Biography of Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez Cigarroa Jr.

Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez Cigarroa Jr. was born in San Antonio, Texas in May 5, 1926. He moved to Laredo when he was eleven years old and has lived here for fifty one years. While in San Antonio his father, Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez practiced medicine. However, there was another doctor with the same title who had malpractice on his record. This was not good for Dr. Gonzalez because he was not receiving as many patients; they were confusing him with the other doctor. Dr. Gonzalez ended the confusion by moving to Laredo and changing his name to his mother’s maiden name, Cigarroa. Joaquin grew up in Laredo with his brother, Leonides, and his sister, Rebecca. “I’ve always known that I wanted to be a doctor since elementary school. I started following my father’s footsteps and helped out in his office, in the hospital, back when I was about eight years of age”, Dr. Cigarroa said. He did continue in his father’s footsteps and went on to college. He first attended the University of Texas in Austin for his premedical education, and then went on to Harvard Medical School for his medical degree. It did not end there; he did internships at the University of Chicago, and his residency specialty training in Boston City Hospital. From there he did a year of research at Harvard and went with a team to Kyoto, Japan for more research. After those years he came back to Laredo to give back to the community. He met his wife in 1954 and married her the same year. Together they have ten children, five boys and five girls. Four of their boys went on to follow their father and became cardiologists. Their other children branched out into other fields such as law, journalism, and administrative medicine. Dr. Cigarroa now has twenty nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. He continues to live in Laredo and practice internal medicine and cardiology.