



Vicente T. Ximenes has worked actively to seek equity and ensure justice for those less fortunate. Among his many accomplishments, he founded the American GI Forum an organization dedicated to eliminating discrimination against Mexican Americans. It was instrumental in the demise of the patronage system in Albuquerque, the formation of the Fair Housing Ordinance in Albuquerque, and the Fair Employment Practices Act in New Mexico.

Vicente became Program Economist for the Agency for International Development, Assistant Inspector General for the War on Poverty, and Deputy Mission Director of the Agency for International Development in Panama. By Presidential appointment, he became a U.S. Commissioner of Equal Employment and Chairman of the White House Committee on Mexican American Affairs. His tenure produced changes in Federal Legislation and regulation that affected the entire nation.

Vicente's leadership can be credited for the institutionalization of affirmative action programs in federal agencies, the ability for Mexican-American businessmen to obtain business charters for the first time, and changes in the U.S. Census Bureau's recognition of individuals to self-identify.

Vicente is committed to helping others have the opportunities he has experienced in his life. He began the drive to create the Youth Conservation Corps of New Mexico program, whose funds are used to hire young people 14-25 to work on conservation projects. He served as a member and chairman of the Commission that oversaw the corps' work.

He has served his country, state and city in an unselfish and compassionate way.
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