



# REMEMBER 1 x 60 THE ALAMO



International

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Long before the Alamo made heroes of Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett and spawned the well-known battle cry, Jose Antonio Navarro and a group of Tejanos—Mexicans of Texas who had lived there for generations—started the battle for Texas. *Remember the Alamo* explores the life of the famed Tejano leader and his efforts to protect the sovereignty of his homeland as it passed through the hands of multiple governments.

More than two decades before the battle at the Alamo, Tejanos in San Antonio waged a brutal—and unsuccessful—rebellion against Spanish rule. At the time, Texas was part of Mexico, which was under Spanish control. Navarro's family helped lead the rebellion. When it was crushed, they and other Tejanos sought refuge in the United States.

By the time Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821, Navarro had returned to San Antonio. Poised to lead the Tejanos and Texas, he was quickly appointed mayor. That same year, Stephen F. Austin left his home in Missouri and moved to San Antonio with an ambitious plan to lure United States families to Texas through rock-bottom land prices. Foreseeing prosperity for his homeland, Navarro backed Austin's efforts and the two started to work as partners.

Meanwhile, in Mexico City, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna had assumed the Mexican presidency. A Spanish loyalist, he held a grudge against Texas, Tejano rebels, and Navarro's family.

In 1834, Santa Anna concentrated power in Mexico City, dissolved all state legislatures and abolished the federal constitution. Seeing Santa Anna's rise to power as a severe blow to Texas sovereignty, Texans and Tejanos organized and by the end of 1835 succeeded in driving all Mexican soldiers out of Texas. What started as a civil war became an overt movement to separate Texas from Mexico. In February of 1836, Navarro and other Texas leaders gathered at Washington on the Brazos, 150 miles east of San Antonio, to declare independence.

Meanwhile, Santa Anna was advancing into Texas with 4,000 men, headed for the Alamo, where almost 200 American and Tejano volunteers huddled, awaiting an attack.

The now-infamous battle that occurred on March 6, 1836, resulted in a Mexican victory and the death of every last Alamo defender. Not left unscathed, the Mexicans lost 600 men.

Six weeks later, after a surprise attack on the Mexican forces near the San Jacinto river, Texan army commander Sam Houston rallied his troops with the cry, "Remember the Alamo!" Although the battle was won within minutes, the vengeful Texan army—including Tejanos—continued fighting for hours, killing any Mexican soldier they found. Santa Anna was captured the following day, effectively ending the war.

"This is a tough story for all three parties involved, but especially for the Tejanos. The frontier was a very unforgiving place," says Tovares. "One can argue with many of the decisions of men like Navarro, but what's important to remember is that they were not bystanders in this fight."

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### CREDITS

*Executive Producer:* Mark Samels  
*Producer, Director and Writer:* Joseph Tovares  
*Co-producer:* Desirée J. Garcia  
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