stack Location(s)	SMC 48, RGDOC 41, B:1 (includes a book not in tray, yet. See DoG)

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1987 Robert Gandy was the Executive Vice President of the First National Bank in Edinburg, Texas. He collected materials pertaining to two special ceremonies honoring two people from Edinburg. The people being honored were Texas State Senator James "Jim" Storey Bates, Sr. and Sergeant Alfredo Cantu "Freddy" Gonzalez.

Bates was born in 1923 and died in 1989. He was two when his family moved to the Rio Grande Valley in 1925. He attended Mission High School and Edinburg Junior College and received his law degree from the University of Texas. He served as district attorney for Hidalgo County in the 1950s, Texas state representative from 1955 to 1961, and Texas state senator from 1967 to 1969.

During Bates's tenure as senator, he was elected president pro tempore by the Texas State Senate and was Governor for a Day on June 29, 1968. The president pro tempore is considered the second most powerful position in the Texas State Senate. The person holding that position is usually the most senior member of the Senate and presides when the Lieutenant Governor is not present or when the legislature is not in regular session. It has been a Texas tradition since the early 1960s to honor the president pro tempore by declaring him or her Governor for a Day.

González was born on May 23, 1946, in Edinburg, Texas. His parents were Andrés Cantu and Dolia González. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in San Antonio, Texas, on June 3, 1965 and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. On February 4, 1968, González was mortally wounded in Hue City while holding back an enemy advance and destroying an enemy rocket position. The U.S. Congress posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor to González on October 31, 1969. The *USS Alfredo González* (DDG 66), an Arleigh Burke Class guided missile destroyer, was named in his honor and launched on February 18, 1995.

Bibliography

Hunn, Mary. James Storey Bates, Sr. (1923-1989) obituary. Find A Grave Memorial # 21772700.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=21772700>
(accessed October 20, 2014).

"James Bates." *Legislative Reference Library of Texas*.

<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/legeLeaders/members/memberdisplay.cfm?memberID=700> (accessed October 20, 2014).

"Texas Senate." *Wikipedia*. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Senate
(accessed October 21, 2014).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Invitations and programs for special ceremonies honoring two men from Edinburg, Texas are found in this collection. The ceremonies include Governor for a Day for Texas Senator Jim Bates and the launching of the *USS Alfredo González* (DDG 66) honoring Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant Alfredo Cantu “Freddy” Gonzalez. Other materials include a press release and a platform list for the launching ceremony.

The artifact in the collection is a visor cap displaying the USS Gonzalez DDG 66 logo. For more information about the artifacts in the collection contact Lisa Adam, Curator of Collections and Registrar, by calling 956-383-6911.

LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES

I. Governor for a Day ceremony, 1968

II. AEGIS Destroyer GONZALEZ (DDG 66) launch ceremony, 1995

A. Manuscripts

B. Artifacts

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
B:1	RGDOC 41 (SMC 48)	3	Governor for a Day invitation and program: Jim Bates, June 29, 1968
		4	Invitation: launching of <i>AEGIS Destroyer Gonzalez (DDG 66)</i> , February 18, 1995
		5	Invitation: Reception for Mrs. Dolia Gonzalez, February 18, 1995
		6	Press release and platform list, 1995
		7	Program: Launching <i>Gonzalez</i> AEGIS Destroyer (DDG 66), February 18, 1995