



AFT'S FINEST "ROSEMARY"

Early Years

Rosemary received a Masters Degree in Spanish from the University of the Americas working from 1967 to 1974 at the Instituto Politécnico Nacional in Mexico City teaching English to Mexico's brightest students preparing for Ivy League graduate schools in the United States.

"That was an exciting and troubling time," recalls Rosemary. "The Institute was ground zero for the student protests and Tlatelolco." The **Tlatelolco massacre** was the killing of student and civilian protesters as well as bystanders by Mexican government employees that took place during the afternoon and night of October 2, 1968, in the Plaza de las Tres Culturas in the Tlatelolco section of Mexico City. The violence occurred ten days before the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City.



Rosemary Miranda

McAllen AFT Retiree and Activist

If you have ever visited the McAllen AFT office during a work party session, you've met Rosemary Miranda. As an AFT retiree, Rosemary has volunteered countless hours over the years helping the union prepare the mailings that go out twice each month.

"I love coming to the AFT office to help with the work parties because it's fun and I get to be with my friends. I know we are doing something good that will benefit others."





Later Years

After Mexico City, Rosemary moved to McAllen and sought employment as an educator.

Told she would never work in McAllen ISD, she found a job in Donna teaching recent immigrant students at the Junior High Basic School.

"In those days, we were not expected to teach. I was given 40 students ranging in age from six to eighteen, all in the same classroom. I had an assistant and we were expected to keep the students busy so their parents could work in the fields."

Rosemary and another teacher felt this was wrong and spoke to their principal about it. They reached an agreement to have the youngest students moved to an elementary school. *"It wasn't until the Feds came in and told Donna ISD to end the discrimination against the children of migrant workers and students with special needs before things really changed for the better,"* said Rosemary.

After several years of teaching in Donna and then PSJA ISD, **Rosemary joined AFT in 1993.**

*"I heard there was a real union and I wanted to be a part of it," she says. "School employees need to be represented. **AFT is the one I chose.** They represent employees better than all the others."*

Three years later, Rosemary heard Sam Houston State University was in the Valley offering a degree in Library Science. She attended school while working in Hidalgo ISD and earned a degree in Library Science. In 1980, she was hired as a librarian at Sam Houston Elementary School in McAllen ISD. Next came law school. She attended school at night while working as a librarian by day. When the school district heard she and another colleague were attending law school, they were asked to resign their jobs. Her classmate resigned, but Rosemary challenged the district. She won the right to attend law school and keep her job at Sam Houston Elementary School. In 1989, she graduated from law school and became a part-time attorney. She retired from McAllen ISD in 2001 and began practicing law full-time as an immigration attorney.

She is now moving to live with her son and grandchildren in McKinney, Texas. *"I still plan to be active in the AFT," she says. "Dallas isn't far from McKinney. I can help the AFT there."*

"Rosemary will be missed," says Ruth Skow, McAllen AFT President. "She's a jewel and loved by everyone who knows her. She's been an inspiration to us all and we wish her the best."



Rosemary volunteering at the McAllen AFT Office