

The Hispanic Heritage Month Essay Contest

"St Elmo WAcosta: Bridging the Two Divisions of Jacksonville"

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Between the vast expanse of commercial buildings in Jacksonville's skyline stands arguably the most recognizable landmark of the Jacksonville skyline: The "blue" Main Street Bridge. However, natives and outsiders alike often mistake it as the oldest bridge in Jacksonville when it was instead the Acosta Bridge constructed 20 years earlier. Without the determination and consistent lobbying of St. Elmo William Acosta, such an integral connection and other public transportation reforms may not have been possible in Jacksonville in the early twentieth century.

A direct descendant of Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the founder of St. Augustine and later former Governor of Florida, Acosta brought to the Sunshine State what was self-evident. During his childhood, he worked as a paperboy and

Sources