



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **“Stories de la Frontera” and “Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam” to be Screened at Central Library**

**SAN DIEGO** – The City of San Diego Public Library will screen two programs that focus on stories of Mexican-Americans on Wednesday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. This event is free to the public.

Laura Castañeda, an award-winning journalist, will host a screening of a 30-minute episode of the “Stories de la Frontera” series, which she produced. Ms. Castañeda will answer questions following the screening. Sharing the schedule is “Soldados: Chicanos in Vietnam,” a documentary film by Charley Trujillo and Sonya Rhee.

The “Stories de la Frontera” series presents little known stories from the border region and features the work of a team of talented journalists and photographers. This episode unveils the mystery and mythology in the tale of Juan Soldado, an accused killer now worshiped as the patron saint of undocumented immigrants. Also presented are a behind the scenes look at extra security measures are put in place in Tijuana following a U.S. State Department alert, a small theater where eager fans applaud the birth of opera in Tijuana, the passion of lowrider enthusiasts as they talk about their craft and culture, and a San Diego muralist attracting attention with his monumental political art in Barrio Logan. This episode showcases original music by guitarist Mario Olivares and original art pieces by Mario Chacon.

Charley Trujillo, who wrote the 1991 American Book Award winner on which the film “Soldados: Chicanos in Viet Nam” is based, is our guide to the war and post-war experiences of five Chicano soldados from Corcoran. “Soldados” shows that in a war that both exposed and exacerbated America’s racial conflicts, Chicanos in the ranks found themselves uniquely caught in the middle – between whites and blacks, whose clashes dominated the era, and between U.S. society’s contradictory views of them as loyal citizens and as alien migrants. At the same time, they experienced all the horrors of a war that tore two nations apart. Those who returned came back with a profound awareness of America’s unresolved racial divisions, as well as with unresolved feelings about their own participation in a war many regarded as itself an expression of American racism. The veterans and family members in “Soldados” describe the symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder that they share: fits of rage, insomnia, flashbacks, isolation and emotional numbness.

For more information about the films being screened, contact the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library on the City’s Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>.

*“Soldados: Chicanos in Viet Name” is presented in partnership with POV. Since 1988, POV has brought the best of independent point-of-view documentaries to a national audience, featuring the work of America’s most innovative documentary filmmakers to build new communities in conversation about today’s most pressing social issues.*

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