

# Community leader, ex-Times publisher Quintana dead at 59

By Adriana M. Chávez

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EL PASO — Mack Quintana, a community leader and former publisher of the El Paso Times and the Las Cruces Sun-News, was found dead in his West El Paso home early Thursday, police said.

Quintana, 59, was publisher of the El Paso Times from 1998 to 2004.

El Paso police and emergency medical responders were called to Quintana's home in the 500 block of Regency about 6 a.m. Thursday.

Police found a firearm at the scene, but foul play was not suspected, a police spokesman said.

"I was saddened to hear of Mack's death today," said Ray Stafford, president and publisher of the El Paso Times. "Our heartfelt condolences go to his family from the El Paso Times family and our sister newspaper, Las Cruces Sun-News. He will be remembered for his Cuban flair and a love for fishing. El Paso has lost another fine man."

Quintana, a Cuban native, joined the El Paso Times as president and publisher in February 1998, the first Hispanic to hold that position.

"He was a wonderful publisher," said Don Flores, the Times' former executive vice



Quintana

president and editor. "He believed in a strong newsroom and he supported it. He was very encouraging. He pretty much left us alone to do what we needed to do, but I found him to be a highly professional newspaper person who believed in this community and believed in newspapering. He was a dear friend, and I think we're all going to miss him."

Before arriving at the Times, Quintana was assistant to the senior group president of Gannett's Pacific Newspaper Group.

Previous to that, Quintana was director of sales and marketing at the San Diego Union Tribune, vice president of advertising at the Miami Herald,

and senior vice president of sales and marketing at the Press Telegram in Long Beach, Calif. He also held various management positions at the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News and Tallahassee (Fla.) Democrat.

After leaving the Times in 2004, Quintana was named president and publisher of the Sun-News, where he led several community efforts, including a forum on concerns about binge drinking at New Mexico State University. He left the Sun-News in 2005.

"Mack was a respected leader in Las Cruces who always maintained his honor and dignity," said Jim Lawitz, Sun-News editor. "Those who knew him will miss his passion and energy for the issues he held dear."

Quintana is a former chairman of the board of the El Paso Community College Foundation.

"He did a wonderful job," said current foundation chairman Mervin H. Moore.

El Paso Community College offers a scholarship named after Quintana for students majoring in mass communication or speech.

Quintana is survived by his wife, Charlotte, and two children.

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