

STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF Dr. Richard Zapanta, MD

Dr. Richard Zapanta, a fourth generation Mexican-American, was born and raised in East Los Angeles.

Dr. Zapanta was in private practice since 1979 and a senior partner of Eastside Orthopedic Medical Associates. Dr. Zapanta's other business ventures included the Plaza Surgical Center, Monterey Park Medical Plaza, Promerica Bank, Camacho's Restaurants, and Associated Hispanic Physician's IPA.

Dr. Zapanta was a founder of the USC Mexican American Alumni Association, one of the first Mexican American alumni of the Keck USC School of Medicine and supported both with scholarships and mentoring and served on the medical school admissions committee. Dr. Zapanta also served as a Trustee of Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Whittier College, Alta Med Health Services Foundation, Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center Foundation and the LA Health Foundation. Dr. Zapanta has been a mentor and supporter of a great many Latino premedical and medical students.

Dr. Zapanta was appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) in 2009 and then joined the Advisory Board. He focused his efforts on representing NHMA to the National Movement is Life Annual Conference in Washington, DC, started the Latino Orthopedic Association. In Los Angeles, since 2012, Dr. Zapanta supported the National Hispanic Health Foundation's (NHHF) Hispanic Professional Student Scholarship and hosted receptions at his home, sponsored the Gala, and brought family and community leaders to the event. NHHF presented Dr. Zapanta with a Hispanic Leadership Award.

Dr. Zapanta graduated from Garfield High School, East Los Angeles College and received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1968 followed by a post-baccalaureate year at Haverford College in Philadelphia. In 1973 he received his medical degree followed by a surgical internship, one year neurology residency, and orthopedic surgery residency at Keck USC Medical School and Los Angeles County USC Medical Center. He and his wife Rebecca have been art collectors, sharing their art in exhibits globally, raised five children and have been active leaders in the Los Angeles community.