

# Speaker's Race Divides Valley Lawmakers

McAllen mayor Richard Cortéz, surprised Rep. Verónica González, D-McAllen, by congratulating her on her birthday. The lawmakers who were featured speakers during a legislative wrap-up luncheon sponsored by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce, along with Cortéz and a full house in the audience, sang Happy Birthday to Gonzalez, who is the first woman state representative in the history of Hidalgo County.

Featured, from left, are Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr., D-Brownsville; Rep. Aaron Peña, D-Edinburg; Rep. Armando



“Mando” Martínez, D-Weslaco; Cortéz; Rep. Ismael “Kino” Flores, D-Palmview; González, whose legislative district includes southwest Edinburg; Sen. Juan

“Chuy” Hinojosa, D-McAllen; and Rep. Ryan Guillen, D-Rio Grande City.

The issue of party politics, including the controversial support by

some Democrats for Speaker of the House Tom Craddick, a Republican, was one of the highlights of the event. Photo by David A. Díaz. **TBB**