

# FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## *ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE*



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### Abstract: **Mary Morales Camacho**

Ms. Camacho was born at home in The Quarters in Sugar Land in 1925. Her father worked for Imperial Sugar Company. For extra money, he picked crops. At about age 11, her father died and she went to work cleaning houses including the Kempner's house. By age 18, she worked for Imperial packing brown sugar.

Her father is buried in the San Isidro Cemetery in Sugar Land. Mary received her GED at age 50 and is very involved on the pastoral committee at St. Theresa Catholic Church. She and her husband were married 60 years until his passing in 2006 and they raised 3 children.

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## Interview Summary

### People (in order mentioned in interview)

Angel Morales

Louis Morales

Jesse Pena Camacho - husband

Manuel Carrillo – neighbor who died in Vietnam

Laura Eldridge – nurse running clinic

Bishop Fiorenza – St. Theresa Catholic Church

Marcario Garcia – WWII hero

Dr. Kirkendahl – local physician

Anita Morales – half sister

George Morales - brother

Jose Morales - father

Salvador – half brother

Vicenta Duran Morales – mother

Susie Rodriguez - neighbor

Lynn Sims – employer

Dr. Slaughter – local physician

### Places / Businesses

Char House

Gerland's Grocery Store

Imperial Sugar Company

Los Angeles, California

Mayfield Park

Mexico

Richmond, Texas

St. Theresa Catholic Church

Salon Morales

San Isidro Cemetery

Stephen F. Austin University

Sugar Creek Subdivision

Sugar Land, Texas

The Quarters

Vietnam

World War II

### Events

Born in Sugar Land in 1925 in The Quarters

Father worked for Imperial Sugar Company until found dead in a creek about 1937.

Mother cleaned houses and ironed, raised 7 children and died at age 76.

Mary cleaned Mr. Kempner's house at age 16 and worked for Imperial Sugar Company at age 18.

She married in 1947 to Jesse Pena Camacho and they raised 2 sons and a daughter. Her husband died 2006 after 60 years of marriage. Her youngest son died in 2007.

Mary sold her house in Sugar Land in 1980 to help support her elderly mother.

Mary has been involved with St. Theresa Catholic Church since birth. In 1989, she studied in Los Angeles to serve on the St. Theresa pastoral committee. The church paid \$700 for her schooling.