

RAUL O. SALAZAR

SC Alumni – Attorney

Inducted into the SC Hall of Fame October 15, 2010

Raul Salazar was born in 1937 on the Salazar Ranch, which was located about three miles south of Eloy and homesteaded by his grandfather in the late 1870s. His father was a long-time Eloy farmer and tavern owner.

Raul attended Eloy grammar school and graduated from SCVUHS in May 1956. During high school, Raul worked at Bashas' and on farms. He played football for the 1955 Class B East Champions and was selected to the second team all-conference.

He attended the University of Arizona at Tucson from 1956 to 1960, graduating with a B.A. in Political Science, minors in speech and law. Raul attended the Law School at the U of A, Tucson, in the 1959/1960 school years. In 1960, Raul transferred to the University of Minnesota Law School and graduated in June of 1962. He was the first Hispanic to graduate from the University of Minnesota Law School. He was also the first SCVUHS graduate to graduate from Law School and start the practice of law, beginning in Minnesota. During his undergraduate years, Raul was a teaching assistant at the U of A for Professor Neal Haughton in the Political Science Department. During his practice of law in Minnesota he was a member of the Bar Associations, both State and Federal, including the American Bar Association.

On November 9, 1971, Raul was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, presumably being the first SCVUHS graduate to be so admitted.

From 1958 through 1970, at various times, he taught commercial law to CPA candidates, coached baseball for a private boy's school in Tucson and Little League football in Minneapolis, winning the Metro Championship one year. At various times, he lectured at University of Minnesota Law School and Carlton College.

Raul was the first Hispanic Chairman of the Minnesota Board on Judicial Standards, the State Agency that is the disciplinary body for all Minnesota state judges. He served on that Board for 7 years, two as Chairman.

Raul started the multi-class reunions for SCVUHS, beginning with the first one in 1986 and the second in 1991. Those reunions still continue. John Berryhill suggested to Raul in 1981 that he organize those reunions.

Raul's son is a career US Army officer and his daughter graduated from William Mitchell Law School in Minneapolis and now lives in San Francisco and works for a law firm there. Raul is married to the former Terry Lea Bryant of Richfield, Minnesota. He still practices law part-time at Sween & Salazar, Ltd. which he organized in December 1969. In 2004, he was elected the first president and to the Board of Directors of Sienna Condominiums, a 274 unit condominium complex in Scottsdale, Arizona.

In 2009, Raul (and Wiley Murphy, Class of 1955) started a pilot 1950s Dinner event in Tucson for 1950s SCVUHS alumni.