Life-Savers Come in More Flavors Than One

Legends have a history and Celia Diaz has a very special one.Â Â Her company is well known to Score's Baja 1000 & 500Â and several other events, but her name is rarely spoken.Â Celia Diaz has spent her existence saving lives with a well rounded crew that gets your broken body from anywhere in Baja/Mexico (remote or otherwise) across the border with medical aid.Â Dabble in her history and learn how to set yourself up for emergency evacuation cheap and easy.Â In case of injury in Baja, thereÂ is no betterÂ aid: Celia Diaz can save your life!

Celia G. Diaz was born in Guadalajara Mexico.Â She moved with her parents to Tijuana, Baja California when she was 5 years old.Â She is the second of 9 children.

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Her father died on December 22, 1952, during a terrible fire that took the lives of over 300 persons.Â The night of the fire, her father, mother and older sister attended a Christmas Posada Celebration held in a Tijuana Hotel. Over 500Â people including children were there for the celebration.Â The building caught on fire.Â Her father died while trying to rescue his wife and daughter.Â Witnesses said they saw him go back several times;Â He was trying to rescue other children.

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CeliaÂ married when she was 14 years old (against the law today).Â In 1959 she moved to the United States with her husband and her two children.Â Her other two children were born in the United States.Â Â At age 26 she became a U.S. Citizen.

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In 1962 she got a job at a Union clothing factory whileÂ continuing to take college courses in the evening. SheÂ was soon promotedÂ as 'Shop Steward' and soon after aÂ Business Agent for the firm.Â They sent her to school to take courses on Labor Law and Arbitration and the Criminal Justice System.Â She obtained a degree on the Criminal Justice System.Â She represented 2000 Amalgamated Union WorkersÂ in justÂ three years.Â In 1974, the Union clothing factory closed and she returned to college on a full time basis to take public relations courses.

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In 1975 she got a job at the Out Patient Surgery Department of Bay General Community Hospital.Â She was asked by the Administration of Bay General Hospital to participate on a new program called the Binational Emergency Medical Care Committee (BEMCC).Â The program was so successful that she was asked by the officials of Bay General Hospital to run the program on a full time basis as the Executive Director of the Binational Emergency Committee.Â

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In 1991, Bay General Hospital was sold to Scripps Memorial Hospital.Â When Scripps was not interested in keeping the program,Â she leftÂ in 1992 armed with a Rolodex full of contacts.Â She sought the assistance of the BEMCC Board of Directors to continue operating the program on a volunteer basis.Â She applied and obtained the Non-Profit Status for the BEMCC.Â On her own, she began the 24-hour service operation supporting the BEMCC program and began hosting fund raising events and applying for grants.

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CeliaÂ was instrumental in the creation of an International program that provides emergency medical evacuation services to United States citizens injured in Mexico.Â Through many border meetings with high ranking officials from both sides of the U.S./Mexico border, she was able to unite the forces of law enforcement agencies, Mexican & American consulates, U.S. & Mexican immigration & customs, U.S. & Mexican district attorneyâ€™s, U.S. & Mexico coast guard and military officials, U.S. & Mexico medical personnel and rescue teams.Â Now that's a huge accomplishment!Â With their assistance, she obtained an agreement from the U.S. immigration & customs officials to create an emergency lane at the San Ysidro Port of Entry to expedite the crossing of emergency vehicles into each otherâ€™s country to pick up or deliver seriously injured patients into

U.S. or Mexican hospitals for timely medical care.Â Since its inception in 1976, the BEMCC has been able to successfully evacuate over 12,000 injured Americans from Mexico.Â

Together, the Law Enforcement officials, the Binational Medical Community, including hospitals, private institutions and the board of Directors, BEMCC offers four seminars a year ranging from the Care of the Trauma Patient, International Law, International Transportation of the Injured Patient, Emergency Border Crossing Procedures Involving Trauma Patients, Diving Accidents, The Trauma Patient and the Laws of both Countries-United States and Mexico, and most recently, Being Prepared for the Unexpected.Â Since 1976, the BEMCC has trained thousands of people on CPR & First Aid techniques.Â Among those trained were law enforcement officials, fire firefighters, rescue workers, local citizens and school children.Â Within this same year,Â the BEMCC has been able to provide free medical care to over 20,000 indigent patients from United States and Mexico.Â Services that have been rendered are:

Eye surgeries, prosthesis for amputees, plastic surgeries, treatment for patients with cancer or serious tumors, orthopedic surgeries, hearing aids, glasses for children, and services to children with heart problems.Â The BEMCC has obtained and donated medical equipment, ambulances, medical supplies and medicines to hospitals, clinics and to rescue teams.Â Two of the ambulances were delivered by the BEMCC to remote towns located in the vicinity of Yucatan and Oaxaca Mexico.

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During the Mexico City earthquake, the BEMCC obtained and delivered over 50,000 dollars worth of medical supplies to the rescue teams in Mexico City.Â Â During the of 1993 that left hundreds of Baja California residents homeless, the BEMCC collected and delivered over one million dollars worth of milk, food, blankets and clothing to the people of our border community who lost everything during the storm.Â Â Every year during the holiday season, the BEMCC collects and distributes over 15,000 blankets, toys and food to the indigent of our border community.Â Â

Since 1976, the BEMCC has played an important role in our binational community.Â The role of uniting people to provide on-going life saving services to the people of our two neighboring countries, United States and Mexico.

With an annual membership of $45, not only will you be provided emergency evacuation from Mexico and Baja California (remote or otherwise), but you will also be supporting this phenomenal union saving lives between the borders.Â Off-roaders, don't leave home without it!Â GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW