

"The Tejano Community recognizes a true pioneer of Tejano music, the late Mr. Ralph Marron Sr., Leader of the Legendary Saints & Sinners Band."

For_Immediate_Release

October 16th, 2009 -- Tejano Community

The Tejano Community recognizes a true pioneer of Tejano music, the late Mr. Ralph Marron Sr., Leader of the Legendary Saints & Sinners Band. Ralph was born on August 16, 1948 in Houston, TX and passed away Friday, October 9, 2009, after battling complications from pancreatic cancer. In the late 60's, Ralph Marron Sr. (Bass, singer, songwriter) along with his brother Mike Marron Sr. (vocals, guitar) and friend, Roy Paramo (keyboards) formed a musical group called "The Star Lights" showcasing Tejano and R&B Music. After much success, their sheer passion for Tejano music led the brothers to create a new group in the 70's called "The Saints & Sinners." Tejano was a "new genre" of music that Ralph and his brother embraced, and they were not aware, but they were about to embark on a 40 year plus journey spreading their music to the masses.

A Native Houstonian, Ralph devoted many hours of his playing time to churches and charities. Ralph's Tejano group also performed at countless weddings, quinceaneras, birthdays, anniversaries and political events for people throughout Texas celebrating the roots of Chicano Culture. His group's first groundbreaking cultural accomplishment was being the first "Tejano Band" to perform at "The Houston International Festival." The Saints & Sinners also helped popularize local iconic venues in the 70's & 80's such as Party on The Square, Pan America, Golden Fleece, Market Square, Hurricane Club, Stardust Club, Miller Outdoor Theater, Star Dust and the Island Club, drawing thousands of fans. By 1980, Ralph and "The Saints & Sinners" cemented their years of success becoming Tejano Music Award Nominees at the "1st annual Tejano Music Awards" in San Antonio, TX. The Saints & Sinners flourished for two decades more and were a launching pad for some of the Greatest Tejano musicians , who played in the past or present, with groups such as La Mafia, Little Joe y La Familia, Sunny & The Sunliners, and Avizo. Sadly, Ralph Marron passed away but the Saints and Sinners continue his legacy through their shared passion for music and through Ralph's exemplary loving ways as both brother and friend. And so we pay tribute to a "Leader" in his own right for Tejano music and as a beloved Family Man who followed in his father's (Antonio Marron Sr.) footsteps, who was a well known leader as a political activist in Houston and dedicated father.

On October 11, 2009 a tribute concert by Ralph's Band of brothers(The Saints & Sinners) honored him at Houston's Traders Village. Michael Baxter (Marketing director for Trader's Village) said "Ralph was a kind, giving, honest person whom he had the pleasure of working with for the past couple years." Gus Garza(Tejano Music Hall of Fame inductee, KPFT Radio Show Host/"Mr. Music Man") spoke at Ralph's funeral service, and said "Do you realize who Mr. Ralph Marron and his band are? "These are The Legendary Saints & Sinners!" He addressed the crowd, proclaiming to the people that they were witnessing history, and said "The Saints & Sinners" are the Longest running Tejano group in history ever! ever!" He said, "they have given our people music for the last four decades that have gotten us through the good and bad times for generations." Everyone at the funeral service stood and gave a standing ovation. This is how much of an impact Ralph Marron had as an influential musician and Friend to everyone there. Notable guests at Ralph's funeral service included Constable Victor Trevino, Musicians from Little Joe y La Familia, Freddy Fender, La Mafia, Avizo, Latin Breed and Sunny &The Sunliners.

Ralph Marron is survived by his wife Gracie, 4 sons, 4 daughters, grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws, brothers, sisters, friends, and fellow musicians. Ironically, Ralph recently coined the phrase that he used on his emails "Every Saint has a Past and Every Sinner has a Future" referring not only to his Tejano group's name(The Saints & Sinners) but his Life and everyone in it. Ralph Marron Sr. (1948-2009)

